



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park



NEWSLETTER — JUNE 2023

Here we go again, June was officially the hottest on record! We weren't as dry or as sunny in the North East as other parts but it has certainly been warm. Swallow Pond is looking thick with weed which may be as a consequence of the heat. Thankfully some rain arrived at the end of the month.



You may have seen from the Friends Facebook page that an event is planned in October to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Centre building in the Park grounds. We would like to present some of the history of the site of what was the Scaffolding Hill Hospital. **We would like any photos, memorabilia or memories.** The photo above shows the Mortuary and Laundry on the left and the Home at the top.

Also planned in August is the **Family Summer Festival on the 16th** 11am til 3pm. Tickets can be bought on Eventbrite.

It has also been good seeing some of our younger naturalists attending an event organized by Creative Space North East. These are lovely events when the children can explore the wildlife in the Park and use their creative skills to draw what they have seen.

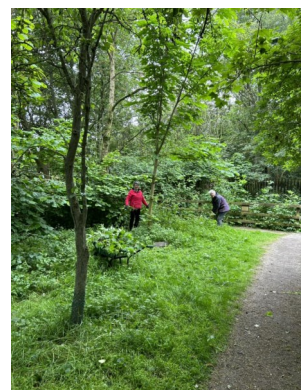


VOLUNTEERING

The Friends and North Tyneside Volunteers have kept busy through the month. The Friends have been working in the Wildlife Garden in the Centre Grounds and tidying up the planters and flower beds at the entrance. In the 'Backyard Allotment' the gardeners have painted the shed, continued to

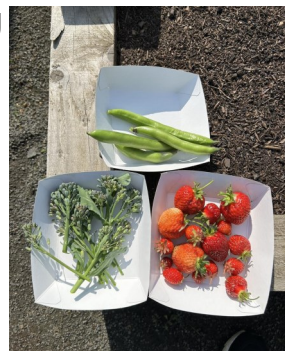
nurture the veg and fruit and created some lovely signs. Out in the wider Park, a group has started work replacing the walkway around the dipping pond in Plantation Wood near the Hares Hips (Owls Eyes). Many of the boards are old and the decision has been taken to replace them all. This will take a few weeks but hopefully

survive for many years to come. The pond is still open and if you are lucky you will see some of the fish and other creepy crawlies that lurk in the rushes like the Great Diving Beetle pictured here.





A group from Accenture volunteered in the Park on the 15th. Some of them painted the hide at Swallow Pond whilst others carried out a litterpick. Thanks so much to Accenture for choosing our Park to help out.



Some of the goodies are now coming from the 'Backyard Allotment' and placed outside the café entrance for visitors to take. A small donation is

welcomed. During the month, three of the Friends helped with a Citizens Science



Genepools Project. This is a partnership between a number of organisations including the Natural History Museum. The Project is aimed at investigating the fascinating life that dwells in ponds in urban areas, using novel DNA sequencing methods. Analysis of the data will help find how we can enhance biodiversity in ponds, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.



Finally, the Friends monthly litter pick took place on the 26th. 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 31st July**, 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

Please keep photographs coming on Facebook, we are still hoping to put together a **Rising Sun Calendar 2024** so why not get snapping! Let the photos tell their own story but must mention Rodge Hartley's shots of the fox cubs in May - amazing.



Photo by Gillian Grady

Damselfly 5th



Photo by Jessica Mitchenson

Spotted Burnet Moth 29th



Photo by Rodge Hartley

Fox Cubs May



Photo by Joe Dobinson

Bee Orchid 18th



Photo by Claire Partleton

Fox and Cubs 15th



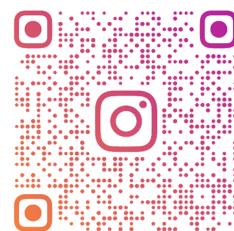
Photo by Roslyne Cummings

Swan 29th



Photo by Elaine Brown

House Martins 18th



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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