



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park



NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2023



February was a bit warmer than usual and around the Park it is looking quite Spring like, but BEWARE, Winter has not gone.

March is forecast cold and snowy in the North so don't put away the Winter woolies yet! January and February are great months

for catkins and they can be seen around the Park. Catkins are male and female and the wind allows pollination. Around the



Photo by Linda Souter

Park we have mainly Alder and Hazel catkins. With Alder, the female catkins will go on to develop woody cones and Hazels will hopefully produce Hazel nuts in the Autumn which are a great food source. My favourite plant Gorse is showing well and

the daffodils are well in bud with some now in flower.



You may also have noticed that North Tyneside Council have been busy repainting the road markings and repairing/extending the pedestrian access. This is a great improvement and it is nice to see investment in the Park. **Well done!**

VOLUNTEERING

Another busy month for our volunteers.

On the 2nd we planted two Cherry trees in the Centre Grounds near the play area. These will bring some lovely spring blossom in the future.



EE employees were in on the 6th sorting out the raised bed allotment area to the rear of the buildings—big thank you to them; looks like they had a lovely day.



The ponds in Plantation Wood also received some attention clearing out logs and branches that had 'found their way' into them. The 16th was a particularly busy day, a group of the Friends tidied up the area around Lily Rose Pond in the Wildlife Garden giving new growth a chance and fingers crossed the frogs will find the pond soon.



I mentioned last month that the Friends would be checking the nest boxes in the Park and on the 16th a number of the boxes in the Quarry were repaired. The main repair was placing a plate over the entrance after our resident Greater Spotted Woodpecker had tried last year to get at the young inside. We now have a record, including location, of the bat and nest boxes in the Quarry to help monitor usage. We need to do a similar exercise in the wider Park and, although it is getting rather late, erect extra boxes. **Don't forget, the Volunteers meet every Thursday morning in the Centre Grounds—everyone welcome.**



At the end of the month the Friends held their monthly **LITTERPICK.**

The Living to Learn students from North Shields joined us again along with our regulars and some new faces. Thanks to everyone for their support and time to help keep this wonderful space tidy. Don't forget that March is the **Great British Spring Clean** and the Friends are organizing a get together on **Saturday 25th March 10am at the Centre Grounds.** All welcome, please come along, make some new friends and grab a cuppa, bring own gloves if you can.

#GBSpringClean

IT'S TIME FOR A SPRING CLEAN!

Friends of Rising Sun Country Park have 'pledged to pick' and will be taking part in

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN
17 MARCH - 2 APRIL 2023

Be part of the pick

Saturday 25th March 2023
10.00 – 13.00

Come for as much time as you can spare!

Meeting point: Outside the Café
@ The Countryside Centre,
Rising Sun Country Park NE12 9SS

All litter picking equipment and bags will be provided, but you may wish to bring your own gloves.



All welcome, please come along, make some new friends and grab a cuppa, bring own gloves if you can.

AROUND THE PARK

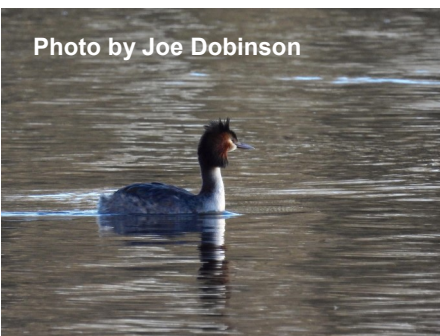


Photo by Joe Dobinson

Great Crested Grebe 23rd

Lovely to see the Grebe drop in but the real treat is seeing a Yellowhammer. Yellowhammer numbers are down over 50% since the 1970's—devastating and mainly due to farming practice.



Photo by Aiden Bargh

Yellowhammer 24th

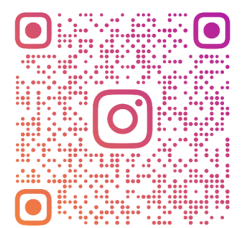
Some great photos posted on the Friends of Rising Sun Country Park Facebook page again. These are really appreciated and help us realise the diversity of wildlife in the Park.



Photo by Mark Masters

Gorgeous Sunrise 27th

One of our regular birders also spotted Grey partridge which do visit but not as regularly as in the past. The Roe Deer still mooch around and I watched three from the Café Terrace the other day - **A JOY.**



FRIENDSOFRISINGSUNCOUNTRYPARK

The Friends Group meets the second Friday of each month at 12 noon in the Rising Sun Centre everyone is welcome, nice to see some new faces. In the meantime why not follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsRSCP> or Email friendsrscp@gmail.com