



# Friends of Rising Sun Country Park



## NEWSLETTER — MARCH 2022

March has been a busy month in the Centre Grounds. The Friends volunteers have been busy and we have had two companies providing teams of volunteers. At the beginning of the month, we helped with a group of Year 5



students from a local school to make bird boxes. They were so enthusiastic and made a great job, sawing wood and hammering nails!! The following week the Friends put up three of their boxes around the Wildlife Garden; fingers crossed for visitors soon. We also continue to tidy up



the Wildlife Garden and have placed a log pile beside the pond. On the 17th I was lucky enough to see a mass of activity in the Lily Rose Pond and frog spawn appearing in a few areas, there must have been around four frogs. Wonderful I thought but by the end of the month no sign of any spawn or tadpoles—shame.



The two local companies have been busy in the Quarry used by school groups and the Giants Playground also used by the Education Team. They spread woodchips in the Quarry (we seem to have a lot of wood chip this year!!), removed an old unsafe timber platform and dismantled and then erected a new fence. Made a real difference and looking so much safer and



tidier—thanks to Accenture and EE. The Friends cleared a pile of branches from the quarry area next to Santa's Grotto (hope he notices!). I must not forget to mention the NT teams still busy in the wider Park still clearing up after the storms. They have been in big demand. Finally, we have been working



closer with Asda and they brought a lot of plants for us to use so we are going to be very busy smartening up the Centre Grounds! Thanks to ASDA.





## LITTER PICKS

Our March volunteering has continued with the Big Spring Clean and a massive thank you to everyone who came to help on what was a lovely sunny day. Thanks to McDonalds and ASDA who also provided teams. It is quite staggering but we collected over seventy bags of rubbish; an



incredible effort. A few days later the 1st Shiremoor Cubs spent one evening doing another litter pick—well done to them and to their leaders. The Park is looking sparkling!!



## NATURE NOTES

A slightly shorter section this month but I think all the visitors to the Park know that Spring is well underway. Flowers are blooming everywhere, butterflies and bees are around in small numbers and the birds are getting rather frisky as are the frogs and toads! Chiffchaffs are everywhere and I have never known so many, still no Willow Warblers but we now start to look forward to our Summer visitors of Swallows, Martins and Swifts. However, no matter how much I think of Spring and Summer Mother Nature still puts us in our place and frosts and snow on 31st are just a reminder. Lovely to see we might have three pairs of swans making families this year, fingers crossed. So, no more chat but lots of photos from our amazing people who visit and enjoy the Park. Thanks once again for your photos.

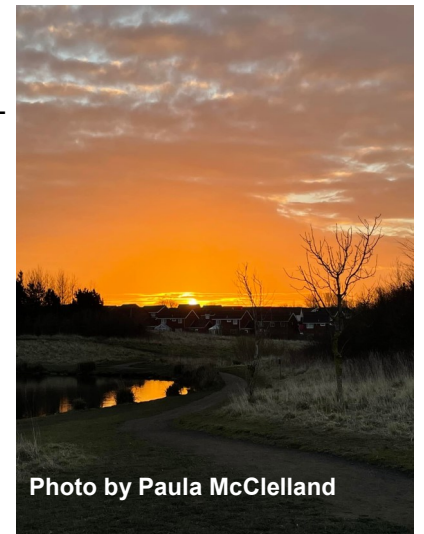


Photo by Paula McClelland

Sunrise (14th)



Photo by Claire

Frogs (?) having fun! (25th)



Photo by Sarah Jones

Daffs abound (28th)



Photo by Dave Thompson

Friendly Swans? (16th)



Photo by Sarah Jones

Stunner! (31st)



Photo by Sarah Jones

Wor Colin! (15th)



Photo by MichaelMatthews

Three Grey Heron! (24th)

**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/>**