



FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE

NEWSLETTER
Spring 2018



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Having been in Spain this winter I was constantly reminded of Northcliffe at the campsite due to the number of green parakeets that were squawking around our pitch! On visiting Northcliffe for the first time in 3 months what struck me most was the conservation work that has been done during that time – tree planting, hedge planting, clearing, all of which you can read about in this Newsletter.

I hope you will find the article written by Guy Barford in relation to Heritage, and Val Harris' article about the Heritage Project as interesting and enlightening as I did.

No apologies for the usual pleas that you will find in Steve's report, things are getting very serious and I am sure you want to see all the events that you have been accustomed to continuing but it is up to the support of the membership for this to happen.



Liz Hansen
Editor

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH IN NORTHCLIFFE WITH RSPB 2018

Great Tit	8
Long Tailed Tit	6
Parakeet	5
Goldfinch	4
Robin	3
Coal Tit	2
Dunnock	2
Wood Pigeon	2
Crow	2
Nuthatch	2
Feral Pigeon	1
Jackdaw	1
Chaffinch	1
Magpie	1
(Grey Squirrel 1)	

WELCOME



The end of January is almost upon us as I write this, and we've had a wonderful Christmas. It all started in earnest with the Santa Special, which you can read about later, and then a lovely mixture of time with family and friends. Add to that the snow that arrived on a couple of occasions, and the fact that Caitlin had a new sledge for Christmas, and we had a very happy little 'un! There's nothing like zooming down the hills of Northcliffe on a snowy day to put a big grin on a six-year old face!

January began with our AGM on Monday 8th January at the Kirkgate Centre. It was lovely to be able to welcome Peter Shuttleworth to the meeting, the son of Gladys Shuttleworth who was instrumental in FoN's early days. We elected the new committee, who are:

Steve Bruzzese – Chair
 Guy Barford – Deputy Chair
 Sheila Parkin – Secretary
 Joan Newman – Treasurer and Membership
 Val Harris – Conservation and Heritage
 Keith Scott – Website
 Liz Hansen – Newsletter
 Joan Stevens, Julia Pearson, Peter Shuttleworth – General Committee Members

Julia Pearson stood down after being our Conservation Officer since April 2010. In that time, Julia has worked tirelessly to keep a programme going, drumming up volunteers and keeping records. One of her proudest successes must be the huge impact we've made on the balsam, with huge areas of the woods now clear of this pest, and bluebells thriving as a result of this, and the continuing beech thinning. Of course we'll still see Julia, hopefully at some of the conservation sessions, and also with BEES when they come to carry out work for us. But for now, it's a big thank you for everything you've done, and our very warm wishes for the future.

Things do go in cycles, and it's lovely to see our conservation programme so active, with the introduction of Val's midweek sessions last year. We've also got John Bromley and Martin Love doing a cracking job on the dry stone walling front.



However, on the events and publicity side, it gets leaner every year. If it were not for Melanie continuing to organise our main three events, we would really be struggling. We have less and less members helping and volunteering for events, and a committee that has been carrying vacancies for a number of years now. We also have another couple of committee members advising us that they would like to stand down after another year in the role – Liz as Newsletter Editor, and Sheila as Secretary. We need some new blood to keep things vibrant, and to do things – we're not short of ideas (although more would be very welcome), it's the resources to carry them through to reality that we struggle with.

With that in mind, it's my intention to hold a public meeting sometime in the Spring, and the committee are supportive of this. We need to do two things – firstly, raise awareness of Northcliffe in Shipley and the surrounds (you'd be amazed how many people we still hear saying 'Oh, I didn't even know this was here' about the railway). We also need to drum up some new helpers and new committee members. It doesn't have to be a huge commitment, but the same appeal that I have been making for a couple of years to our current membership isn't working, so we need to go wider to try and avert a future crisis. It is fantastic to have such a large membership, and to see it grow so much over the year, but an element of organisation is needed. It is that stark – just one or two more

key members of the committee choosing to stand down, and things would grind to a halt.

Our friends at NEET are really hoping to be able to carry out some renovation of the track leading up past the allotments. It's been getting steadily worse for years now, so with the support of the Council, Ian is hoping to get a project off the ground to resurface the track, provide drainage, and limit vehicle speed. Elsewhere in Northcliffe, work continues at pace on replacing the track down at the miniature railway. And the work being done on reclaiming the allotment project site next to the clubhouse looks to be making excellent progress. It's particularly nice to see the Allotments Society so active, and we've fully supported their bid with Bradford Council to go for self-management. It is well deserved.

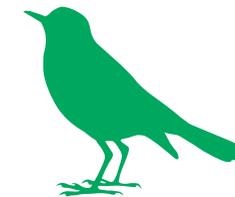
Well, that's it for now. Spring is almost in the air, so make the most of it, get out and enjoy the woodlands and the meadow as they change with the season, and hope to see you at one of our events.



Steve Bruzzese
Chair

NORTHCLIFFE HERITAGE PROJECT

Val Harris



Although the public face of the heritage project has been quite quiet lately, a lot of work is going on behind the scenes to prepare a comprehensive report of the archaeological and historical findings which involves rechecking facts, findings and updating the data. Once the full report is ready it will be proof read and checked over again, and a summary made of the main findings. The plan is to host an open public meeting one Saturday afternoon in November when the report and its more easily read summary paper will be presented.

We are exploring options for self-publishing or publishing on demand for the main report and also creating a dedicated web site where all the material could be put together in one place.

We are exploring creating several walks around the park looking at the changes over time and possibly based on different themes such as coalmining, woodlands, stone extraction, fireclay, farming and these would be downloadable from a website so people could choose which ones they wanted to do. Much will depend on what funding we can raise. We will keep you updated on our ideas in the next newsletter.



Cup and ring stone





Conservation Update

By Val Harris

The midweek group has continued to meet on the third Tuesday of each month, with a morning and afternoon session with a lunch break in NEET – inside in their poly tunnels in winter and outside their café in better weather – thank you NEET!

The work we do varies with the season and with what needs doing in the woods. We have tidied up and replanted the area at the top of Lynton Drive after the council took the large tree down which had a root fungus and was unsafe. Trees have been planted in different parts of the park and thinned out and coppiced in other parts. We have been able to repair footpaths around the bird feeding area with the help of the local council parks team who deliver bark chippings on request, many thanks to them. The dead hedge around the edge of the feeding area has been rebuilt a couple of times. Work has begun, together with the allotment society, to create a wildlife friendly area, as part of the community space being developed at the top of the bottom allotment site.

Over the winter there have been monthly weekend half-day sessions that have been mainly reducing the number of small beech trees in Old Spring Woods and in Northcliffe Woods to enable a range of other species to survive.

Thirty-five bird boxes were put up last year and they were cleaned out in the autumn and we found that many of them had been used. Another 15 are on order from the Cellar Project and should be in place soon. There is a small team of people who regularly go and fill up the feeders in the bird hide area. We worked with the RSPB again this year for the Big Garden Birdwatch and used the allotment clubhouse to do refreshments.

We have teamed up with the Forest of Bradford who have been planting some hedging along the top allotment sites and who supply trees for us to plant out. As a joint venture next winter we will be looking at rejuvenating the main avenue of trees along the main tarmac path.



If you would like to join any of our activities, then please contact Val at valharris@phoneocop.coop or phone 01274 582191.

Our next few working party days are:

Tuesday 20 February
10 am–12 pm and 12.30 pm–2.30 pm

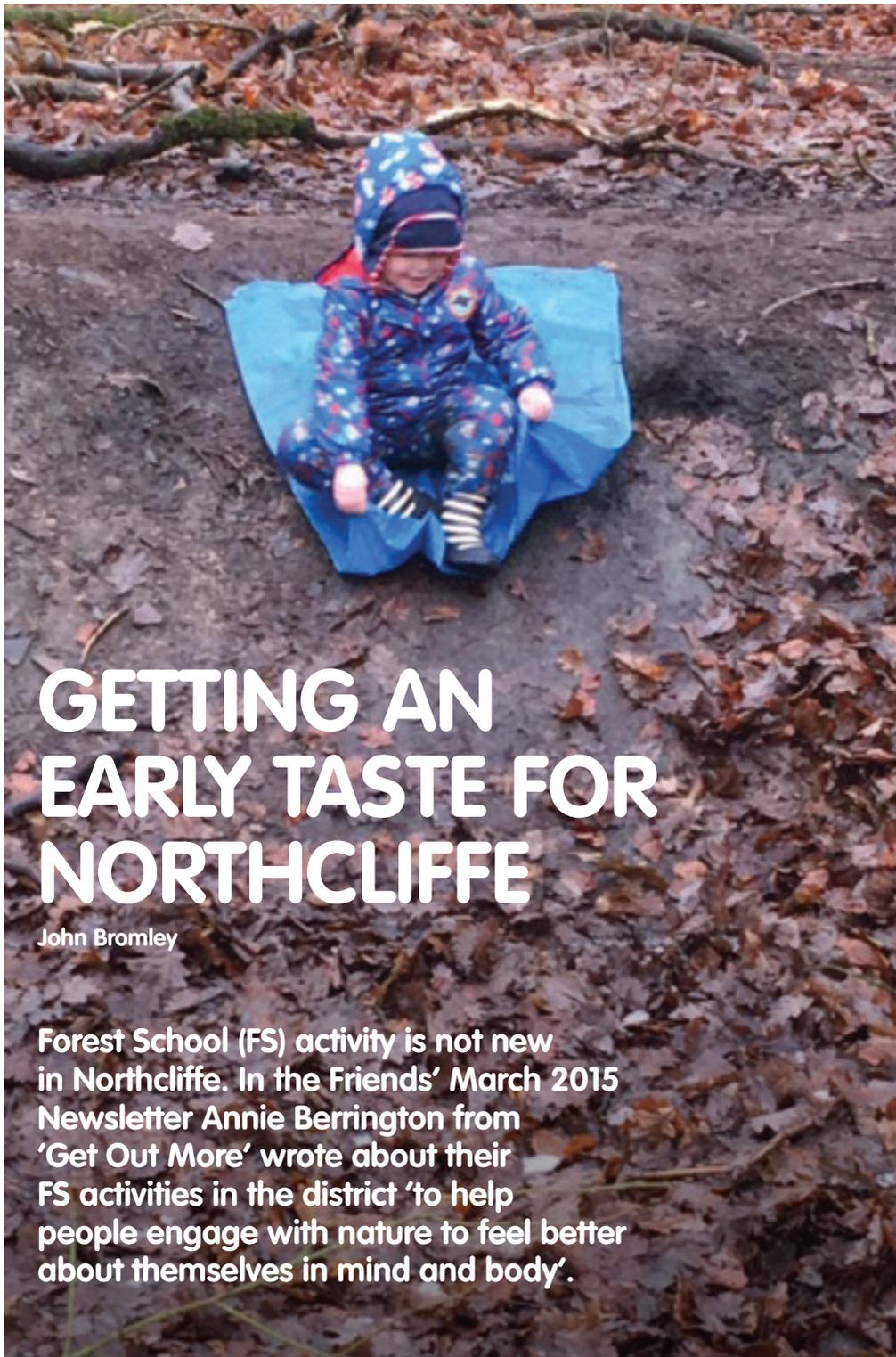
Wednesday 28 February
10 am–12 pm

Saturday 3 March
2 pm–4 pm

Tuesday 20 March
10 am–12 pm and 12.20 pm–2.20 pm

Tuesday 17 April
10 am–12 pm and 12.20 pm–2.20 pm

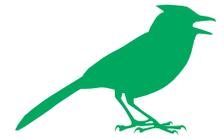




GETTING AN EARLY TASTE FOR NORTHCLIFFE

John Bromley

Forest School (FS) activity is not new in Northcliffe. In the Friends' March 2015 Newsletter Annie Berrington from 'Get Out More' wrote about their FS activities in the district 'to help people engage with nature to feel better about themselves in mind and body'.



How pleasantly surprised I was to learn that my grandson, at the tender age of 3.5 years old, walks from Westfield House Childcare up to Northcliffe with his young friends twice a week to undertake a variety of FS activities.

On a crisp November morning I was pleased to join some Westfield youngsters and 3 staff on one of their visits. Moving steadily up Grosvenor Road they were impressive in their waterproof suits, wellies, warm hats and 'high viz' tabards. The children observed things as they went, also answering questions from the staff.

I led them on a diagonal path up from Avondale Road through Old Spring Wood, crunching in the fallen leaves to the repaired wall with the inset stone bench. Emerging from the canopy of trees we continued climbing, crossing the meadow and entering Northcliffe Wood.

On the fringe of the wood we were warned to be very quiet so that 'the crocodile' (in the form of a fallen tree trunk with knobby bits) didn't wake up. The children were now ready for a drink and a snack which they had while the staff demarcated a safe area with red and white tape in which they set out equipment for the morning activities. A favourite is the 'dip down', sliding down a muddy slope into one of the quarried depressions.

Following my visit, the staff asked the children for their reactions to undertaking FS activity at Northcliffe.

E "I like running around at the woods, playing with my friends and swinging on the tree swing."

S "I like everything and going down the mud slide."

S "Playing Power Rangers with my friends."

J "Going down the mud slide and eating marshmallows."

E "I like running into the 'dip down', toasting marshmallows on the fire and drinking hot chocolate."

L "I like throwing the leaves up into the air."

M "I like jumping in the leaves and going down the 'dip down'."

M "I like hiding in the leaves like a hedgehog."

S "Watching out for the sleepy crocodile."

Isn't it good to think that woodland and open spaces are appreciated by those so young? Hopefully it will imbue them with a love for places like Northcliffe in their future lives!



SANTA SPECIAL 2017

We held our fourth Santa Special on Sunday 10 December, which was another huge success.

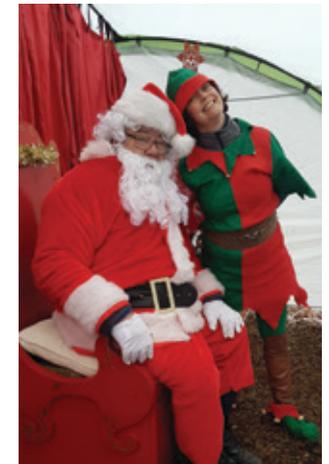


There were some changes to the preparation this time, with Santa's helpers wrapping the gifts and putting them in sacks by train departure times, which made it much easier for the elves in Santa's grotto on the day. There were also changes to the ticket sales window, starting at the beginning of September. This meant that all tickets were sold much earlier this year, allowing us to work much better with Morrisons to source the gifts. We also sold all but around 40 tickets to BMES or FoN members, which points towards it being a member-only event by next year or the year after.

On the day, we didn't have as many helpers as usual. This didn't hinder our time in putting up the event shelters, probably due to the calm weather compared to last year, but trimming the grotto was hard work for the very few volunteers who could help. If anyone could lend a hand trimming next year (about 9 am onwards) it would be much appreciated. Our friends from BMES did their usual sterling job on the day, running a very efficient timetable to transport eager children from station to grotto and back. The grotto team, also did their usual superb job, keeping the kids entertained and helping create the magic!

Many thanks indeed to the core team that make it all happen – Melanie, Rebekah, Ken, John and Sheila, another fabulous job! And the extra elf, Caitlin, of course...

We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to Morrisons and Q20 events, for helping to put a smile on so many happy little faces! Next year, we will repeat the early ticket sales, as this really helped run things efficiently. We hope those of you who joined us this year will do so again.



MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2017

As we start 2018 we have 184 memberships, and already around 20 have paid for the year from April 2018. At one stage last year we had 209 people in membership, but several have been removed for various reasons.

Can YOU help to spread the word about our group, helping to increase the number of people willing to help with events and conservation?

We welcome Judy Ballard as a new member since the Autumn 2017 newsletter.

Subscriptions will continue at the present rate for another year, and we have agreed to continue our appeal for funding for bird boxes as more are in process and all need cleaning and inspecting each autumn.

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

A membership form is included with this newsletter.

Around 80 people are happy with the newsletters by e-mail only but we have sufficient printed copies in case someone changes their mind.

Finances

We start the year with a fairly healthy budget to cover planned events this year provided subscriptions, and donations, arrive with us as estimated.

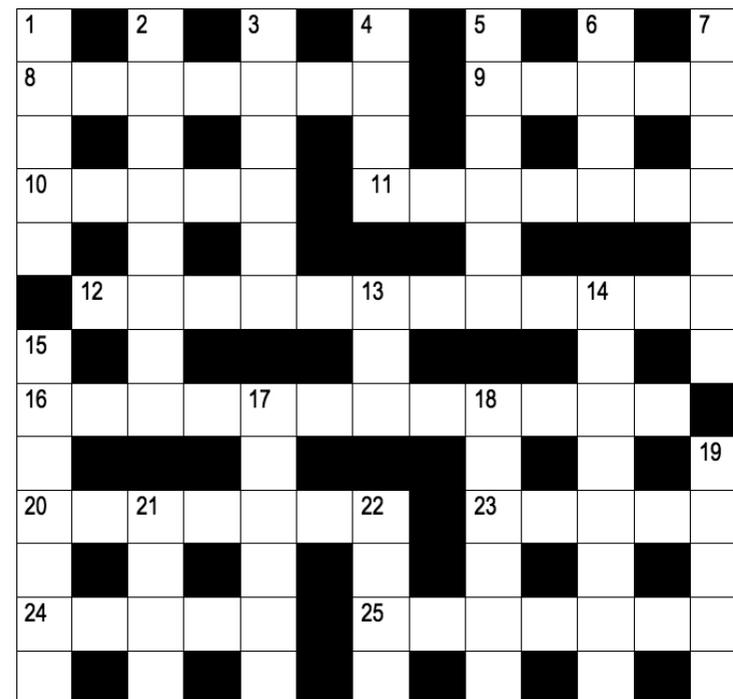
Bird boxes

Around 60% of the 35 boxes had evidence of use by birds when they were cleaned and inspected in the autumn. Another 15 are being bought and put in place before the 2018 nesting season.



Joan Newman
FoN Treasurer/Membership,
January 2018

NORTHCLIFFE CROSSWORD No. 17



Across

- LOG RAIL leaps around to become a large ape (7)
- A Spanish friend (5)
- Useful additions between platforms at Shipley station (5)
- I DEPOSE falls to become a chapter (7)
- CAN AXE TAG VET upset to become excess (12)
- EDIT MINI CARS and drive to distinguish (12)
- Cause of jams on our roads (7)
- Not with others (5)
- TO HER swaps to become an alternative (5)
- A book lending location (7)

Down

- Nimble (5)
- Additions at the front of words (8)
- Less far away (6)
- Overhanging edge of a roof (4)
- Sport to explore underground spaces (6)
- Most common type of pen used today (4)
- WE HOVER becomes a synonym of nevertheless (7)
- Enthusiasm or an old household cleaner (3)
- TAN A LION turns to become countryside (8)
- A version of a newsletter etc (7)
- Synonym for regenerate (6)
- Not far off (6)
- Emerald is the green variety of this family of gemstones, also a girl's name (6)
- Muscles can do this after running (4)
- Part of your lower leg, or a young cow (4)

The answers can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Composed by Joan Newman, assisted by Douglas Lumb



THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF NORTHCLIFFE

by Guy Barford

In late 2013, after a public meeting, the Northcliffe Heritage project was commenced. It was to be led by Tony Woods and Derek Barker with local volunteers helping with survey work and the research of historical documents. Val Harris did an excellent job in keeping interested members informed of progress as well as encouraging those who did the survey work in Northcliffe Woods and those who assisted with the research. The purpose of the project was to try and find out who did what, how, when, where and why. The project was to last 2 years with a final report being produced in 2016/17.

The Friends of Northcliffe group was 25 years old in 2015 and as part of the celebrations a series of display panels was produced. Two of these detail the History and three cover the Heritage Project and the first year's findings. These display panels were used to illustrate a talk given to the Rendezvous group who meet at the Shipley Baptist Church. Information was also gathered from the website. A brief resume of the talk is given below.

Did you know that the first mention of Shipley in the history archives was in the Domesday Book of 1086? Ravenchil was the Lord before the Norman Conquest in 1066. During the winter of 1069/70 the lands of the north became waste lands as the crops, herds, chattels and foods had all been burned (this is now known as The Harrying of the North). After that the small township of Shipley, together with the hamlet of what is now Moorhead, was granted custodianship by the King to Ilbert de Lacy. Later Nicholas de Morays was granted lands in Shipley sometime before 1287, and he returned as Lord of the Manor in 1316. Thus began a succession of owners, most of whom acquired the title and land by inheritance or through marriage. The Gascoignes were here from at least 1423 followed by the Rawsons in 1570 and then some 200 years later the Jacksons. John Wilmer Field bought the title and land in 1820 and in 1836 his daughter Mary married into the Rosse family. By 1911 the lands forming the Northcliffe area were put up for auction to pay death duties, but no bids were received.



After that Norman Rae purchased Northcliffe, gave it to Shipley Urban District Council to be used as an open space for public recreation and it was opened to the public on 12th June 1920. Norman Rae was knighted in 1922.

The heritage started over 300 million years ago when the sandstone, mudstone and coal seams of this area were laid down as sediment in seas or lakes. Movements in the earth's crust, minor faults, ice age(s), erosion and all manner of events have created the landscape we now know. The area has been mined, quarried and excavated for more than 300 years up to 1900 or so. Northcliffe has remained undeveloped since 1911 whereas most other adjoining land has been affected by housing or other buildings. Over the two years of investigation, we have found evidence of stone, coal, shale,

ganister and forestry workings in the area. We used ground surveys, existing LiDAR scans, and modern geophysical equipment. Volunteers have searched libraries and archives to find ownerships, leases, tenancies and sales or purchase records. All this information gives us an insight into the past.

A public meeting was held early in 2015 at which the result of the first year's work was shown. External factors prevented the final document being ready for 2017, but I am pleased to say it is hoped that an account of the final results will be presented at a public meeting later in 2018.

Footnote – The Northcliffe Heritage Project has added to our knowledge of Northcliffe and some details given in this article will require the "History" and "Heritage" sections of the website to be updated/reviewed.



MY JOB AS FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE TREASURER/ MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Joan Newman

I was persuaded to take on this task about 10 years ago when there were around 90 members. That number has now doubled.

Accounts are prepared for the year for the AGM and a budget is set, and sometimes adjusted at our monthly planning meetings.

Throughout the year subscriptions arrive and records are kept in various forms. Costs for events and bills are paid – most recently for 45+ bird boxes. A £1000 donation from the grandson of Sir Norman Rae helped the bird feeding area project to go ahead.

The newsletter, when ready, is collected and sorted into bundles for the willing distribution team, not too arduous, then Martin, my husband, and I drop newsletters through their doors.

After events, and particularly the Gala, we end up with a bucket full of change, so Martin helps to count and bag it up ready to take to the bank.

Sometimes an interesting e-mail arrives. The best was an enquiry from the USA from Kevin Richards, about a Clarissa Thresh from Nab Wood who owned a Rolls Royce in 1939. Kevin had acquired the car and was hoping to renovate it. I go to an art class with someone who knows Clarissa's grandson and was able to acquire copies of the car documents to send across the pond.

Having recently been sold it is now in Chicago awaiting renovation. Funny where Northcliffe can lead – all because a few years ago we had a new member called C Thresh listed in one of our newsletters!!



BIRDS THAT VISIT NORTHCLIFFE AND OUR GARDENS DURING THE WINTER

Keith Scott

There are many birds that visit our gardens during the winter that are in fact a common site all year round in Northcliffe. There are other birds that are only here for the winter.

The species most often seen is the Fieldfare on the slopes near high bank Lane.



Redwings have also been seen in Northcliffe.



A smaller visitor is the waxwing usually in flocks best spotted visiting bird feeding tables either at the viewing area in Northcliffe or our gardens.



Though our newest residents the ring-neck parakeets are here all year round much to some peoples surprise they have established themselves as far north as Sweden.



WOODY'S SPOT for younger friends

By Jeannie Kopasz



WHAT'S IN THE TREE? Have you seen the lesser spotted Pink Tree-twit?

I thought I saw a Magpie on a low branch. It didn't fly away, not even when I went to have a closer look. Why? Because it wasn't a bird, after all – it was a black and white football boot! At the edge of the wood, on the same day, I saw a Lesser Spotted Pink Tree-twit. I decided it was my lucky day because soon after that I saw a rare Pied Purple Fantail. Alas, I was mistaken. These turned out to be a baby sized pink mitten and a purple glove hanging from the tree branches. Some kind people had picked up the boot, the mitten and the glove and hung them where they might be seen and reclaimed by the people who had lost them. After all, one glove on its own isn't much use to anyone!

Something quite different – almost magical – appeared amongst the trees in the wood in December. Shiny red, gold and green Christmas baubles were hung on branches. They looked lovely and they brightened the gloom of many a cold, dark morning walk with the dog.

If the sun came out in the afternoon the baubles shone brightly. A big Thank You to the Christmas Tree Fairy who decorated the trees. I hope she'll come again!

Now, have you ever seen a Money Tree? Although it's true that 'money doesn't grow on trees, people sometimes hammer coins into fallen trees and stumps. This is a custom which goes back hundreds of years and is thought to bring good luck. There are some amazing 'Money Trees' at Bolton Abbey, Ingleton and Tarn Hows (in Cumbria). Old money (pre-decimalisation) and foreign coins can be seen amongst the more usual pennies. Queen Victoria started her own Money Tree on her Balmoral Estate in Scotland. In the past, there have been two Money Trees started in Northcliffe Woods. Sadly they have suffered damage and been 'robbed'. Now I see that another one has been started. If you come across it, add a coin to it and make a wish!



WHAT TIME IS IT?

Things such as boots are called 'matching pairs'. They are almost identical and are designed to be used together. (Think 'legs', 'gloves', 'hands' etc.)

Other pairs are not necessarily alike but have an association. (Think 'bread and butter', 'fish and chips', 'sausage and mash' etc.)

Can you work out the associated pairs in this puzzle? There is a clue alongside the missing words and some letters have already been filled in to help you.

Look at the example below:

b _ _ _ and b _ _ _ _ Clue: parts of a sandwich.
Answer: bread and butter

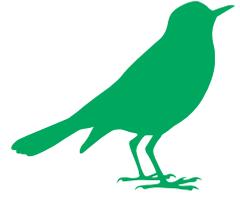
- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. _ e _ and s _ _ _ | found at the beach |
| 2. p _ _ _ _ and _ _ p _ _ | used for drawing and writing |
| 3. _ a _ _ _ and _ g _ | breakfast food |
| 4. _ o _ _ and _ _ a _ _ | seen in the night sky |
| 5. _ o _ _ and p _ _ _ | kitchen utensils |
| 6. c _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ n | popular flavour for potato crisps |
| 7. _ _ t _ and _ _ g _ | our favourite house pets |
| 8. _ _ _ _ k _ and _ _ _ c _ _ _ | used for telling the time |
| 9. d _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ _ s | used in Morse Code |
| 10. _ _ _ _ d _ _ and _ _ _ _ _ n _ _ _ | stormy weather |

ANSWERS
1. sea and sand 2. pencil and paper 3. bacon and egg 4. moon and stars 5. pots and pans 6. cheese and onion 7. cats and dogs 8. clocks and watches 9. dots and dashes 10. thunder and lightning





FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE



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Answers to Crossword No. 17

Across:

8 Gorilla; 9 Amigo; 10 Lifts; 11 Episode; 12 Extravagance; 16 Discriminate; 20 Traffic; 23 Alone;
24 Other; 25 Library

Down:

1 Agile; 2 Prefixes; 3 Closer; 4 Eave; 5 Caving; 6 Biro; 7 However; 13 Vim; 14 National; 15 Edition;
17 Reform; 18 Nearby; 19 Beryl; 21 Ache; 22 Calf

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