



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park



NEWSLETTER — JULY/AUG/SEPT 2022

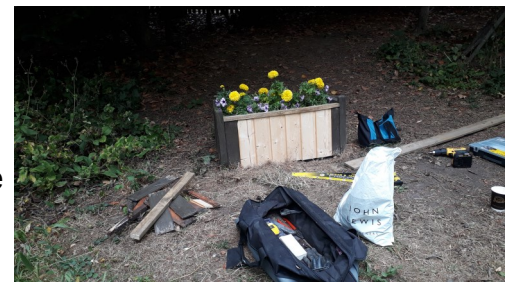
Well, my lazy summer is over and I am catching up on the Friends Newsletter. So I thought I would make this edition more about the jobs the Friends and other volunteers have been doing in and around the Park. The last three months saw the Park getting drier and drier and amazing sunny and sometimes very hot days. The summer has been good for dragonflies and butterflies with so many great photos posted on Facebook. Even though dry, the flower meadows have been full of colour. Dukes Pond meadows were full of Ox-Eye Daisy and Scabious. Our swans have been successful



with two large broods of cygnets that survived all through to summer unlike last year. Canada Geese numbers have never been greater and I wonder where all these birds are going to go! The foxes have continued to thrive and our Roe Deer still pop up every now and



then. We are really lucky to have such a place attracting a huge range of wildlife. In July we were lucky enough to get a delivery of plants from North Tyneside and the Friends Gardeners soon planted up the flower beds at the entrance and around the Centre



grounds. A few repairs were carried out and we helped keep on top of the grass cutting in the Wildlife Garden. The Friends agreed that it would be good to display some of the photos posted on



Facebook so we have created a space on the Friends Notice Board in the café foyer. In July, North Tyneside launched a promotion seeking Volunteers across the Parks. So if you have a bit of time to give to helping improve the Park, like meeting people and enjoy a cuppa why not give it a try. Projects normally happen on a Thursday morning and are usually advertised on our Facebook page; so keep an eye out. Finally I would like to remind everyone that we sell bagged duck food in the Centre café. A suggested donation of 50p per bag helps us fund other projects around the park.



Swallow Pond had the rare sight of dry ground running up to the Flag Iris and rushes. It did give the Friends chance to do a bit of a litter pick and more recently give the vegetation a

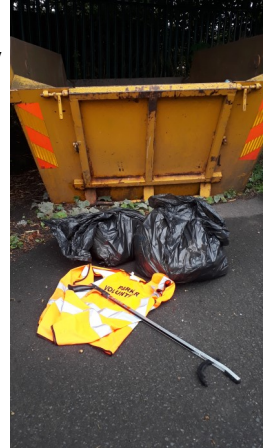


haircut. It was the same over at the Dipping Pond in Plantation Wood near the Hares Hips carving (Owls Eyes to most people!). One of the Friends also carried out a litter pick for an hour and soon filled a couple of black bags, although generally the Park does not suffer from

lots of litter. The Friends will be running a monthly litter pick on the last Monday of the month meeting at the Centre Cafe at 11am. Equipment will be provided but we ask you bring your own gloves.



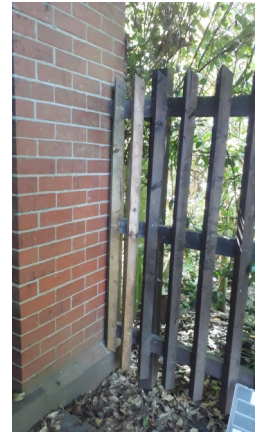
It is good to see that the road layout from the Asda carpark has finally been changed to try and avoid vehicles exiting that way. Other jobs by the Friends in August/September include sealing off a fence near the quarry in the Centre Grounds and the big job of cutting down the very old willow structures in the Wildlife Garden. These



were becoming quite dangerous, with lots of dead wood. The plan is to rebuild a number of new willow structures in the Autumn. The Friends Gardeners have also been pottering most weeks and have produced some wonderful veg that is often



popped in a wheelbarrow outside the café for people to take. So as the Swallows, Swifts



and Martins make their way south we start to move into Autumn, berries and other fruits are plentiful and I note from Facebook the huge range of fungi that are starting to appear. **I can't end without including some of the last three months photos so squeeze some in here.**



Photo by Gareth Evans

Four Spot Dragonfly 2nd July

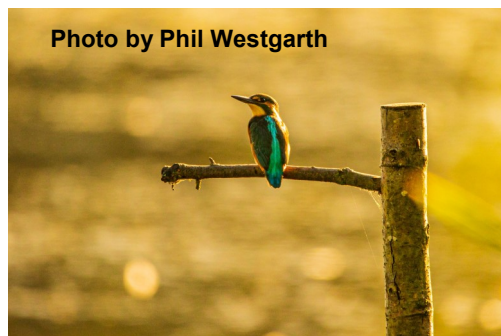


Photo by Phil Westgarth

Kingfisher posing August



Photo by Michael Matthews

Painted Lady 5th Sept

We are currently meeting 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/groups/friendsofrscp/>