



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park



NEWSLETTER — OCTOBER 2022

THE WAITING IS OVER!! THE FRIENDS CALENDAR 2023 HAS ARRIVED HOT OFF THE PRESS. STILL ONLY £5, THE CALENDAR IS ON SALE IN THE RISING SUN CAFÉ (CASH ONLY) AND THE EARTH AND FIRE BAKERY DOWN AT THE FARM (CASH OR CARD). A massive thank you to the Bakery located down at the Farm who have sponsored the calendar again.



Now back to earth and a quick look at what October brought to the Park. Early in the month we had groups in from EE and Parsons Brinkerhof. They helped us clear out the weeds from the patio area at the café and refill the joints. In addition a group cut back the willow at the back of the childrens sandpit. (We need to do a similar job on the willow at the front). A massive thankyou to both companies providing volunteers to help out. The improvement to the terrace might not



be noticed by our visitors but I can tell you it is brilliant. The



Education Team also organized for the thatched hut to be repaired in the Education area. A number of the Friends learnt some new skills off 'Burt the thatcher'. Quite a lot of holes had appeared in the hut from top to bottom so it has had a complete overhaul. Thanks to



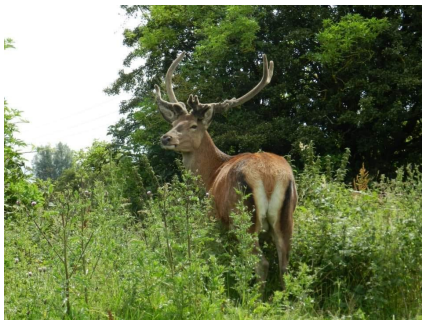
all concerned. The Centre also organized a story telling event that took place in the room opposite the café during the school holidays and it was nice to see the room all decorated for Halloween.



Many of the regular visitors to the Park will have noticed the large machines working mainly in Plantation Wood and opposite the Stephenson Dipping Pond. The contractors were on site tidying up after the damage caused by the storms earlier in the year. It is frightening looking back that Jan '22 brought devastation from Storms Malik, Arwen and Corrie then Storms Eunice and Dudley in February. The impact over the north east was pretty unprecedented. The main impact was on pines and spruce which still had so much leaf. The clearance has helped reopen areas and make the woodland safer, however, not everything can be reached and these will be left creating new habitat. The 'chipper' was a real beast and could chip trees up to 90cm dia!! The chippings were transported to Cramlington then on to the Midlands to be turned into biofuels.



NATURE NOTES



I thought I would include this month a couple of photos of our friend 'Colin' (or Monarch of the Glen or whatever!) following a post from Steve Whitehouse taken Aug 2012 showing Colin in his prime. Then a piccy of him now plus a surprise to come next month (as yet to be unveiled) of a piece of artwork showing Colin. Look out for the unveiling!!



October has been very warm some 5°C above normal and our plants seem very confused. Autumn is the season of wonderful colours



and fungi and our photographers have not disappointed and been out and about finding some amazing sights. Thanks so much for the posts—so many to choose from! I have pinched some of the identifications but leave the others to the experts. So let's enjoy the Autumn and look forward to what Winter will bring!!



Parrot Waxcaps 3rd

Fly Agaric 19th

Fly Agaric 2nd



Floating Fungi 21st

Fungi 25th

Autumn Colour 30th

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/groups/friendsofrscp/>