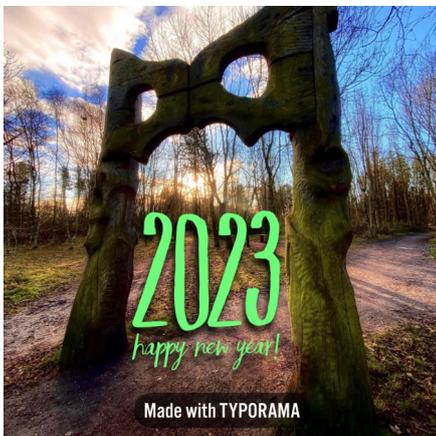




Friends of Rising Sun Country Park



NEWSLETTER — JANUARY 2023



Happy New Year to all our readers and visitors to the Rising Sun Country Park. A special thanks to Ian Willey, one of our regular photographers, for creating a 2023 poster. Looks like next years calendar might have a good start!! What a month of weather we have had!! We had freezing cold, snow and unfortunately strong winds that ended up bringing more trees down mainly in Plantation Wood.



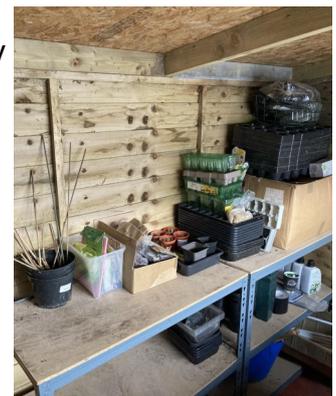
The damage was limited and in areas where trees had become newly exposed following the devastation of last year. Much of this will be left as brash to create new habitats rather than clearing away. There is already a lot more light getting into areas of woodland following the last clearance of dangerous trees.



A further consequence of the early wet weather is the level of Swallow Pond. In the Autumn we could walk out to the rushes in front of the main bird hide but now it is too deep. The Friends wanted to help NT thin out the rushes but it may be getting too late. Many of the paths were flooded as well but this has now subsided.

VOLUNTEERING

The Friends have been pottering in the allotment area to the rear of the buildings. This area has a number of raised beds and was very productive last year. Preparation is underway for the Spring and the tatties are chitting!! **If you are interested in growing veg and would like to help why not pop in on a Thursday morning and meet up with some of the volunteers—everyone welcome.**



On the 30th January the Friends held their monthly **LITTERPICK**. We were lucky enough to be joined by students from Living to Learn, North Shields. Living To Learn is a new comprehensive day service supporting young people with learning difficulties and disabilities aged between 19 to 30. Students can take part in a range of flexible and adaptable sensory, recreational and social activities with opportunities for outbound residential experiences. As you can see from the photos on P2 they really enjoyed themselves!



The sun was shining and the smiles reflect what a great time everyone had. Plenty of black bags sadly but really the Park is a pretty tidy place as long as we all do our bit. So a big **THANK YOU** to everyone that helped. Don't forget we



meet the last Monday of the month meeting at the Centre café at 10.30. Everyone welcome and equipment provided but please bring your own gloves. So please pop along grab a free drink, have a chat and help keep our amazing Park tidy. **Next meet 27 February 2023.**

The Friends are putting together a jobs list for volunteers with the help of North Tyneside. Jobs include clearing out some of the dipping ponds, creating a new willow structure in the Wildlife Garden, preparing the flower beds and pots for the Spring, checking the nestboxes!!! So much to do!! If you have any ideas—get in touch.

AROUND THE PARK



Photo by Joe Dobinson

Amazing Bittern 17th

Thanks to all those posting photos from around the Park. One real treat in January was a Bittern! Only the third record!!

Bits and Bobs



Photo by Jan Casson

So many Fungi 8th

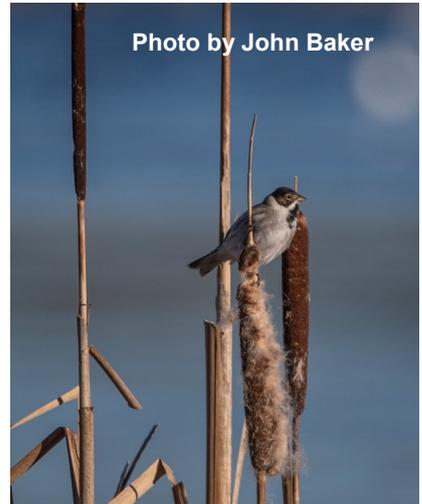


Photo by John Baker

Reed Bunting 17th Perfect!



The Friends would like to thank all those that bought the Park calendar. We sold all 150 copies!! All photos have been taken by our visitors so a big thanks to them. All the money made will be put back into the Park carrying out various projects. If you have any thoughts on developing and increasing biodiversity don't be shy get in touch.



Some might have noticed some changes recently to the Friends Facebook and we have a new 'home'. Here we will be posting Friends activities, volunteering sessions etc. We now have posh new QR code links!!



FRIENDSOFRISSINGSUNCOUNTRYPARK

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