



FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE

NEWSLETTER
July 2016



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

March 2016's Newsletter started with me asking for people to help organise events and promotions. Unfortunately no offers came through. I make no apologies for mentioning this again. As you will read later in this Newsletter things are now getting very serious regarding future events put on by Friends of Northcliffe for the members and the wider Shipley Community. Indeed I have spoken to people who have come from much further afield to attend our events because they have heard how wonderful they are!

So, here, once again, a plea to all of you to think about what help you can offer in order for our events to continue.

In this issue we invite you to see who your committee members are.



Liz Hansen



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Back row: Joan Newman, Guy Barford, Rebekah Shipley, Val Harris, Keith Scott
Seated: Jenny Burnell, Sheila Parkin, Joan Stevens

STOP PRESS:

Balsam Bashing:
Wednesdays August 10th and 24th
10am – 12pm

Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and strong footwear as we may be working on sloping and damp ground. Gloves can be provided.

Meeting place: The pond half way up (or down!) the main track through Northcliffe Wood.

WELCOME



Summer's finally arrived!

We know that's the case when the meadow's long enough, and the weather's dry enough, for rolling around in the long grass. Not me, you understand, but Caitlin. Honest.

It's been a busy time personally, work-wise and with FoN events too. I work in the Civil Service for the Cabinet Office, so you can imagine how busy things have been. First there was the referendum result, and then the complete change of Government, including our minister at the Cabinet Office – interesting times. It's been hard to juggle things the last couple of months, but we've still managed to produce some great events, despite the continuing lack of anyone to look after either events or promotions (more on this elsewhere).

Sure, sometimes Melanie and I can't respond to everything, and some things may get missed or get done late. However, we always end up with a lovely, fun community event, and that's down to all of you members supporting our activities. You'll hear more about the Big Lunch and the Rae Gala later in this issue, but suffice to say it was hard work getting them to happen, but very worthwhile. As always, a big thank you to all helpers, volunteers and our friends at BMES.





There's been a spate of thefts and vandalism recently. The allotments were targeted, and poor Caitlin had her lovely playhouse stolen – the thieves just picked the whole thing up and carried it away with all her belongings still in it – she was devastated. We also had some vandalism at the tennis court pavilion, with some youths having a barbecue there and then deciding to try and burn through the door. Luckily, someone called the fire brigade and police, and I arrived to find the situation under control. John from the Parks and Landscapes service made arrangements for repairs to be carried out, and for some unsafe steps to be removed at the same time. Most recently, we've even had a car burnt out in the middle of the railway. These things tend to bunch together – we've been lucky not to have many incidents of this nature in the last few years. You can help by keeping your eyes open for criminal or suspicious activity, and reporting it to the police.

Up at NEET, they're continuing to work hard at making a secure and attractive space for their clients. If you've been up there recently, you'll have seen lots of work going on – the toilet block is now finished, there's a new fence up, and Ian tells me there is a new security system being installed, which should act as a deterrent.

We've also had more balsam clearing activity, which Julia will tell us about later on. It's great to hear that this work is making a difference, and it deserves another thank you to all the session leaders and volunteers that make it happen. There have also been two parties of volunteers from DWP helping out at NEET, so Northcliffe is attracting quite a few folk who want to give something back to the community.

That's all for now, and I hope you enjoy the best that Northcliffe has to offer this summer. Go out and have a picnic, ride the trains on a Sunday afternoon, enjoy a walk through woodland or over meadows, play sports, or tend your allotment. And so much more besides – we're so lucky to have this on our doorsteps, so make the most of it!

All the best,
Steve



THE BIG LUNCH

By Steve Bruzzese

Despite the miserable weather leading up to the event, the weather on the day turned out fine. We made the best of the sodden ground, moving the activities to the lower field, as the top field beyond the railway was just too wet.

Our good friends at Bradford Model Engineering Society turned out in force, running trains all afternoon to the delight of all the children who came along (and some adults too, no doubt!) BMES also provided refreshments, doing a superb job of providing sustenance to those who decided not to bring a picnic. Which as it turns out, was nearly everyone – in fact, there were just half a dozen brave souls who refused to let a bit of dampness stop their outdoor dining!

Melanie ran races for the children, which is always a hit. Sack races, bean bag throwing, egg and spoon and good old fashioned foot races were all part of the action. It's a shame the weather had been so bad in the week preceding the Big Lunch, but enough of our members know by now that we'll turn up rain or shine – remember the Northcliffe Olympics, anyone? So think on the next time you're undecided because of the weather – we'll be there, and we'll always do our best to make sure you enjoy yourselves.



SIR NORMAN RAE GALA

By Steve Bruzzese



This year we held the gala a week later than its normal slot, on Sunday 3rd July. We did so to coincide with the Shipley Street Arts Festival, who kindly sent one of their acts up to us in Northcliffe. That there was a gala at all is entirely down to the efforts of Melanie Bruzzese, who despite resigning her post as both promotions officer three years ago, and events officer two years ago, managed to produce another fantastic event in the absence of anyone else willing or able to take on either of these important roles.

The weather has been a factor in all our events so far this year, from lack of wind for kite flying in May, through to a completely sodden field for the gala in July. It meant that we had to cram all the activities into the lower field, which made for a very compact but extremely bustling afternoon. The weather was fantastic on the day, with glorious sunshine bringing folk out to enjoy the entertainment.



There was lots of entertainment, as usual. The Hall Royd Brass Band had their usual star billing – the gala just wouldn't be the same without them. We also had a children's activity zone, where you could decorate a mask, paint a picture or do some colouring, as well as enjoy an assortment of children's games. Melanie also ran children's races in between performances by the band.

Our friends at Bradford Model Engineering Society were busy all afternoon. The queues for the trains snaked through the woodland, and there were many smiles on passengers' faces as they waved to passers-by from their carriages. Tea and cake were in plentiful supply from the station house kitchen too.

When the stilt walkers arrived at 3:15, the gala was in full swing. They commented that we were busier than Shipley Town Centre, which shows how much of a part of local community life the gala has become. It was also great to see such a wonderful mixture of backgrounds, ethnicities and culture at the event, which emphasised for me how Northcliffe is truly a place for all people.



Ken Shipley (BMES Representative)

So many other attractions too – West Yorkshire Police, Tin Can Alley, Donkey Rides, Ice Cream, Sweet Tombola, Astre Gymnastics, Butterfly Conservation, Hedgehogs, Ferret Racing, Asian Food, Saltaire Canteen, Face Painting, Believe in Shipley, Toy Cars. You would be very hard pushed not to find anything to entertain you at the gala.

A final mention to all of our volunteers without whom none of this would happen. Thanks to everyone who helped out on the day, and in the preparations beforehand – whether that was helping set up, filling sweet jars, rattling buckets or packing away again at the end. A special mention to John D from BMDC Parks and Landscapes Service, whose patience with our lack of an events co-ordinator was much appreciated. And a final special mention to the legend that is Sean Gardner, from John's team, who toiled with me from 9.30am until 6.00pm to make it all happen. A fine example of how the council can work in partnership with the community to great effect.

We really do need help with events and promotions. There is now a very real likelihood that this will be our last gala, at least in its current format, if we cannot get some new blood in to take on some of the work in these critical areas. Promotions involves producing posters, contacting the press and generally making sure our events are publicised as widely as they can be. Events involves the preparations necessary to make sure events happen – organising volunteers, contacting participants and being there on the day to help things run smoothly. For the events side, I would be interested in hearing from anyone who would be interested in taking over the role entirely, or even anyone who would commit to running just one or two of our events. If you're interested, email me at stevebruzzese@yahoo.co.uk, or call 07976 714 580.



INTRODUCING: NEET NORTHCLIFFE ENVIRONMENTAL ENTERPRISES TEAM



By Suzanne Longley

WHO WE ARE:

NEET is a Social Enterprise based in Northcliffe Park. We occupy nine allotments on the top site on a long term lease from BMDC. NEET is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity since 2006/7. We are governed by a Board of Trustees. Our team is currently 34 service users, 8 members of staff and 5 volunteers each week.



Our aim is to enable a healthy and more inclusive life for people with learning disabilities through the provision of day time opportunities at Northcliffe Nurseries.

We are an accredited provider of services for people with learning disabilities by BMDC.

WHAT WE DO:

We deliver specialist training and learning opportunities, work placements and practical occupation at Northcliffe Nurseries for individuals with a significant learning disability and assessed need.

We provide support, facilities and resources that promote physical, social and emotional growth, with the aim of increasing well-being.

Our ethos as an organisation is based around enabling people we support to be involved in and contribute to their community by developing their skills and areas of interest, promoting a shared ownership and celebrating achievement.

We are unique in that we are a working garden nursery providing choice to our service users of a range of activities on our site including growing of plants, landscaping, building and construction, 'Seed to Table' cooking sessions with local chef Richard Walton-Allen and a plant and coffee shop.

The facilities on our site include growing tunnels, potting shed, office and rest room space.



WHAT IS A TYPICAL YEAR?

We work on site all year round and every day has its challenges and rewards both with people and the environment. We observe the horticultural calendar of a range of seasonal activities. We also undergo project work on site, for example, designing and planting a garden area, building a shed and enjoying trips out and sharing celebrations. We collaborate with a number of local organisations including Bradford Works for whom we grow and supply a range of seasonal plants planted by them in flowerbeds around Shipley and In Communities gardens.



Recent achievements for the team include:

- A GOLD award for Northcliffe Nurseries from Yorkshire in Bloom
- 7 first prizes at West Yorkshire Organic Show for our produce
- Delivering exciting workshops at Northcliffe Nurseries in seed sowing, planting hanging baskets, pond dipping and bug hunting to over 160 school children this year
- Building a new Toilet facility with a fully accessible unit open to the public
- Refurbishing our on-site kitchen to provide a professional cooking environment and enable us to offer further opportunities to our service users registering as a food business

We are open to the public for plant sales and you can call in to Northcliffe Nurseries anytime

**Monday-Friday 9-4pm
May and June we are open on
Saturday mornings 9-1pm**

**For further information:
Call Suzanne Longley 07922 580 664
or Ian Sutcliffe 07810 637 823**

**Check out our website
www.northcliffepeopleandplants.org**

Facebook Northcliffe Environmental

**Enterprises Team
Email neetoffice@gmail.com**



Conservation Update

By Julia Pearson



Happy volunteers despite the damp conditions and being outnumbered by midges!

In June we started our programme of Himalayan balsam control, returning to areas worked in last year in order to make the most of previous efforts. It is encouraging to see a sparse spread of plants in some areas, and a good array of Greater Stitchwort, Climbing Corydalis, Bluebells and ferns. We know that where balsam is left unchecked it successfully competes with native plants for space, light, nutrients and pollinators, reducing biodiversity and contributing to erosion.

There is still a lot of work necessary in order to make a real difference, so it is encouraging to hear of current investigations into the possibility of biological control of Himalayan balsam.

Like most introduced plant species Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) arrived in the UK without any of the natural enemies that help keep the plant in check in its native range (the foothills of the Himalayas, India and Pakistan). Without these natural enemies, Himalayan balsam is able to grow more aggressively and has a greater ability to reproduce, giving it an advantage over native species.

Over the past ten years an organisation called CABI* have been testing the possibility of a biological approach to Himalayan balsam control. The scientists undertook field studies in the western Himalayas between 2006 and 2010 to investigate what relationships the balsam had with other organisms within its native range. They identified a rust fungus (*Puccinia komarovii*) that was infecting the balsam, and it was imported in the UK under quarantine to be tested as a possible biocontrol agent. Rust fungi have been used for biocontrol of alien species since 1971. They are particularly suitable as they tend to only be associated with a restricted range of hosts, and cause high level of damage to their hosts.

The testing procedure, all undertaken in quarantine conditions, involved testing to see if 84 chosen plants would be infected by the rust. There were 74 species related, or with a similar biochemistry to balsam, and an additional 10 varieties of three widely grown ornamental species in the UK. On the list were 26 native plant species to the UK, 52 ornamental plants, three economically important crop/fruit species and three introduced/invasive species. The testing showed that the rust is highly specific to Himalayan balsam and that all the spore stages observed in the field belonged to the same species of rust.



John Bromley (General Committee Member)

In August 2014 permission was granted to commence field trials in the UK, however it was too late in the season for the rust to spread. In 2015 inoculated plants were introduced into 25 plants in England and Wales, including sites in Calderdale. This year the plan is to continue release and monitoring in Wales (where the best results were noted), with resumption of country-wide release in 2017.

The rust is unlikely to eradicate the balsam, but will weaken it. In the Himalayas the plant is found in small clusters among other plants; not the monoculture that we witness here.

It is still too early in the trial period to give a clear report as to how quickly we might be able to expect *Puccinia komarovii* to take over our role, so there is still some way to go before we can sit back and relax. If you are interested in helping to organise balsam control and other conservation sessions in the future please get in touch.

We will be looking to recruit a new conservation officer in 2017.

*CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International) is an international not-for-profit organization that improves people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment.



MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE YEAR TO MARCH 2017

We have reached our target, which was 200, for this our anniversary year as our membership is now 210! 80% of our members have already paid. If you have not yet paid please let me have your subscriptions asap or if you are not renewing please let me know.

85 members are happy to receive the newsletters by e-mail only, but please advise us if you would like to receive a hard copy again – the newsletter is an attractive publication and could be passed on to encourage prospective members.

Welcome to new members – 12 people joined at the Rae Gala:

Matt and Julie Bacon, John Barraclough, Sally and Bill Belcher, Sue Brearley, Rebecca Ferguson, Kenneth Fryer, Alice Gingell, Lucy and Chris Hall, Rachel Kipling, Ruth Patrick, Elaine Walker, Cath Webber, Ann West and Stephanie Willington.

...and to returning members:
Alex Bohdanowicz and Janice Thorp,
Keith Lander and Joan Milligan.

Subscriptions:

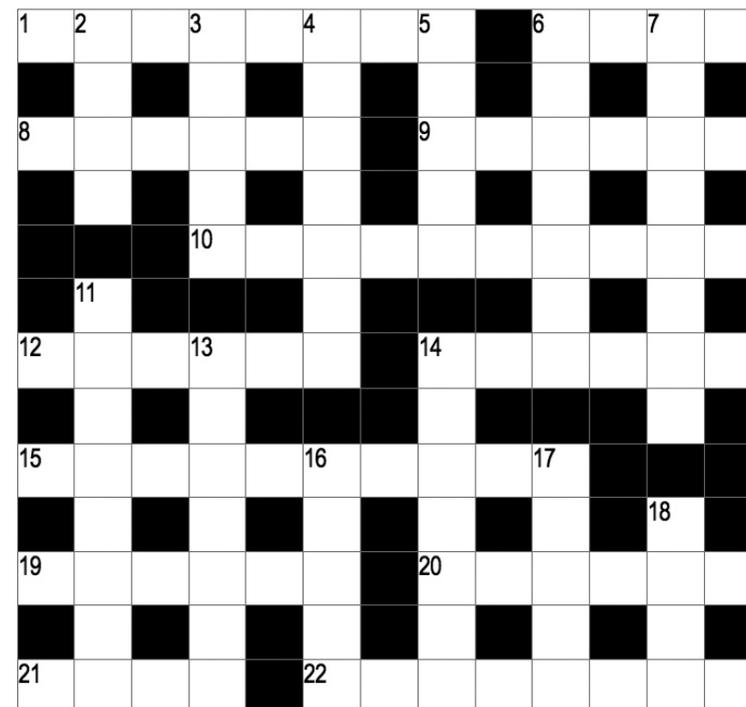
£7	Family
£6	Family concession
£5	Single
£4	Single concession

A membership form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Donations are always welcome, and we will use them across all of our areas of work unless you have a specific request.

Joan Newman
Friends of Northcliffe Treasurer/
Membership

NORTHCLIFFE CROSSWORD No. 13



Words in
CAPITALS are
anagrams

Across

- 1 WING CHAT often takes place in a hide (8)
- 2 A NUT – a female relation (4)
- 3 Noise made by a young bird (5)
- 4 GREEN IT whole, no fractional part (7)
- 5 Dung of seabirds or bats – used as fertiliser (5)
- 6 A hovering falcon, often seen near motorways (7)
- 7 TRACE NON of this, so bees cannot make honey (2,6)
- 11 NO, ALL SOB – seen floating at parties (8)
- 13 A black and grey member of the crow family (7)
- 14 Male sibling (7)
- 16 NO NET – describing a type of 21 across (5)
- 17 A person with no fixed abode (5)
- 18 A common plant with no seeds or flowers, just spores (4)

Down

- 1 WING CHAT often takes place in a hide (8)
- 2 A NUT – a female relation (4)
- 3 Noise made by a young bird (5)
- 4 GREEN IT whole, no fractional part (7)
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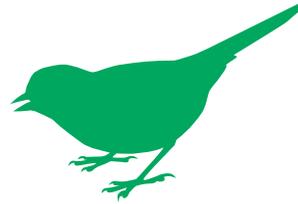
The answers can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Composed by Joan Newman, assisted by Douglas Lumb



WOODY'S SPOT for younger friends

By Jeannie Kopasz



Who gave you your name? Who chose to call you Molly or Thomas or whatever? Your last name will be your family name while your first name (or names) will most likely have been chosen by your mum and dad. That name will be special to you and will show just who you are in your family. You may even have another name – a nickname or a shortened name – which is used by people who know you well.

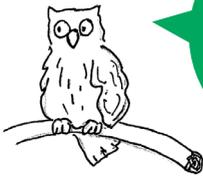
Did you know that plants are named in a similar way? Every plant has a common name – an easy name that most people know, though it will vary from country to country or even from region to region. Then the plant has a scientific (or botanical) name by which it will be known all over the world. The scientific name is always based on one language – Latin. This is a very, very old language which was used over 2000 years ago but is still widely used today in science.

Over 400 years ago, botanists were writing books called 'herbals' in which they noted the names of plants and flowers. Many of these botanists were young, ambitious, brave explorers who risked their lives making dangerous journeys to faraway places such as America and Australia. When they found plants that were new to them they brought them home, studied them, named them and wrote about them. Many plants could be used for food or medicine so it was important that their names should be precise and universal.

Every scientific name is made up of at least two parts. The first describes the 'genus' (or family) while the second describes the species (or its place within the family). So now we can see how the naming of plants is very similar to our own names, the main difference being that scientific names always list the family name first, with a capital letter, and the specific name comes second and is written in italics (sloping letters).

We, who are not botanists, know flowers by their everyday names. Let's think of these as being like the names we are usually known by, or maybe nicknames. They are sometimes descriptive or funny, and there may be several just for one plant.

"A botanist learns all about plants, flowers and trees."



Take the dandelion, for example. Its scientific name is *Taraxacum officinale* but that's not one that we're likely to use or remember. Its everyday name comes from the French words 'dent de lion', which mean lion's 'tooth'. They describe the plant's jagged, tooth-like leaves. Say 'dent de lion' very quickly and what does it sound like? Yes, dandelion!

Dandelion leaves are delicious to eat. (Wash them well first!) They can be cooked as a green vegetable or used in salads or even in sandwiches. There is yet another name for this flower – a name which warns against unwelcome 'accidents' which may be the result of eating too many dandelions at one time. The French name 'pissenlit' roughly translates as 'wee in the bed'! Be warned!

WHAT FLOWER?

In the grid below, the name of one flower – teasel – has been filled in.

Tall, stately teasels grow on some of the allotments. They look good in flower arrangements but their very prickly stems make them difficult to handle.

Read the clues below to find other flower names which will fit into the grid. All the flowers can be seen at Northcliffe at different times of the year.

1. A golden yellow flower found in the meadow. It may show if you like butter!
2. This beautiful blue flower grows in abundance in the woods in the spring.
3. This plant has yellow flowers and leaves like lion's teeth.
4. This small white flower is sometimes joined with others to make a 'chain'.
5. This plant has a red or white flower. Its leaves are made up of three leaflets but if you find one with four leaflets it is said to be very lucky!
6. A plant to avoid! Its leaves are covered with stinging hairs but a dock leaf will help to ease the pain.

1				T					
2				E					
3				A					
4				S					
5				E					
6				L					





CONTACT DETAILS:

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Website: www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk

Answers to Crossword no 13

Across

1 Watching; 6 King; 8 Insect; 9 Absent; 10 Pigeon race; 12 Jam jar; 14 Balsam; 15 Blackthorn; 19 Golden; 20 Hamper; 21 A saw; 22 No riding

Down

2 Aunt; 3 Cheep; 4 Integer; 5 Guano; 6 Kestrel; 7 No nectar;
11 Balloons; 13 Jackdaw; 14 Brother; 16 Tenon; 17 Nomad; 18 Fern

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Phil Morrison