

Project Newsletter No. 5 – October 2000

Now that winter's here, it is time to give our trusty 'bashing sticks' a well-earned rest, and pick up our spades. There are many areas where footpath work would be beneficial, however there are two that are in need of more immediate attention - this will be the main focus of our work sessions over the coming months.

Footpath Renovation 1.

As you may well be aware, Broxtowe Council has acquired funding to repair the steps at the top of the Sandy Lane bridleway. As part of this project, the Council is willing to supply the necessary material in order that the group may undertake repairs (resurfacing) to the eroded section of path between Brookside and the bottom of the main outcrop.

To enable us to complete the task easily and safely, I believe it would be prudent to spread this over two sessions: -

22nd October - We will remove the accumulated washed-down sand and encroached vegetation to re-define the line of the path. Also, we should be able to prepare the base, leaving a temporary (but safe) surface. Please bring a spade and gloves.

5th November - We will apply the final top dressing and finish off the path surface.

For this session I should be able to loan all the necessary tools from the BTCV but please bring your own gloves.

National Tree Week

This session was extremely successful last year - to date, I have only found one or two trees that did not survive being

relocated. For this session we will continue 1999's work and further assist

natural re-growth in the woodland areas. This will involve the re-positioning of other self-set seedlings to more favourable sites, and general maintenance of other trees. We also have two new trees to plant (Hazels). and I may possibly be able to 'acquire' several more seedlings, to further increase diversity.

This will take place on 3rd December: Please bring a spade, secateurs/loppers and work gloves

Footpath Renovation 2.

Last years 'experimental test digs' on the footpath, at the top of the site, were extremely successful and I have received positive reaction from several other site users. I feel it would be beneficial to continue last year's work and widen the path across the grassland for its entire length. This will make traversing this section far easier when the vegetation comes back next summer, and also serve as preliminary preparation work for when we finally get funding for a 'proper' surfaced path.

Please bring a spade and your trusty work gloves (once again!!) on 14th January. (Depending on how well we are able progress, this project may have to be finished off in the February session).