



FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

Here is the third issue of the new style quarterly newsletter which we hope you will find informative and interesting.

GRASSLAND RESTORATION AREA UPDATE

Because of weather conditions the harrowing of this area was delayed until the 2nd May and at the same time the grass seed was sown. The seed used was a mixture of eight native grasses; this time the wet weather helped in giving the grass seed a good chance to establish and within a couple of weeks a green haze had appeared. The photograph shows the area on the day the harrowing took place. Our group then completed the sowing of a woodland seed mix in a narrow strip alongside the hedge and we also cleared the newly laid hedge of weeds as recommended in the first year of re-growth. This is to allow plenty of light and rain to get to the tree roots. Later in the year we still have heather seed to sow in the area where the top soil from the main site was deposited; also grass seed from the adjacent area will be collected and sown to augment any sparse areas of the grassland.



NEW SIGNS

When Walter died instead of flowers at his funeral people were invited to make donations which would partly be shared with our group. We have used this money to purchase new signs for four entrance points to our reserves. A photograph of the sign is shown and these are



actually A4 size and are mounted on metal posts. The signs are to be erected at the working session on 6th July and will be near the entrances from Maidstone Drive, Brookside Avenue, Heather Rise and Sandgate car park which leads up to the play area and football pitch.



We very much hope Walter's family approves of these and we would like to thank Chris Riley at Broxtowe BC for organising the design of the signs and arranging for their manufacture along with the metal mounting posts.

BROXTOWE WILDLIFE DAY

This event took place in Beeston Square on the 12th April and we were one of the groups invited to take part. Our display drew quite a lot of interest and we regarded the day as a definite success not only for us but for all the many Broxtowe groups who were there. There was a civic reception in the evening to which Norman and I were invited as representatives of the FoBR.



WORKING SESSIONS REPORT APRIL to JUNE 2014

In April we raked over the two annual wildflower areas that had been recently rotovated by the Council and then a cornfield mixture of seed was sown. We also added two more bags of gravel to the steps near the viewpoint to level out the surfaces.

During the May session field poppy plant modules were planted in the same two areas where seed had been sown earlier at the entrance from Markham Road. A woodland seed mixture was also sown alongside the new hedge but most of the group concentrated on clearing weeds from the bottom of the hedgerow as part of the first year maintenance recommended by Christopher Dean who laid the hedge last winter.

The June session saw us once again clearing the bridle path of soil and tree debris and we also removed all overhanging branches from the main pathways as well as doing a temporary repair on one of the Thoresby Road steps.

Litter picking was carried out on both reserves on all three sessions.

WORKING SESSIONS will continue on the first Sunday of each month, i.e. on July 6th, August 3rd, September 7th, October 5th, November 2nd and December 7th.

GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD

Our reserves were judged on June 23rd and we hope we will have good news to announce shortly about another award.

CONGRATULATIONS STAN!

We send our congratulations to Stan Heptinstall on his election on the 7th May to be the Mayor of Broxtowe for 2014/2015. Stan, along with Geoff Fewkes and Walter Grauberg, was instrumental in arranging the initial meeting in April 1999 to "test the water" to see if there was enough interest in establishing a Friends group and he has been a member of our group ever since.