

FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE



Northcliffe News



Chair's Lair

Hello everyone, and a warm welcome to our June Newsletter. I'll apologise to those of you who have heard this first bit before, but there are some things I need to say for those without email access.

At the AGM, Hugh Firman stood down as Chair, although he remains an active member. Hugh took on the role of Chair at a very difficult time, when the committee was dwindling, and active members were scarce. It's fair to say that without Hugh's (and other long-standing members') commitment through those difficult times, FoN may well not have survived - thanks Hugh. Melanie stood down as Promotions Officer, John Bromley also stood down as Newsletter Editor following a brief and successful tenure - thanks to John for the work he started.

Two posts remain unfilled, although Melanie has agreed to be Newsletter Editor on a temporary basis, as well as Promotions Officer. We ideally need a couple of people to fill these roles, or just help out - three roles is a lot for one person, efficient as Melanie is! If you're interested, please drop me a line (stevebruzzese@yahoo.co.uk). We're happy to welcome a new general Committee Member, Chris Pearson. Chris is a very active member, and has plenty of tales to tell - he kept us all entertained after the Bluebell Walk!

So, the new Committee looks like this:

Steve Bruzzese - Chair | Sheila Parkin - Secretary | Joan Newman - Treasurer and Membership Secretary | Melanie Bruzzese - Events Officer, and interim Promotions Officer/Newsletter Editor | Julia Pearson - Conservation Officer | Keith Scott - Website Officer | Chris Pearson - Committee Member | Jenny Burnell - Committee Member | Joan Stevens - Committee Member



If you haven't seen the website for a while, please take a look. Keith's been very busy, and the site looks wonderful, with a lovely slideshow on the home page. Let him know what you think.

You'll have seen in the last newsletter that we secured £43k in funding for the new playground from WREN, and work is now underway. It's really exciting, and work should hopefully be complete or nearing completion as you read this. It would be lovely if you could join us for the opening ceremony at 3:30pm on Friday 29th June.

Balsam season is upon us again, so please check the events page for your opportunity to help us stamp out this beautiful but terribly invasive weed.

We're in desperate need of more first aiders for events, especially conservation and walks. If you would like to be trained to help out (we'll pay), please contact me. There are courses running in Bradford on 3rd July, 2nd August, 18th September and 2nd October.

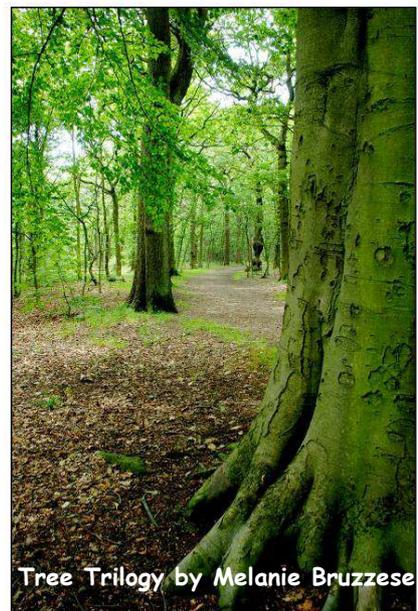
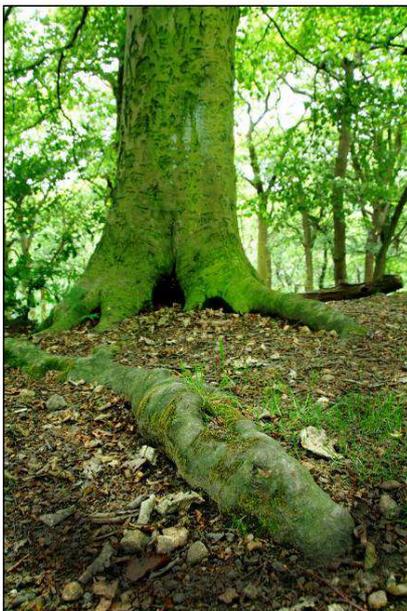
Hugh and Lisa are willing to run a fund raising 'Go Walkies' sponsored dog walk in aid of Guide Dogs. They can't do this without help, though, so if you are interested in becoming involved, please

email Hugh.Firman@calderdale.gov.uk or call 01274 594109.

A big thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Northcliffe News - your ideas and inspiration are fantastic, keep your articles coming! If anyone has anything they'd like to contribute to future editions, please get in touch with Melanie. You can find all contact details on the events insert.

I'd like to end by saying how pleased and privileged to be taking over the reins as the new Chair. My wife Melanie and I know many of you, as we are both daily visitors to Northcliffe. I'd like to get to know more of you, so please do drop me a line or stop me in Northcliffe for a chat. Or collar me at one of the upcoming events - the opening of the play area on the 29th June, or the Rae Gala on the 1st July. It's a very special place to me - we held our wedding ceremony there - so I'm keen to make sure Northcliffe gets the attention it deserves to maintain and increase its beauty, diversity, and use by the people of Shipley. I can't do this on my own, though, so it's great to have a supportive committee and an increasing number of active members and volunteers. Thanks to all of you in anticipation of another successful year.

Steve Bruzzese, Chair



Tree Trilogy by Melanie Bruzzese

Contact details

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Conservation activities: Julia Pearson T: 590898 E: juliapearson24@googlemail.com

Membership: Joan Newman T: 583004 E: joanandmartin@tiscali.co.uk

Secretary: Sheila Parkin T: 594518 E: sheilaparkin@hotmail.co.uk

Newsletter & promotions: Melanie Bruzzese T: 530142 E: melbruzzese@yahoo.co.uk

Website: Keith Scott T: 585694 E: keith@the-scott-family.org.uk

General enquiries: friendsofnorthcliffe@gmail.com

Web site: www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk

Easter Event 2012



More than 350 people enjoyed a picnic with the Easter Bunny, rides on the miniature railway and many other activities during our 2nd Easter Event in Northcliffe Woods. The cloudy cold weather didn't stop children enjoying Ferret racing, an Easter egg hunt, egg throwing and an egg and spoon race. Many prizes were won during the competitions, as well as our egg decorating, and tombola. Sponge Tree provided nest

making activities using natural sustainable resources adding something new to our Easter festivities. Bradford Model Engineering Society provided joy for so many children giving rides on the miniature railway, with the Easter Bunny being a frequent traveller.

It was lovely to see so many people enjoying the event and using their local park and woodland in a positive way. We've got another ambitious programme for Northcliffe this year. We're trying hard



to provide as many activities and events as possible for you to enjoy, weather permitting.



Thank you to Asda and Morrisons for donating Easter egg prizes. I would also like to thank Bradford Parks and Bob Thorp for providing gazebos and tables for us. Most of all I would like to thank all those volunteers who supported us with their enjoyable and fun activities, the atmosphere would not have been there without you. Despite the success of the event, more volunteers are needed to help with events. If you'd like to get involved or find out more information please contact me.

Melanie Bruzzese

Conservation News

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the woodland management of Northcliffe Woods over the winter. This has involved continuing with the thinning of beech saplings, but also included planting a mixture of native trees that were donated by Bradford Council. A number of people have observed that the bluebells seem to be thriving in areas where beech has been controlled, which, along with enabling the regeneration of oak, rowan and birch, is a primary reason for removing beech.



Our management is now guided by the Council's management plan for the woods, which formalises the tasks we have been involved with over the years. If you explore the forums, discussions and blogs about beech in the north of England you will realise that there are differing views about how this tree should be treated. We consider our work to follow a precautionary principle - whilst we do aim to remove young trees to allow light into the woodland floor and a greater range of plant life in the woods, there is no short term aim to remove the larger beech trees which are the seed source. If, in decades to come the effects of global warming and the spread of diseases such as 'sudden oak death' affect the health of the natural balance of our local woodlands then people may embrace an alternative.

Now, sun or rain, it is time to take a deep breath and face our summer challenge of reducing the amount of Himalayan Balsam in the woods. As written about in previous newsletters, this flower is an invasive non-native that can reduce biodiversity by 25% and lead to soil erosion when it dies back in autumn. Each plant can produce 800 seeds so every little bit of volunteering will help us achieve our aims. If you would like to adopt an area to focus on, perhaps because you cannot make the organised sessions (or because you have realised the compulsive nature of balsam pulling!) please get in touch to discuss practicalities. During our first balsam pulling evening we revisited the area above the pond which we have concentrated on for the past few years. The lack of balsam was very encouraging! Join us on Thursday 28th June, and please keep an eye on email, website, or posters, in case extra sessions are arranged.

Julia Pearson, Conservation Officer

Crossword Answers

Across - 3 Frogspawn, 7 Regal, 8 Agreeable, 9 Whoop, 10 Her nest, 13 Leave, 14 Robin, 16 Enter, 17 Scenery, 21 Rowed, 22 Flammable, 23 Sorry, 24 Woody spot
Down - 1 Crow flies, 2 Ignorance, 3 Flipper, 4 Grebe, 5 Plain, 6 Walks, 10 Hobby, 11 Earthworm, 12 Thursdays, 15 Nearest, 18 Cello, 19 Named, 20 Reads

WOODY'S SPOT

for younger friends



It's Not A Fairytale

Are you sitting comfortably



Once upon a time the place where you like to play was quite different from the way it is today. It was a work place and was probably fenced off to keep you out. There were deep shafts and bell pits, dangerous tunnels and colliery workings because coal was mined here.

When the men who owned the colliery stopped making money from it they went away, leaving behind a spoilt and scarred landscape. Some of the land was given over to agriculture but still you couldn't play there.

Eventually a Very Good Man came along and he bought the land and then he gave it away. He gave it to YOU ... and me. It was named after the Very Good Man and it became known as the Norman Rae Playing Fields. Now we know it as Northcliffe.

Now there are playing fields and allotments, a playground and a miniature railway. There are hilly slopes which are perfect for rolling down in the summer or for sledging in the winter. There are lots of happy birds and animals. Even the flowers look happy! So, although this is definitely *not* a fairy tale, it does have a very happy ending.



For a fuller version of this story visit www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk or read the book 'Sir Norman Rae, Local Benefactor' by Gladys Shuttleworth and Margaret Walker.

TRANSFORMERS

Trees have played an important part in transforming a spoilt landscape into a very beautiful place. Can you transform the word **COAL** to the word **WOOD** by changing just one letter at a time at each stage? It's possible to do it in just three moves but don't worry if you take more - just keep going!

C O A L
- - - -
- - - -
W O O D

HIDDEN TREES

The names of eight types of trees which can be seen at Northcliffe are hidden in the sets of words below. (Note; They are not anagrams - the letters are all in the correct order.)

- 1 **TRIBE ECHO**
- 2 **BALD ERMINE**
- 3 **BLUE CLOAK**
- 4 **PRETTY EWE**

- 5 **MAD DASH**
- 6 **TALL ARCHWAY**
- 7 **ROW AND PADDLE**
- 8 **WILL OWE YOU**

By Jeannie Kopasz

Answers: TRANSFORMERS; coal cool wool wood HIDDEN TREES; beech alder oak yew ash larch rowan willow

Northcliffe Nature Notes and Lynton Garden Rambles

There's always something to see in Northcliffe, whatever the weather, and now things have warmed up a bit the meadows are starting to look beautiful. I have lived in the Lakes and the Yorkshire Dales, and grew up on the edge of a village, surrounded by sheep and corn fields full of poppies, but I love living here on the edge of Northcliffe as much as any of these.



What a glorious spring. We have a wildlife garden and its absolutely buzzing, quite literally. We have a spuggie box that we put up several years ago on the side of our garage which is very bushy and overgrown, more a habitat than a garage. The spuggies never took to the box but the wasps did, and not being speciesist, we let them enjoy it. This year we seem to have a nest of tiny yellow tailed bumble bees. I didn't realise bumble bees were such social nesters and so hypnotising to watch. Last night, as I was sitting having my tea on the patio, there was a loud droning coming from the box. I imagine they were trying to keep the young grubs warm. Can anyone enlighten me?

Yesterday I saw the most amazing insect in our front garden, some kind of parasitic wasp I think, as every now and then it pushed out what seemed to be an ovipositor from behind. It was stunningly beautiful. Half its body was an iridescent blue similar to a damsel fly, in fact its eyes were on the side of its head similar to a damsel fly. The back of its body, behind the thorax, was the most stunning shade of cerise pink and gold depending on how the light caught it. It was only tiny, about 1cm in length, but absolutely stunning. Does anyone know what it is?

We have been watching the most incredibly cute baby owls in Old Springs Woods over the last few weeks. I had an amazing view of one when he had left the nest but had not yet learnt to fly or climb. He was sat amongst the bluebells on a branch just above the floor, the cutest thing I have ever seen.



While I am writing this 30 + swifts are swooping above the meadows in Northcliffe Park. Yesterday they were swooping above me at the end of Lynton drive and over our back garden, one advantage of the change in weather, as the insects are obviously flying lower.

By Lisa Chadwick

More "Expositions to the North Pole" with the Brownies

I was probably introduced to Northcliffe as a Brownie, following magical trails, from St Peter's Church, of coloured wool from a ball that "the wind had blown away" or feathers from a bird which "had got lost".

Once there, we had picnics and made dens from our coats, twigs and bracken -often in the old bell pits (the site of former coal mining). These were excellent places to hide.

Having enjoyed the delights of Northcliffe so much as a child, it was only natural to include it in our programme when I became a Brownie leader.

It became a fairyland to another generation of children. We were invited to plant spring bulbs in the grass beside the steep slope of Moorhead Lane, but as there had been a drought, the ground was rock hard, so our bulbs didn't do very well.

For several years we ran an "It's a Knock-out" competition with our club packs. How delighted we were when our Brownies won the trophy, beating the Cubs.

Northcliffe was the finishing line when a sponsored walk was organised by our church. The climb up Moorhead Lane was the last straw after a 15 mile walk along the canal to Keighley and back for my young Brownies, but twelve of them made it!

For several years the local Brownies and Guides ran a Fun Run through the woods - anyone could join in, even dogs. Everyone who completed the course won a medal. My dog was so interested in the other dogs and all the delightful smells on the walk, that we arrived at the finishing post long after everyone else - but my dog proudly wore her medal all the way home. And today, despite the limitations of where children can safely play, the Brownies still go up to Northcliffe to have scavenger hunts and to enjoy the delights of nature that it provides.

By Ev Wilkinson

Membership & Subscriptions for 2012-2013

A warm welcome to recent new members:- Mitchell, Edzel & John Michael Acesor, Angela & Ken Barton, Mr A R & Mrs P M Bruzzese, Christine Duval, Bev Morton, Richard Freeman, Heidi Smith, Sue & Ian Stevens. We are grateful for your support.

I would like to thank all members who have already renewed their subscription for 2012-2013. As I write we have 170 members/families on the books, 120 have already forwarded their subscriptions to me, and some are renewing at the Gala. Early payment does help us to budget for the year. I would particularly like to thank those members who put words of thanks and encouragement on their renewal forms - it is good to know we are appreciated. Folk who renew before or at the Gala on the 1st July will avoid being deleted from our membership list and missing out on future newsletters.

Complete the form overleaf and send it with cash or a cheque made payable to Friends of Northcliffe to Joan Newman at 42 Moorhead Crescent, Shipley, W. Yorks BD18 4LQ

Joan Newman, Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Friends of Northcliffe membership form.

Please tick the appropriate boxes

Individuals £4 Family £6 Concessions £3 Family concessions £5
 Donation New Renew

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone:

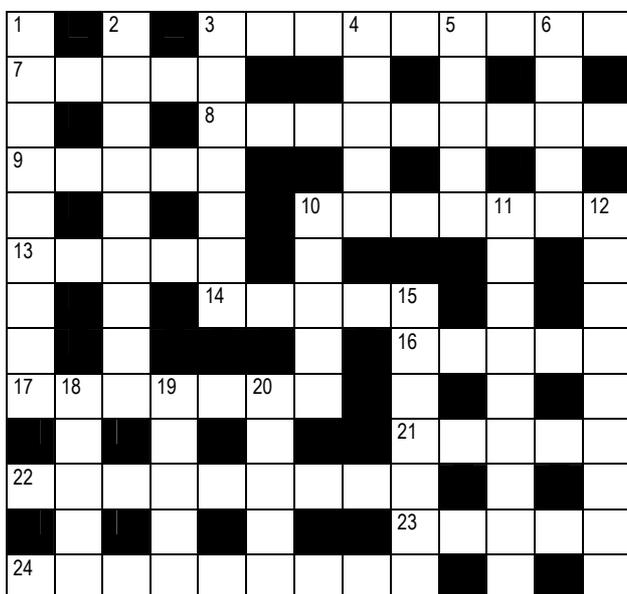
Email:

Cheque / cash enclosed for: £

Northcliffe Crossword No 2

The answers can be found elsewhere
 in the newsletter

Composed by Joan Newman & Douglas Lumb



Clues Across

- 3 Might be in the pond in springtime [9]
- 7 Fit for a king [5]
- 8 GLEBE AREA - pleasant [9]
- 9 Cry of delight [5]
- 10 Female bird's abode [3,4]
- 13 Depart, permission [5]
- 14 aka redbreast [5]
- 16 Go in [5]
- 17 Can be viewed at Northcliffe [7]
- 21 Propelled on the water, or argued [5]
- 22 Burns easily [9]
- 23 Expression of regret [5]
- 24 TO SPY WOOD - Describes Northcliffe [5,4]

Clues Down

- 1 Direct route. As the [4,5]
- 2 ONCE A RING - absence of knowledge [9]
- 3 Used by penguins and turtles when swimming [7]
- 4 Freshwater diving bird [5]
- 5 "..... as a pikestaff"; sounding level [5]
- 6 These are signposted in the woods [5]
- 10 Pastime, or a falcon similar in size to a kestrel [5]
- 11 MORE WRATH - subterranean limbless wriggler [9]
- 12 RASH STUDY - these occur weekly [9]
- 15 Closest [7]
- 18 Instrument which rhymes with a colour & a chap [5]
- 19 Called [5]
- 20 DARES - peruses literally [5]



EVENTS

Unless stated please contact Melanie for further information.

Planning Meetings

Thurs 5th & Thurs 26th July. From August meetings will be held every 4th Thursday of each month. All summer meetings will be held in the NAS Club House, Northcliffe Woods, just before NEET.

Thurs 28th June 7pm Balsam Pulling

Continuing our conservation activities this summer we will be pulling this invasive non native weed. Meet at the miniature railway. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear

Friday 29th June 3.30pm Opening of children's play area

The new children's play area will be opening for all children to enjoy. All parties involved in the funding for this fantastic project will be there to open the park along with the children from Shipley C of E School who helped in creating the design.

Volunteers required for our Diamond Jubilee Celebrations & Rae Gala

Please spare us an hour or 2 of your time

We urgently need volunteers to work on the Tombola stall, steward, help put up gazebos, run stalls and collect donations at our Rae Gala & Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on Sun 1st July. To help us on the day of our events for an hour please contact me via email melbruzzese@yahoo.co.uk or call 01274 530142 / 07709 175874 Thank you.

Sunday 1st July 12pm to 5pm The Rae Gala & Diamond Jubilee Celebrations



Due to terrible weather & postponing our Jubilee event on Sun 3rd June we are combining our Diamond Jubilee Celebrations with the Rae Gala. We are providing an excellent fun packed programme for the local community by the miniature railway. Bring your musical instruments for the children's music circle. Friends of Northcliffe in association with BMES are providing train rides with Misty Valentine, as The Queen, on the miniature railway. Entertainment includes Hall Royd Brass Band, live music by Whiter Than and performers presented by Strid. Ferret Racing, donkey rides, face painting, children's activities, arts & crafts, lots of food and much more. Don't miss this spectacular event.

Thank you to the Queens Diamond Jubilee fund managed by Bradford District Community Fund, Shipley Area Committee's Royal Diamond Jubilee Fund, Shipley C of E & Wycliffe Primary Schools for decorating this event, all our guest entertainers & volunteers.

Wednesday 11th July Orienteering in Northcliffe with the Airienteers

Contact Pete & Cerys Jones 01274 596850 Visit www.aire.org.uk

Saturday 21st July Fair Trade Cream Teas 2pm to 4.30pm

Meet at the NAS Club House (just before NEET project) Northcliffe Woods

If you would like to donate cakes & scones please contact Hugh T: 594109

Sunday 19th August Northcliffe Olympics 2pm to 4pm

We are celebrating the London 2012 Olympics by putting on our very own sports day competitions to raise money in support of Marie Curie cancer research. Pay on the day to enter competitions and take away your very own medals.