



WINTER NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

Welcome to this issue and good wishes to everyone for a peaceful and healthy new year. I hope you enjoy reading this and find it informative.

GRASSLAND RESTORATION AREA (A BIT MORE NEWS)

Since the last issue the Council has mown the whole of this area including its surroundings. This has completely transformed the area into a really attractive open space with just a few specimen trees. Whilst we were working there in November several passersby stopped to comment on how much this part of the reserve had been improved following the major work which began a year ago. We have to thank both Chris Riley of Broxtowe BC and Nic Wort of Notts CC for their vision in planning this whole restoration.

Heather seed is due to be supplied to us shortly and this will be sown in the same area as those heathers that are already established just adjacent to the new grassland. We have ordered 50 plug plants each of both Bulbous Buttercups and Harebells for delivery at the end of March and these will be planted within the new grassland to increase its diversity even further. This should make it an especially attractive site for butterflies and bees. Buzzards have already been seen more often circling above on the lookout for small mammals. Many different birds are already using the hedgerow as cover and it should not be too long before the hedge thickens out to make it a good nesting place for them.



GREEN FLAG APPLICATION.

The new application for the Green Flag Community Award 2015/2016 has just been submitted and we are hoping to receive this for a seventh year. Judging usually takes place in May and we hope to get the results in July.

SCOUTS

At the end of November four of us (Eric, Norman, Clare and myself) were invited back to the Scout Hut on Hanley Avenue for another evening of box making for which we supply the wood

and tools. Last year the scouts made a selection of bird and bat boxes, all of which were erected on the ridge, and this year they made some insect boxes and woodmice boxes. We will erect these around our reserves during January. It was another successful evening which they seemed to enjoy and they are intending to come to the ridge to do some outdoor work in March or April. It is important that we involve young people like the scouts and cubs. These youngsters are the next generation and with education and encouragement they will hopefully learn to care for their local environment in the future.



WORKING SESSION REPORTS OCTOBER to DECEMBER 2014

The sessions throughout the year have been well supported and all the planned jobs were completed so a big thank you to everyone.

In October the path alongside the wildflower area was cleared of weeds and resurfaced with wood chippings. The new hedgerow alongside the restored grassland was cleared of weeds (see photo).



The November session saw us complete the installation of the final two signs welcoming visitors to the reserves. The first two signs were installed during October. These four signs are now near the entrances from Brookside Avenue, Maidstone Drive, Sandgate car park and Heather Rise. We hope Walter's family agree that these signs are well sited and will be a lasting memory of Walter. Also in November a damaged step leading from Thoresby Road was replaced and more weeds were cleared from the new hedgerow. December saw us concentrate on clearing most of the bridle path of leaves and mud as well as removing two trees that had collapsed along this path. All the barbed wire was removed from the fencing alongside the bridle path on safety grounds. As always we completed litter picking on all three sessions.

OUR NEXT WORKING SESSION DATES ARE : 1st February, 1st March, 5th April and 3rd May (even though the last two are bank holidays).