



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park



NEWSLETTER — FEB 2022



So we all thought that we had finished with the strong winds after the devastation in January but oh no, it doesn't work like that, February threw us two more 'hoolies' with Storm Dudley on the 16th then Storm Eunice on the 18th. The poor Park was hammered again. The teams working on the January



clearance had nearly cleared the felled trees on the Waggonway and then more trees down again!! Many areas still hadn't been reached but the new storms brought even more problems with trees lying on other trees making areas incredibly unsafe for the NT Teams to gain access. A picture of a tree down appeared on the BBC Weather News on the 17th which looked like the Park. So please take care when moving around some areas of the Park. In February the Friends helped NT put the Exhibition Room (opposite the café) back together after the floor has been renewed and the room painted. Pop in and have a look, it is an interesting exhibition

showing the Park History.

The Friends have started tidying up the planters outside the café and it is lovely to see the snowdrops planted a few years ago in the Wildlife Garden.



Another big job has been completed when NT organized the clearing of the Dipping Pond in Plantation Wood. The Pond had become totally choked with rushes. It will take a while to recover but wildlife will soon return. Future maintenance is important keeping on top of the rushes.

Finally, a reminder that the Friends are helping with a litter pick as part of the national Spring Clean on 26th March meeting at 10am at the Centre. Equipment will be provided and all are welcome. Please come along if you can to help keep our

Park such a great place.

#GBSpringClean



IT'S TIME FOR A SPRING CLEAN!

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



Be part of the pick

Saturday 26th March 2022

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.



NATURE NOTES

The Park is slowly coming to life after what has (so far!!) been a very mild and dry Winter. Catkins abound, snowdrops and daffodils are coming on nicely and that green tinge shows leaves are slowly forming. One bird that seems to thrive in the Park is the



Photo by Ashley Johnson

Hiding Robin (7th)



Photo by Kenny Chambers

Looking good in Green! (4th)

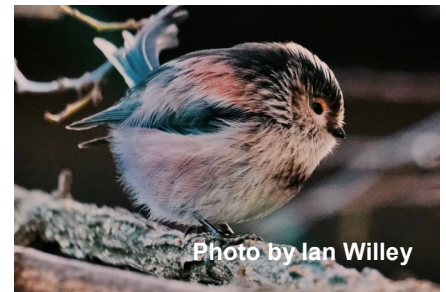


Photo by Ian Willey

Long Tailed Tit (1st)



Photo by Ian Willey

Posing Robin (1st)



Photo by Phil Westgarth

Goldeneye (13th)

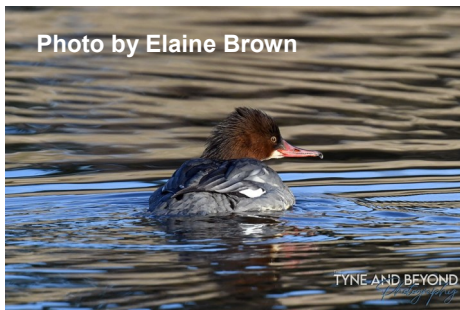


Photo by Elaine Brown

Goosander (12th)

and often following you along the tracks. So, why not have a 'Robin Fest' of photos that we had posted on the Friends Facebook page. Thanks again to all contributors. March we look forward to the blossom and some of our summer visitors might even be heard. My favourite Spring songs are the Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler. It may be a reflection of the Winter weather but the Park has been very quiet. We did have quite a few Teal and Shoveler on Swallow Pond but many of our visitors just seem to be passing through. We did get a few Goldeneye but not as previous numbers. The Goosander was good to see; but the 'fingers crossed' times are with us when two swans were on Swallow Pond with another pair on Hadrian Pond. The swans had such an amazing year last year but Avian Flu devastated them plus other birds. The Foxes and Roe Deer are still sneaking around with a superb shot of a Roe Deer by Ian Willey. So please keep the photos coming in, they provide an invaluable record for the Park.



Photo by Ian Willey

Stonechat (4th)



Photo by Ian Willey

Roe Deer (14th)



Photo by Sarah Jones

Stunner! (16th)



Photo by Michael Matthews

Siskin (28th)



Photo by Sam Taylor

'Headless Mallard!!' (4th)

We are currently meeting the second Friday of each month at 12 noon in the Rising Sun Centre but places are limited due to ongoing restrictions. In the meantime why not follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofrscp/>