

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD 2015/2016

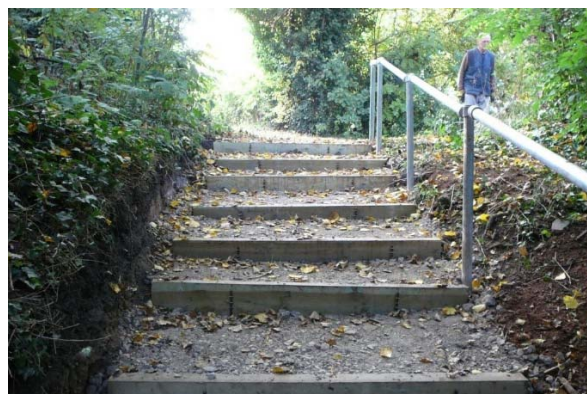
The last news letter only contained a brief mention of our award as we only received confirmation of this just two days before we needed to print that issue. So a little more information this time!

This year for the first time we did not have a formal inspection as we have had for the previous six years but had what the organisers call “a mystery shopper” visit. This means we didn’t know when the inspection took place. We were told of this as a probability two years ago and it only happens when a site has had consistently good inspections in previous years and where sites have comfortably exceeded the pass mark. Because of this type of visit we do not get a judge’s feedback report which is always useful but next year we should have a formal inspection again. However the main thing is that our two reserves received the award again and the new signs for 2015/2016 were erected last month.

DEVIL’S STEPS

Just to clarify the area we are referring to; these are the steps which are at the far (eastern) end of our Markham Road reserve and form part of the link from Heather Rise to Kingsdown Mount.

Recently we had an enquiry from a resident of Kingsdown Mount asking whether the Friends group could do anything about the state of these steps which were getting badly worn and were a potential hazard. After inspecting these steps we agreed that most needed replacement so contacted Broxtowe BC asking if they would be able to supply the wood for the eighteen steps and we offered to do the work. To our surprise it turns out that, apart from a very small section of pathway at the top end of the steps and the hard core surfaced path between the two houses on Kingsdown Mount, the rest of that part of the pathway is outside the boundary of Broxtowe and is in the City of Nottingham. The problem was then directed to Nottingham CC who responded immediately and arranged for all the steps to be replaced the following week and at the same time installed a handrail alongside the steps. That’s what I count a result!



WORKING SESSION REPORTS AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2015

In August we were down to only six volunteers but still managed quite a few jobs including opening up two very overgrown paths, removing some overhanging tree branches, clearing all the main pathways of encroaching bramble, nettle etc and also clearing litter. September and October had turnouts of nine and thirteen members so a wider variety of tasks were completed. At the September session we concentrated on the Alexandrina Plantation reserve and thoroughly cleared the bridle path of tree debris and soil washed down from the hills. The steps leading from Thoresby Road were also cleared and one step that was rotting was replaced. In October half the group spent the morning clearing weeds from the new hedgerow so that this section of the hedge, which was laid almost two years ago, would have sufficient light next spring to allow it to re grow. The rest of the group completed a thorough litter pick and also checked all the main paths and cleared overhanging weeds.

Our next working sessions are on Nov 1st, Dec 6th, Jan 3rd and Feb 7th.

PLANS FOR THE AUTUMN/WINTER MONTHS.

This time of year is ideal for some of the jobs we tackle and it is also the only time certain jobs can be completed.

We shall be cleaning the existing bird boxes and disinfecting these very shortly. This will ensure that they are ready for birds that seek protection from the cold winter nights and ready for nesting next spring. As we are now outside the bird breeding season this is the time to do any major tree work. We hope to return to Ivy Wood and thin out more trees and remove new saplings as well as cutting back new growth on trees already felled. There is also an avenue of trees opposite the restored grassland area which may benefit from some pruning of the lower branches. The wildflower areas will need to be raked. Plenty to keep us busy!

MEMBER'S PHOTOGRAPH

Although this photograph was not taken on the ridge the Jackdaw is a fairly common bird seen here and it is a really detailed picture. I hope you enjoy it!



S.P.A.