



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park

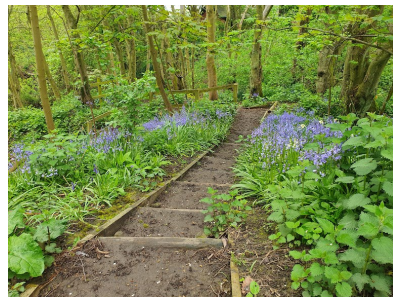
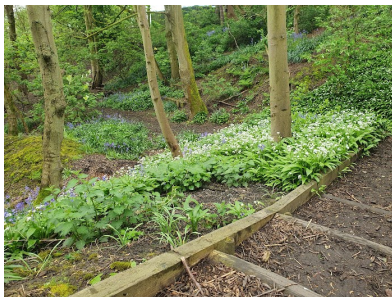


NEWSLETTER — MAY 2023

The dry weather has continued through a lot of May and many areas are looking quite parched. It is becoming quite common now to have these warmer, dry Springs. Regulars to our Friends of the Rising Sun Facebook page will have seen the results of the event City Nature Challenge, but I wanted just to summarise what was recorded around



the Park. Over the 4 day period, a number of the Friends surveyed and recorded mini-beasts, wildflowers, birds, aquatic life and even bat observations. This year we had the largest number of species at 166 well above the 139 last year. Even with the drier weather the Park is blooming.



The Quarry in the Centre Grounds has had a great display of Bluebells and that smelly favourite, Ramson. The Oxeye Daisies are appearing around Hadrian Pond which is consistently full of a whole range of wildflowers unlike the rest of the Park. The Cow Parsley and the Hawthorn blossom has been

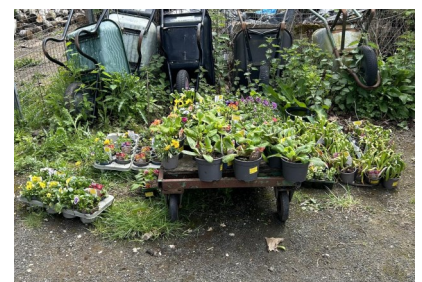
stunning leaving a lovely sweet scent around the Park. Finally, it may be me but I do think there are not as many insects around yet. I think this is sadly a developing trend around the country.

VOLUNTEERING

The Friends have been busy again. The Community Garden continues to develop and extra



compost bins have been built. The Friends have applied for a grant to develop this area even more so fingers crossed. The long term objective is to make this space accessible to other groups but at present there are access and safety issues. Our Asda Community Champions kindly donated a whole range of plants and the Friends have planted up hanging baskets and some of



the pots on the café terrace—big thank you to Asda. The Wigloo in the Wildlife Garden is doing really well and is being well watered but also weeded to give a chance of getting well established and not too overgrown. The plants in the Wildlife Garden are getting rather too wild so this



area is earmarked for some attention in June and clearing some of the nettles that are becoming



rather rampant. The plants around the wildlife pond are doing really well.

In an area called the Giants Garden the Friends are rebuilding the 'mud kitchen' which was in a poor condition. This area is used by the Outdoor Learning Team and hopefully, when the kitchen is complete, groups can enjoy the space once more.



Finally, the Friends monthly litter pick took place on the 29th and even though it was a Bank Holiday, a band of volunteer litter pickers again helped us keep the Park tidy. Thanks again to all those that gave up their time to help. **The next Litterpick will be Monday 26th June**, meet at the Centre Café at 10.30am. All equipment will be provided but bring your own gloves if you can. **Don't forget, the Volunteers meet every Thursday morning in the Centre Grounds—everyone welcome.**

AROUND THE PARK

Plenty of wildlife around the Park and thank you to all our photographers posting on the Friends Facebook page. The regular visitors have noted a wide range of warblers around the Park and quite a few different bird species dropping in. Grey Partridge have been sighted and this bird once common to the Park is hopefully making a return.

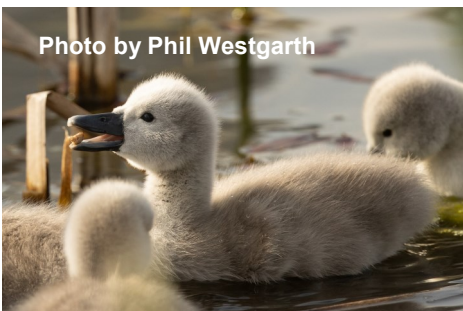


Photo by Phil Westgarth

Aaaaaaaahh!! 6th



Photo by Linda Souter

Nine Cygnets 7th



Photo by Joe Dobinson

Shelduck 17th



Photo by Margaret Wood

Spanish Gorse 14th



Photo by Claire Partleton

Marsh Orchid 29th

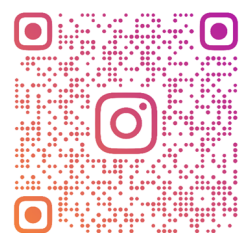
So, the Park is blooming and a few Damselflies are about. Last year was a bumper year for Dragonflies so look out for them in June. Please



Photo by Linda Souter

Orange Tip 4th

keep photographs coming on Facebook, we are still hoping to put together a Rising Sun calendar 2024 so why not get snapping!



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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