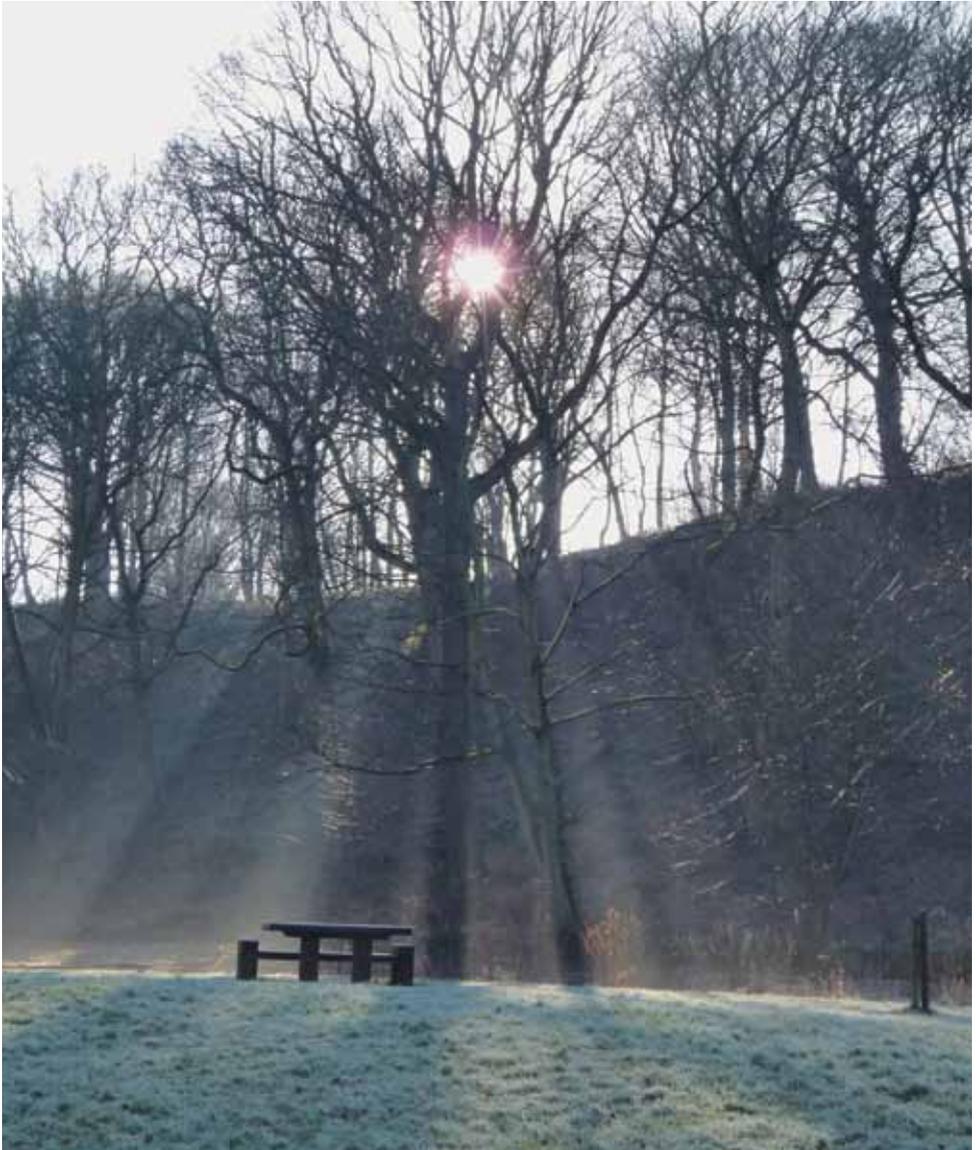




# FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE

NEWSLETTER  
March 2014



#### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

A lot has been happening since the last Newsletter and I hope you will enjoy reading all about it in the following pages. We hope that you will find the new Events Calendar layout easier to read and to keep track of the events that you are particularly interested in. Within these pages there are a couple of pleas for help and if you feel you can offer your services please do get in touch. We have two new committee members – thank you John Bottomley and Guy Barford for volunteering your time and services. A full list of committee members can be found in Steve’s article. With this newsletter you will find a membership/subscription form – yes it’s that time of year again. Please send your form and money to Joan as soon as possible. If you have family or neighbours who are not members perhaps this is a good time to try and “cajole” them into becoming members, particularly if they use Northcliffe – we will never have too many members! Increased membership will not only help keep subs down but allow even more and better events (if that is possible) to be organised. The form can also be downloaded from the web site. I am still on the lookout for good quality photographs in portrait format that could be used on the front cover or within articles so please if you have anything you would like to share please send them to me at [lizhansen@btinternet.com](mailto:lizhansen@btinternet.com) and if you want credit for your photograph please add this to your photo before sending to me. Many thanks to everybody who has contributed articles in my first year as editor and I hope we can continue to grow in the varied articles we have published. If you have anything you would like to share please contact me.

Liz Hansen  
Editor



## WELCOME

**It’s another year in Northcliffe, and our first newsletter of the year always gives me a sense of anticipation about what the next twelve months will bring. We start the year with a new committee after our annual general meeting in January. We’re welcoming some new faces, which I’m really pleased about. We’re also saying a big thank you to Jenny Burnell, who stepped down as a general committee member. Jenny has been on the committee for many years, and makes a fantastic contribution to our events, working tirelessly to stock the sweet jars and run the stall. Jennie will continue to be a part of the events committee, working with Melanie and the gang on this year’s programme. Thanks again for all your help and enthusiasm, Jenny.**

The committee was elected as follows:

Chair – Steve Bruzzese, Deputy Chair – Hugh Firman, Secretary – Sheila Parkin, Treasurer/Membership – Joan Newman, Conservation Officer – Julia Pearson, Events Officer – Melanie Bruzzese, Promotions Officer – vacant, Website Officer – Keith Scott, Committee Members – Guy Barford, John Bromley, Liz Hansen, Joan Stevens. Welcome to John and Guy, who are newly elected to the committee this year, although it’s John’s second stint, having served previously as newsletter editor.

I’d also like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members, who have all joined since the last newsletter:

Stephen Angus, Andrew Brown, Kaye Galley, Mel Jones, Judith and Peter Sharp, Dori Somers.



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It's almost spring time, and the team from the Parks Department will be busy preparing for the season. I mentioned the new planter in the last issue, which is now sitting proudly in the play area. It looks lovely with all the winter bedding plants in, and will make a welcome spot for parents to sit and families to picnic come the better weather. Thanks to Malcolm and the team for continuing to do such a fantastic job in Northcliffe, it really does make a difference.

As spring approaches, don't forget to buy your plants up at NEET. You'll be doing yourself a favour (they produce high quality at a competitive price), as well as helping a local enterprise that supports people with learning disabilities. See their website at [www.northcliffepeopleandplants.org](http://www.northcliffepeopleandplants.org) and if you have younger children, don't forget the monthly Saplings events run by Sponge Tree – see <http://sponge-tree.com/saplings/> for details.

**This year sees our most ambitious events programme ever. We have at least one event every month, sometimes two or three, so there's never been a better time to be out and about in Northcliffe.**

Whether conservation is your passion, or you like a bit of history, or want a fun day out with the family, there's something for everyone. New additions include things like Northcliffe Kite Sunday in May and an Arts Trail in August. More events are likely to be added as the year progresses, especially on the conservation front, so please keep an eye out on our events page or in the notice boards.

Speaking of notice boards, we still have a vacancy for a Promotions Officer on the committee. If the word 'committee' fills you with dread, but you'd like to help without being signed up, then please get in touch. We need someone (or a few 'someones') who can print posters and put them up in our notice boards, contact local papers about our events, and generally promote our activities in the wider community.

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If you could do any or all of these, please get in touch, you'll be helping us out a great deal. Thanks to Keith and Joan, who are doing a fabulous job filling the notice boards on top of their existing roles.

Finally, Northcliffe may well be on film soon in a number of ways. A local company, Crimson Reel Studios, were in the woods and park on Saturday 22 February shooting footage for a promotional film for their business. Aiden Rawnsley, one of the Directors, offered to shoot some footage for a promotional video for Friends of Northcliffe whilst they were here. He'll be returning some time in Spring and Summer to get shots in warmer weather. I can't wait to see the results! I'm hoping Liz will be able to interview Aiden for the next issue, and get him to talk about the experience of filming in Northcliffe. (Managed to get it for this article Steve! Ed).

There's another opportunity via the Touring Consortium Theatre Company, with 'This Is Mine'. A new stage production of 'Brassed Off' is touring across the UK in Spring 2014. To commemorate 30 years since the Miner's Strike of 1984, and to reflect the themes of 'Brassed Off' they are inviting people to send in short films about community. There are no rules; they just ask you to submit some footage that in some way relates to your community, past, present or future. We need volunteers who have a camera and/or editing facilities, and who are familiar with Northcliffe. If you think you can help in any way, please contact John Bromley (details on page 18).

So, as Winter tries to make up its mind whether or not to leave us in Spring's warm embrace, I wish you all the best. I hope you get out and about in Northcliffe, and enjoy all it has to offer. And I hope to see you at some of our many events this year.



# CONSERVATION NEWS

By Julia Pearson with help from Colin Whitfield, Assistant Trees and Woodlands Manager, CBMDC



**Between November and March the FoN conservation activity has concentrated on the winter task of removing the smaller beech saplings from the woods. Our work is guided by the Woodland Management Plan written by the Council, which outlines the long term aspiration to maintain a regenerating native broadleaf woodland.**

The management objectives are:

- 1) to maintain a mixed age class and species broadleaf wood.
- 2) to manage the wood to UKWAS (UK Woodland Assurance Scheme) standards.
- 3) to work with Friends of Northcliffe to improve the quality and biodiversity of the wood.

The strategy states that 'to achieve the above, beech will be removed as circumstances allow. Felling and arboriculture work being limited to necessary safety operations. Non native regeneration will be removed and the species balance will be subject to ongoing monitoring'.

There are some fine architectural beech trees in the woods but they have a great ability to self perpetuate by overshadowing everything except their own shade tolerant offspring. This massively reduces the biodiversity of the wood, and a wood composed of mainly one or two species is vulnerable to the effects of climate change, should those species turn out to be unsuited to the future weather.

With limited resources the Council's involvement is restricted to making sure that people visiting Northcliffe are safe. In recent months they have felled trees or branches that have been damaged or weakened by the winds. The positive aspect of this is that it is following the natural cycle of woodland regeneration in that trees do fall, creating deadwood (see a previous edition of FoN newsletter for benefits of deadwood in woodland)



and opening up the woodland floor to allow light in for the next generation of trees. Intervention is just speeding up the process in order to limit the chance of boughs falling onto pathways. If time and resources allowed (which they don't at the moment) the Council would like to set up a long term monitoring programme to record the changes in the wood in the area of a fallen tree; quadrats for insect, fungi, ground flora and fixed point long term photographic records. Perhaps this survey work is something that FoN can instigate or contribute to?

There are some pink spots on some trees nearby the top path through the trees. I had assumed they marked trees that needed attention, but the Woodlands team are unaware of the marks. Perhaps they are part of a game or route marker?

In the summer we will continue to remove the Himalayan balsam. Sessions scheduled so far are on Wednesday 18 June and Tuesday 8 July. Meet at the miniature railway at 7pm. We will be working on slopes so good footwear recommended, plus a midge deterrent. Gloves will be provided. Keep an eye out for late summer sessions on notice boards or email.



# A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS

Shipley resident and Friends of Northcliffe member **Bev Morton** shares what Northcliffe means to her.

I was talking to a friend recently, (she is also a Northcliffe fan) and we were both saying without it we couldn't imagine what our lives would be like, here, living in this area without Northcliffe. It is that important. It is absolutely essential to our well-being. And we have got it on our doorstep and it is free. (Well, maybe not completely free. Thank you Bradford Council Parks and Friends of Northcliffe.)

A few steps across that main busy road, the noise of the traffic and then I walk up the hill and along past the house and the bowling green and the beautiful children's park and I am in a completely different land.

Like so many people, much of my work is done sitting down either talking with people, at the computer, driving or on trains. To do my work effectively I need to not only get my body moving, I also need to find spaces to inspire me so I can tap into that inspiration and bring it into both my work and my life. Northcliffe absolutely delivers on this. Northcliffe inspires me and helps me think; helps feed my senses, clears my thoughts, it gives me clarity, generates insights and a whole host of ideas.

Over the years Northcliffe has been one of the most important ways of keeping me anchored. When life gets really bumpy, I get my boots on and I go for a walk up Northcliffe.



Sometimes (when I'm feeling energetic) I run up and down the steps near the golf course as fast as I can make it. (I'm the one at the top of the steps with the bright red face and a sweat on...) I tend to power walk if I'm up to it so I can clear my lungs.

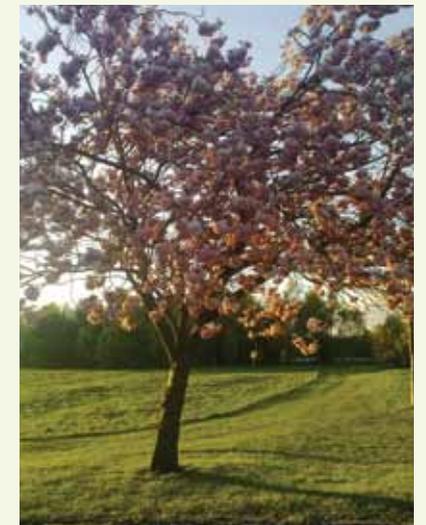
I take everyone who comes to visit to Northcliffe. I take photographs and tweet about it and get a lot of 'favourites'. Northcliffe is most definitely a place where I connect with people, either those with me or meeting regulars on the hill or in the woods, often with their dogs. Being in the presence of other people who have as much love of the place as I do is an absolute joy.

Now that I have grandchildren, I bring them up to the swings. Something happens in that park, a different kind of playful energy is liberated there. The sound is often one of joy and laughter and it always lifts my heart.



I watch the seasons there. As the seasons change, the wood in the park delivers the change in the seasons, visually, kinaesthetically, what you see, what you hear and what you experience. It gives it to you on a plate and to me it is one of the absolute joys of the place. There is such a lot that this one park delivers for me and for so many people.

**I am proud of Northcliffe and I want to share it with people. I am deeply grateful for it. Aren't we lucky, living in Shipley?**



# NORTHCLIFFE BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

By Hugh Firman

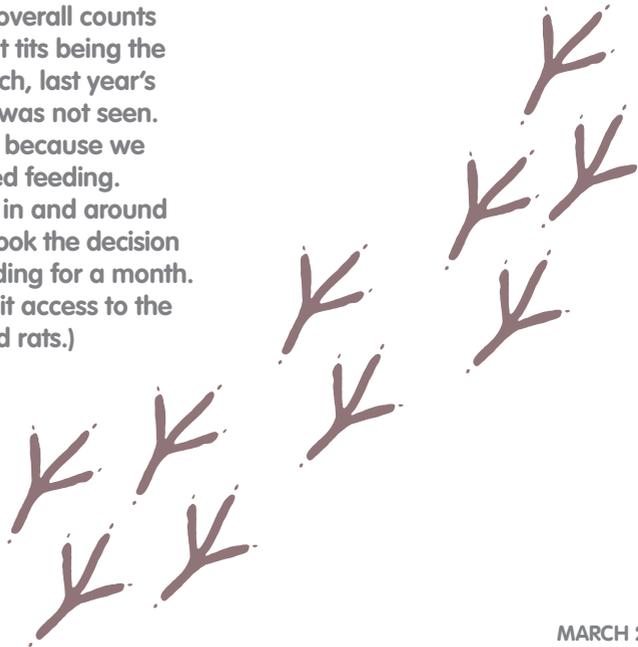


In January, along with over half a million people across the country, we again took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. Nationwide, counts have been undertaken since 1979 and our records help to produce vital information about trends and provide an early warning of population decreases.

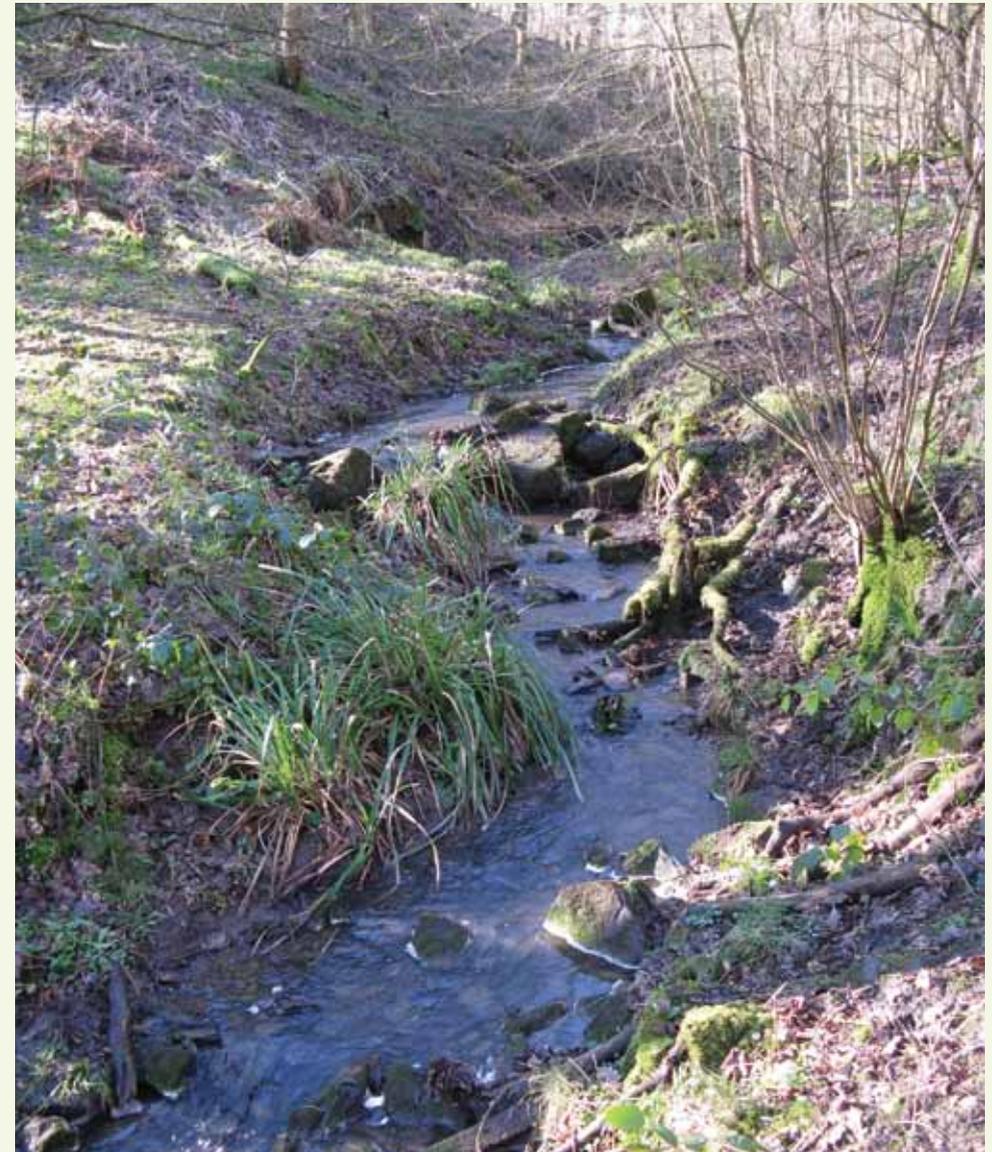
After the snow and ice of last year, this time we were greeted by persistent rain in the morning. However, right on cue at 2pm, the sun started shining! However, the birds and the people were not so easily convinced with numbers being lower than last year. Bird wise, eleven species were recorded which, surprisingly, was one more than the previous year. However, overall counts were lower, with six great tits being the maximum count. Goldfinch, last year's most numerous species, was not seen. This may well have been because we had only recently resumed feeding. (Following reports of rats in and around the allotments area, we took the decision to temporarily cease feeding for a month. We also took steps to limit access to the bird food for squirrels and rats.)

About 30 adults and children came to see the birds, have a cuppa and a chat and buy bird food and other sales goods.

Thanks to all who made the afternoon a success including the RSPB Airedale and Bradford Local Group, the Northcliffe Allotments Society (for the loan of their clubhouse) and Friends of Northcliffe helpers.



# WHAT'S ON? 2014 EVENTS DIARY



## MARCH



Saturday 8th  
10.15am – 12.15pm  
Heritage Walk  
Meet at Cliffe Wood Ave

Wednesday 19th  
10.15am – 12.15pm  
Heritage Walk  
Meet at Cliffe Wood Ave

Saturday 15th  
Sponge Tree  
Saplings Play Group

Saturday 15th  
Conservation

## APRIL

Wednesday 2nd  
10.15am – 12.15pm  
Heritage Walk  
Meet at Cliffe Wood Ave

Saturday 5th  
10.15am – 12.15pm  
Heritage Walk  
Meet at Cliffe Wood Ave

Saturday 12th  
10.30am – 11.30am  
Sponge Tree  
Saplings Play Group

Saturday 19th  
12pm – 3pm  
Easter Event  
Meet at Miniature  
Railway

Sunday 20th  
BMES Official Opening  
Meet at Miniature  
Railway

## MAY

Saturday 10th  
4.45am  
Dawn Chorus  
Meet in the Woods  
(Lynton Drive)

Saturday 17th  
Sponge Tree  
Saplings Play Group

Sunday 18th  
2pm onwards  
Kite Sunday  
Meet on the top meadow



Please note that all events are subject to change without prior notice.



## JUNE

Sunday 1st  
1pm – 3.30pm  
The Big Lunch  
Meet at Miniature  
Railway

Saturday 14th  
Sponge Tree  
Saplings Play Group

Wednesday 18th  
7pm  
Himalayan balsam  
pulling  
Meet at Miniature  
Railway

Saturday 21st  
Sponge Tree Summer  
Bunting Workshop

Saturday 21st  
9pm – 10.30pm  
Summer Solstice  
Nocturnal Wildlife Walk  
Meet at main entrance  
Bradford Road

Sunday 29th  
2pm – 4.30pm  
Rae Gala  
Meet at Miniature  
Railway

## JULY

Tuesday 8th  
7pm  
Himalayan balsam  
pulling  
Meet at Miniature  
Railway

Sunday 27th  
10am – 4pm  
BMES Diesel Day  
Rides available  
Meet at Miniature  
Railway

## AUGUST

Sunday 3rd  
2pm – 4pm  
Arts Trail Project  
Meet at Miniature  
Railway

Wednesday 20th  
2pm – 4pm  
Children's History Mystery  
Treasure hunt  
Meet at Miniature  
Railway

## SEPTEMBER

TBC Big Screen Film  
In The Park

Saturday 27th  
11am onwards  
Health & Fitness Event  
Meet at Play Area

## OCTOBER

Saturday 18th  
Sponge Tree Autumn  
Collograph printing

Sunday 26th  
Lantern workshops

## NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st  
4pm onwards  
Lantern Parade  
Meeting places  
community specific  
Finish at Northcliffe Park

## DECEMBER

Sunday 14th  
Christmas Special  
Meet at Miniature  
Railway

Saturday 20th  
Winter Solstice Bird  
Watching / Feeding

Saturday 27th  
12.30pm – dusk  
BMES  
Mince Pie Steam Up



There's always plenty of events and activities happening up in the woods so check out our notice boards or visit us at [www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk](http://www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk) for all future events.



# MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

## APRIL 2014 – MARCH 2015

We start the year with some new memberships bringing the total to 177.

It is that time of year when we send out a request for subscriptions, which are due on April 1st for the year April 2014 – March 2015. Early payment helps us to plan the year – and there do seem to be a lot of events coming up in 2014, so watch out for e-mails and notices.

Some folk have already paid, so for those folk, THANK YOU, and ignore this note – and give the membership form to a neighbour or friend. Subscriptions are not increased again.

**Subscriptions have remained the same for this year:**

Individuals £4  
Family £6  
Concessions £3  
Family concessions £5

Send your details with cash or a cheque made payable to Friends of Northcliffe to:

Joan Newman  
Treasurer  
42 Moorhead Crescent  
Shipley  
BD18 4LQ

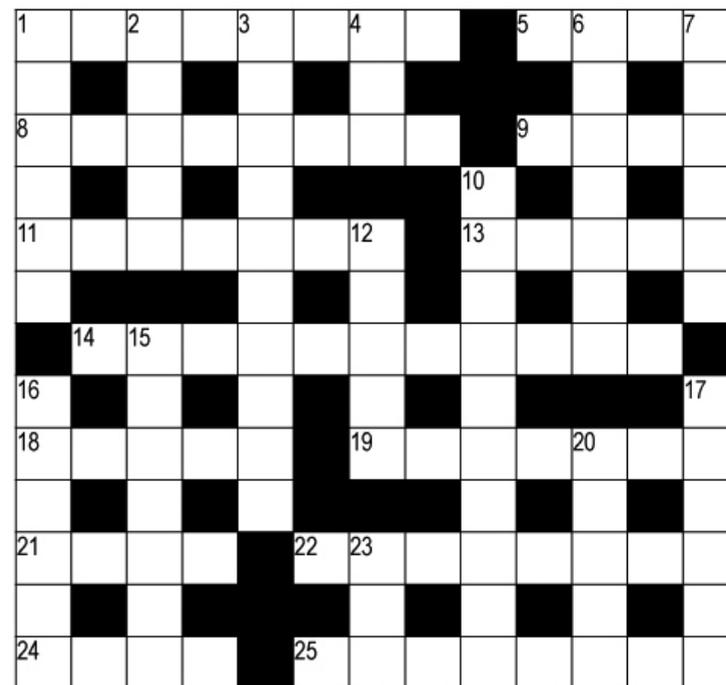
Again we ask you to think about donations as these helped us considerably last year, especially towards bird food for the feeding station, as well as to general funds.

A membership form is included with this newsletter.



## NORTHCLIFFE CROSSWORD

### No. 6



#### Across

1. A feathered friend which could belong to a choir (8)
5. A golden park in N Leeds (4)
8. The UK's smallest thrushes (8)
9. 100 day.... Festival before 16/17 down (4)
11. What is heard during a musical 'rest' notation (2,5)
13. The opposite of 11 across (5)
14. Turn left for chin and arrive at our Wood (11)
18. Oily lady? (5)
19. Cover charity (7)
21. Peruse on the page (4)
22. Nod into a change for a gift (8)
24. Way out (4)
25. Tease Ben all over the place and he's not there (8)

#### Down

1. Seasonal jump (6)
2. Where the leaves grow from in plants (5)
3. Mix up tribe question without the particle for a block of coal dust (10)
4. Floor covering found in the rough (3)
6. The capital of Wales (7)
7. Holiday time in April 2014 (6)
10. Skipton, Keighley, Bingley and Shipley are all..... (2,8)
12. Paddlers also mean no scores in cricket (5)
15. Japanese paper pastime (7)
- 16/17. Cure for Dante turns into something due in Yorkshire in July (4,2 and 6)
20. Dance from the 1960s (5)
23. Sphere (3)

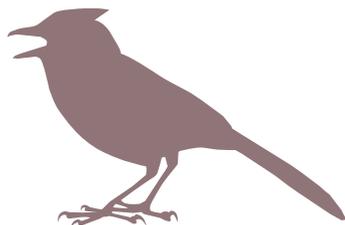
The answers can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Composed by Douglas Lumb and Joan Newman



# NORTHCLIFFE NATURE NOTES

By Lisa Chadwick-Firman



**I love this time of year! The snowdrops do their best to cheer us up; way back in January their little heads were peeping through the soil to show us signs of Spring! Now they are joined by the crocus that open up and smile back at the sun on a bright Spring day!**

If you are able, please go to the avenue, above the new play area, and see the beautiful crocuses that we planted a few years ago. They look stunning on a sunny day all along the avenue. I love to see the snowdrops too, by Moorhead Lane. They are looking superb at the moment. How they have spread from the few that we planted with the Brownies from St Peter's several years ago! When I see these snowdrops, I often think of those Brownies, and wonder what they are doing now! (Were you one of these Brownies and could let us know what you are doing now and what Northcliffe meant to you then and what it means now? Ed)



So far, this winter has been very mild – now don't blame me if it snows! The buds are already beginning to swell on the trees. I love being able to see the shapes of the trees when they are bare of their leaves and to see their silhouettes against a crisp, blue, winter sky. It is often easier to see the birds then, too. The jays, which are really increasing in number, and range, look wonderful in winter. They are so colourful, and we see them now as far away from the woods as Westcliffe Park and Crowgill Park – an amazing sight, considering how timid and wary of people these birds were just a few years ago. Not only are they now much bolder, but they have developed a cheeky sense of humour too!

Keep an eye out too for the colourful waxwings that visit us from Scandinavia at this time of year. They come here to appreciate our warm weather – truly – and to enjoy our abundant crops of berries. If you have room in your garden, plant a rowan or cotoneaster, you never know these beautiful birds may bless you with a visit.

I was absolutely stunned when I saw them in our front garden last year, even though we had planted lots of berry bearing trees in our back garden, in the hopes of attracting them. Of course, being free, wild birds, they chose the much neater, ornamental low growing cotoneaster, in the front! As I often tell Hugh, the wildlife does not read the books! (Please also remember to feed your garden birds; I am sure you do.) I never tire of watching the birds in our garden - what better excuse to avoid those never ending chores! We have the most amazing song thrush in our garden just now. He sings loudly from 5am until dusk. I love to listen to him early in the morning, what a lovely lullaby, to sing me back to sleep!

I hope you are able to get out and enjoy Northcliffe whatever the weather. You will not only be rewarded by the wonderful wildlife on our doorstep, but if you choose to, you can enjoy a rest and a brew at the cafe at NEET's allotments. What more could we want!



# JUST WHAT DOES GO ON IN NORTHCLIFFE?!

By Aiden Rawsley

Crimson Reel Studios was established in 2012 by friends Aidan Rawsley, Ryan Firth and Ben Miller with the aim of creating entertaining online content, short films, music videos and feature films. Between us we have experience with camera and crew work, graphic design, visual effects and acting. We've made short films about gangsters, zombies, time-travellers and even a throwback to 80's slasher movies. We've come runner-up twice in filmmaking competitions, both of which happened to be zombie themed videos!

We make short films as a way of experimenting and learning through film, using different styles, techniques and processes to achieve interesting and entertaining narratives, or sometimes, just a funny sketch video to make people smile.

Our latest short film, *The Woods*, was shot entirely at Northcliffe. The year is 1941, and when Stan finds out Billy has slept with his wife there's only one thing he wants to do... the short film is an action-packed chase sequence through the forest, ending however, with a science-fiction twist! Filming took place on Saturday 22 February; we were blessed with sunshine and wrapped up filming by midday. Our brilliant actors, who came over from Harrogate, were found through casting website StarNow-Velton Lishke, Josh Parry, Stephen Swinburn and Ryan Kirby.

We chose to shoot our latest short film, *The Woods*, in Northcliffe to take advantage of the picturesque woodland and beautiful view overlooking Shipley. As indie filmmakers who normally shoot on productions with zero budget and very few contacts within 'the industry', it's important to establish contacts that are reliable and friendly.



After spending the last two years making short films, promotional videos and online content we are now ready to take the next step in movie making: to shoot our first feature film. We intend shooting the micro-budget film this summer, using 'crowd-funding' to source our budget. We are currently seeking a producer to join our team.

The film will be set and filmed in and around West Yorkshire, taking advantage of the wonderful landscapes and scenery, meaning places like Northcliffe will get their chance to be seen on the big screen. Almost the entire film takes place in the outdoors; it's a story about adventure and youth, exploring the wilderness and interacting with strangers. So, we are now searching for the ultimate locations: beautiful woodlands, rock formations, moorlands, lakes etc.

If you have any suggestions for locations or any other interest in the film, please feel free to email us at [crimsonreelstudios@gmail.com](mailto:crimsonreelstudios@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.crimsonreelstudios.com](http://www.crimsonreelstudios.com) to see our short films and graphic design work.



A photo of my film crew and above an image from the film.



## UNCOVERING NORTHCLIFFE – DIGGING FOR TALENT

By John Bottomley

Since the open meeting last November work has progressed on the project design as well as the planning of heritage activities. In order to move things forward we now need to find a person who will act as Development Co-ordinator to draw together a funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, to co-ordinate the existing expertise in developing the project and liaising with other interested organisations. Are you that person? Or can you help us to find such a person?

Heritage walks around Northcliffe are being led by Tony and Derek, key members of the heritage survey initiative. Details can be seen on the Events Page. The walks are not suitable for young children; walkers are requested to wear suitable clothing and footwear.

The Friends' website now includes a 'History and Heritage' section including related photos. Other photos are welcomed from readers, particularly of features that have disappeared over time, for instance of the shelter at the top of the park.

For the photos shown below, readers are challenged to find historical explanations. The solutions are on the Back Page.



Photo 1



Photo 2

## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE...

"I live near Northcliffe and feel we are lucky to have such interesting pieces of preserved green space on our doorstep. My enjoyment of a place is heightened by knowing something of its history and I hope the project will be successful in bringing local people together in sharing learning and sharing the thrill of discovery."

Stephen Angus

"Atma & I came to the meeting at Hall Royd both out of a sense of curiosity and a seizing of the moment – there was nothing else in the diary that we were committed to!

We found the meeting to be very well organised and run. All the speakers were very interesting and we were also grateful for the input from Judy Woods, Stanbury Hill and Bradford Archives.

We have lived in Shipley for 38 years and Northcliffe has been very much a part of our lives. We had an allotment for a while and our daughter had a favourite pit hollow to play in, which she named Squirrel Cove. It was all very magical and some visitors once commented on the special atmosphere in the wood.

The meeting gave us more of a feeling of being part of the local community – and we knew or recognised so many people! It would be nice to see the wider community, businesses and schools inspired by the project. Detective work on local ancestors might catch people's imagination for a start.

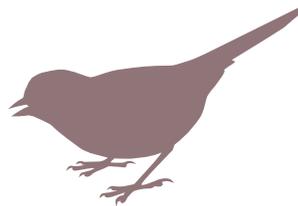
On a personal note, my mother was a Belsten from Bristol. Her father's siblings emigrated to Canada by 1906 and one of the brothers, Herbert, had a grandson (b.1933) called Norman Rae Belsten. Now, *that's* a mystery! My detective eye has just noticed that his grandma was Lily Whiting (b.1888) from Leeds, but I,m not holding my breath! "

Cynthia Trasi



# WOODY'S SPOT for younger friends

By Jeannie Kopasz

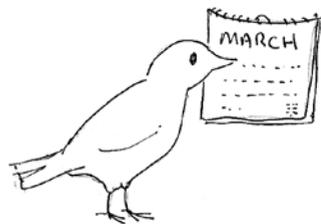
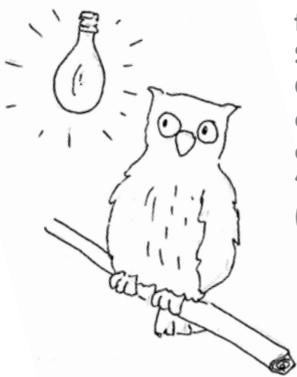


## IT MUST BE SPRING!

Do birds have diaries? Do foxes and rabbits have little calendars on the walls of their dens and burrows? If not – how do they know that it's spring? Time for the birds to start building nests. Time for the badgers to start their spring cleaning. Wakey wakey time for the hedgehogs. Coming home time for the birds that have had long winter holidays in warmer countries.

Now is the time when the days grow longer. Although this doesn't mean that there are actually more hours in a day it does mean there are more hours of daylight.\* This is very important to the birds and animals who have been waiting for signs of the changing season since the middle of the winter and will suddenly become more active. Even plants and trees will respond with spurts of rapid new growth.

\*Wise Owl says: This is called the photoperiodic (light time) switch



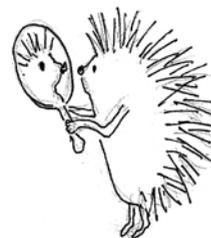
### What are your favourite signs of spring?

There is an old saying that you can tell spring has arrived when you can cover five daisies at once with your foot! Other reliable signs include seeing long, yellow Hazel catkins (sometimes known as 'lambs' tails' ) or the soft and downy catkins of Pussy Willow. Look out for the large brown buds of the Horse Chestnut – as sticky as though they have just been painted with treacle!

The first flower to be seen is usually the Snowdrop. This little plant is much tougher than it looks as it has specially hardened leaf tips for breaking through frozen ground. That's just amazing! Snowdrops are sometimes known as Candlemas bells because they flower around the time of the Christian festival of Candlemas. Other names include 'February fairmaids' and 'Mary's tapers' (a taper is a long, very thin candle).

Long, long ago, all flowers were known as 'roses'. The Latin words 'Prima Rosa' – meaning 'first flower' – gave the pale yellow Primrose its name. In medieval times crushed Primrose leaves were mixed with lard to make an ointment which was thought to be good for treating cuts.

Look out for your first butterfly of the year. If it has bright yellow wings with orange spots it is sure to be a Brimstone. Hundreds of years ago it was known as the 'butter-coloured fly' – a term which probably gave us the name 'butterfly'.



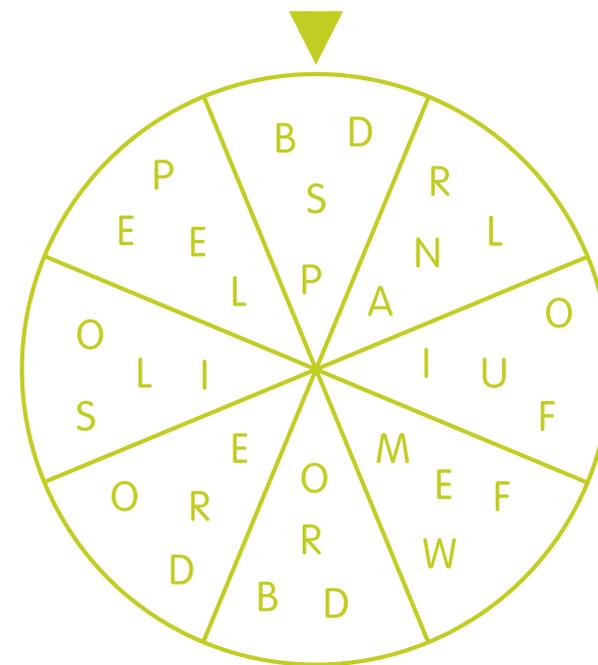
Bed Head!!!

Go for a walk through Northcliffe Woods and keep your eyes open for signs of spring. Visit the bird feeding station and see what's about. And don't forget to look for your first five daisies on the field!

### FLOWER WHEEL

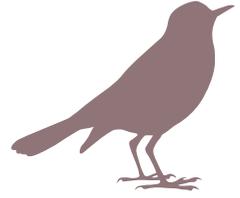
Look at the diagram below. Starting with one letter from the top segment, move in a clockwise direction to see if you can make the eight letter name of a spring flower. One letter of its name will be found in each of the segments. There are three more flower names to be made – again starting at the top segment and moving clockwise.

Answers can be found on page the Back Page.





# FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE



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## Answers for Crossword No. 6

### Across

1 Songbird; 5 Acre; 8 Redwings; 9 Arts; 11 No sound; 13 Noise;  
14 Northcliffe; 18 Olive; 19 Shelter; 21 Read; 22 Donation; 24 Exit;  
25 Absentee

### Down

1 Spring; 2 Nodes; 3 Briquettes; 4 Rug; 6 Cardiff; 7 Easter;  
10 In Airedale; 12 Ducks; 15 Origami; 16/17; Tour de France; 20 Twist;  
23 Orb

## Please be vigilant.

We have been advised that in the past months illegal snares have been found along the fence beside the footpath which goes across the top of Nab Wood. These were removed and no more have been set, so far. Adjacent to the Golf Course and close to the copse of trees near the footpath which leads to Six Days Only wire deer snares were found and removed. As members of Friends of Northcliffe can you keep a watch out for snares or any other illegal trapping that is taking place in our local woods. If snares are found only incapacitate them if you feel you can safely do so and inform the local police. These snares could cause serious injury not only to adults but to children and dogs being walked in these areas.

## Answers to Heritage Quiz

Photo 1. View from the path near the new children's play area, looking towards Rae Road and the Shipley Bowling Club, probable site of historic coal and/or fireclay mining shafts.

Photo 2. Iron cover near the demolished Cliff Cottage, Northcliffe Wood, with water supplied probably from the 1920s.

## Answers to Flower Wheel

The four names are:  
PRIMROSE, SNOWDROP,  
DAFFODIL, BLUEBELL