

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

Welcome to the autumn issue of the newsletter which we hope you will find interesting and informative. For those members who are unable to visit all the areas of our reserves we hope these newsletters will give you a “picture” of what we have been doing and also what is planned to keep this valuable open space one that all local residents can visit and enjoy.

GRASSLAND RESTORATION : FINAL UPDATE

The last issue confirmed that the grassland area had been harrowed and a mixture of native grass seed sown. The photograph in that issue showed the site as bare soil. That was at the beginning of May but the area was soon covered in a green haze and by early July the whole site was well established with the new grass as you can see from the photograph.

We still have heather seed to sow where the top soil was removed to and we also need to keep the hedge clear of the larger weeds and prune the tops of the hedge to encourage this to thicken.

The benefits to insects and butterflies have already been apparent with nine species of butterfly seen on this new grassland in contrast to the bracken which previously grew there and never attracted any butterflies.



GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD

You were notified in July that we had received this award for a sixth consecutive year. Since then we have received the judge’s feedback report which assesses 24 separate criteria, comments on strengths and includes recommendations if necessary. It was a very positive feedback report with minimal recommendations for possible improvements. We were very pleased that we had remained in the second highest scoreband which we had achieved for the first time last year. The photograph shows us celebrating the award with Tim Crawford (Parks and Environment Manager, BBC) and the Mayor of Broxtowe, Stan Heptinstall.



WORKING SESSIONS REPORT JULY to SEPTEMBER 2014

In July the main work entailed cutting back and clearing chiefly brambles and nettles which had begun to restrict access to some paths. At the end of this session it was good to hear one member remark, "I really enjoyed that." August saw part of the group removing the heads of rosebay willow herb as it had finished flowering. This was to prevent the seeds extending the area it is growing in. Also, following a heavy storm two days earlier, the bridle path had to be cleared of soil and tree debris. In September several large branches overhanging various paths were cut down and we also started the clearance of the weeds alongside the new hedge. Once this had been done it was great to see that the primroses planted in February are now well established.

On all sessions litter picking was carried out on both reserves.

NEXT WORKING SESSIONS ARE OCT 5th, NOV 2nd, DEC 7th, and JAN 4th.

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY AWARDS

Greenwood is a partnership between Notts CC and five district and borough Councils, The Forestry Commission and Natural England. They work to enable local community groups to create, care for and use woodlands and green spaces in a sustainable way for the benefit of the environment.

Chris Riley from Broxtowe BC nominated the Friends of Bramcote Ridge in the adult team effort award category and we were subsequently invited to the award ceremony in Mansfield on 22nd September. Four of us attended representing our group and we were delighted to be awarded a certificate recognising our achievements from Councillor John White.

Finally, a big **THANK YOU** to Enid for arranging the two walks for us in July; the evening one from Beeston Lock was particularly popular and enjoyable.