

Project Newsletter No.8 - August 2001

Important Dates for Your Diary

Sat 15th September 10:30 am □ 4:30 pm

Sun 16th September 10:30 am □ lunchtime

Annual Mowing Session

As summer draws to an end it is time, once again, to turn our attention to the large area of grassland at the top of the site, i.e. to the rear of Cranston and Burnside.

As with previous years, Broxtowe Council has kindly agreed to organise and fund the actual mowing of the grassland - this will take place sometime during w/c 9th September. A skip will also be provided over the weekend (15th and 16th Sept), near the Sandy Lane access point, to enable the group to remove the cuttings from the site.

This will continue to build on the fantastic effort by the group over the last two years, and help to further improve and enhance the grassland area, by restoring 'traditional' hay meadow management.

To make certain of completing the task within the given time span, I propose that this should be completed over both days of that weekend - this same arrangement that has worked so well in the past, and so I see no reason to change it. If work progresses as 'usual' we should have the majority of work completed by the end of the Saturday session, giving us chance to tidy other areas on the Sunday.

It goes without saying that is our most important annual event and gives us the chance to prove to our partners that we, as a group, are well worth investing in.

Also, we will be on site throughout the weekend and will be able to address any questions and/or comments from other site users, as well as generally promoting the work of 'The Friends'. This will be especially important this year as a great deal of interest will hopefully have been created by our recent recruitment drive in the Bramcote View and Wollaton Vale areas. As a result there could be several new members attending their first work session and it would be great if as many current members as possible were there to welcome them.

We now have in our possession numerous 'big bags' that have proved so useful in the past for the removal of cuttings. I will also arrange for the loan of some rakes - but numbers will be limited, so please bring your own if possible. In addition, it is imperative that you bring a good pair of work gloves, as Toxocara is a potential hazard (see below).

This event seems to be becoming a really enjoyable community social event, so please try and come along for either one or both of the days (10.30am till 4.30pm Sat, & 10.30 till 12.30 approx. Sun), for as long as you can possibly spare. The long-term success of the group really does depend on the success of projects such as these.

Toxocara - this is the name given to various parasitic worms that can be picked up from dog's faeces and soil; it can cause disease and eye damage (including blindness). Hence it is vitally important that gloves are worn, and exposed skin and clothing are washed thoroughly after the work has finished.