



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park



NEWSLETTER — DECEMBER 2022

December was a busy month for the Friends helping with the Christmas events for the schools organized by the North Tyneside Outdoor Learning Team and running a stall at the first ever



Christmas Fayre held on the 10th in the Countryside Centre grounds. There was a really good attendance at the Fayre with lots of events outside and stalls in the main buildings.



North Tyneside even managed to organize a snowy, frosty day (!) which made it all the more magical. Some of the Friends had made small needle felt decorations and we had all sorts of other goodies to sell. Thanks to everyone that supported the event.



The café at the Centre and the Earth and Fire Bakery down at the Rising Sun Farm have been serving up special Christmas goodies including

festive scones and lovely mince pies. As you can see the author had to test one of the pies—naughty but nice! The Gardeners also tidied up the flower tubs outside the café during the



month so thanks to them. Just a reminder in the colder weather how much the ducks and geese benefit from some food. We have food available in the café and ask for a donation of 50p. The photograph shows some visitors feeding the birds



around Dukes Pond—quite a food fest! It has been an incredible year for the swans in the Park. Over many years the swans had young but they soon died for reasons unknown. In 2021 we had large numbers of cygnets but Avian Flu hit. This year each pair of swans had eight young and on Dukes Pond seven cygnets are still healthy and growing well.



Over on Swallow Pond there only appears to be the adults but I may be wrong but clearly the numbers are still healthy. A consequence of so many young is that battles take place fighting for territory which is just part of Mother Nature's way.



In an attempt to reduce the risk of wildfowl hitting the abundance of overhead power lines around Swallow Pond, the Friends have finally been successful having flight diverters installed by Northern Power Grid (NPG). The Friends contacted NPG over a year ago and have continually chased



and finally a result! Research has shown that these help reduce 'bird hits' by over 50%.

Don't forget that the Friends meet regularly on the last Monday of the month to carry out litter picks 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 30 January 2023.**

AROUND THE PARK



Photo by Ian Willey

You looking at me! 7th



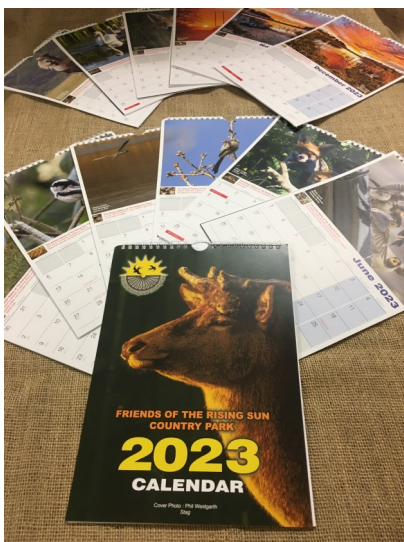
Photo by Ian Willey

Wow! 14th



Photo by Jan Casson

Swan 14th



And finally I cannot finish without reminding people that the Friends Calendar 2023 is still available. So if Santa didn't bring you a calendar then why not pop down to the Park. Copies are available from the Countryside Centre café (cash only) and the Earth and Fire Bakery down at the Rising Sun Farm. (cash or card). A massive thank you to the Bakery who have sponsored the calendar once again.



What a place!

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