

A vibrant image of a garden with green foliage, red flowers, and white daisies. A white rectangular box with a black border is centered over the image, containing the text 'SUMMER NEWSLETTER' in bold black capital letters.

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER

A horizontal bar with a blue border and a light grey background, containing the text 'FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE' in bold green capital letters.

## FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

### **GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD 2016/2017**

This year we had a full inspection of the two reserves in May and earlier this month we were very pleased to be informed that we had once again received this prestigious award for what is now an eighth consecutive year. This pleasure in the result was tempered however by finding that we had received a lower score than in any of the previous seven years. We could see no good reason for this as, in our view, the sites have continued to be well managed and had certainly not deteriorated. Obviously different judges have different opinions and hopefully next year we will see a more positive feedback report. There were also some implied criticisms of the Council which are completely unjustified as Broxtowe Borough Council has always been very supportive to us.

### **WORKING SESSIONS REPORT: MAY to JULY 2016**

Once again the last three months have been very well supported especially considering several regulars have been on holiday. In May 15 members turned out and we completed a variety of jobs. As the two wildflower areas had not then been rotovated, four of the group spent the morning digging out the larger weeds which did not seem to have been affected by the weedkiller which had been applied a few weeks earlier. We cleared about 1000 field maple saplings from the Markham Road site. Two weeks later when the wildflower areas had been rotovated six of us raked the areas over and sowed the seed. In June the bridle path was swept to clear tree debris; overhanging branches were cut back and all main paths were cleared of encroaching vegetation. July saw us opening up three minor paths that had become completely blocked and thick mud was cleared from the bottom end of the bridle path. Litter picking was carried out on all sessions.



**Our next working session dates are on August 7<sup>th</sup>, September 4<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## **WILDFLOWER AREAS**

As seed was sown later than normal this year the areas have come into flower slightly later. This year, as an experiment, we have used some different seed mixtures from those we have used previously. The normal annual mixture has still been used on the Brookside Avenue triangle with the addition of some seed we received from Kew Gardens who are promoting the sowing of seed mixes to encourage bees, butterflies and other pollinators. The area at the entrance from Sandy Lane includes a completely different mixture which should prolong the flowering period into October. This seed has been sown at the back half of the area and the front section still has the normal annuals we have been familiar with in the past. It will be interesting to see the results over the next few weeks and hopefully you will enjoy it.

## **BROXTOWE COUNTRY TRAIL**

This cycling and walking trail was officially opened on 6<sup>th</sup> April and starting from Attenborough it roughly follows the boundary between Broxtowe Borough Council and Nottingham City for 27 miles. At the northern end of the borough it briefly crosses the boundary into Ashfield DC and then Amber Valley BC before linking up to the Erewash Valley Trail. A leaflet showing the exact route and giving details is available from the Council office or you can call 9173742.

## **BIRD BOXES AND MEMBER'S PHOTOGRAPH**

We have been busy making new bird boxes for erection in late autumn and Eric's photograph shows some of those that he had got ready. I like the way they are all neatly laid out and the blue colour of the seat shows them off really well.

