

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

WILDFLOWER AREAS THIS YEAR: (AND NEXT YEAR'S PLANS)

This year we decided to use a different seed mixture in the area near the Sandy Lane entrance with the object of prolonging the growing season. This seed was largely sown at the back of this area and there were still plenty of different flowers doing well into October. The area fronting this new seed mix was sown with the annual seed mix we have used in all previous years, as was the area near Brookside Avenue. Next year we intend to sow the whole of the Sandy Lane entrance area with the seed mixture we trialled this year and, weather permitting, to get this sown by mid-April. The photographs show the sections with this new seed mixture. The Brookside Avenue area will continue to have the 'normal' annual seed mix of Corn Marigold, Corn Cockle, Cornflower and Poppy.



NEW SIGNS etc

Six new signs, (three on each reserve), showing we had been awarded the Green Flag Community Award for 2016/2017 were erected in August. We have also asked Broxtowe BC about the possibility of repositioning some of the signs at the entrance from Sandy Lane to improve the look of this entrance. Ideally we would like to have an information board here but realistically have to accept that at present this would be too expensive.

WORKING SESSIONS REPORT AUGUST to OCTOBER 2016

The last three months have continued to be well supported, maintaining our average of twelve volunteers at each session. In August the bridle path was cleared of overhanging brambles and all the trees and shrubs at the Sandy Lane entrance were cut back hard for the length alongside the wildflower area. September saw more work on the bridle path, this time clearing mud and tree debris before sweeping the whole path. The steps leading from Thoresby Road were also cleared and swept and the pavement area leading down the hill from the steps was cleared of overhanging bramble. A path on one side of the Brookside Avenue wildflower area had become almost closed with encroaching grasses and weeds and this was cut back to its normal width. We also cleared an outbreak of about 500 broom which had appeared in the restored grassland area and some of the paths at the Heather Rise end were cleared of brambles. In October minor repairs were carried out to the Thoresby Road steps, and brambles were cleared from the area where we have a good number of established heather. Most of the group made an excellent start on sawing off the lower branches from the double avenue of trees which are on the opposite side of the path from the restored grassland area, already making this look more like it would have done when it was originally planted. This is quite an unusual and interesting feature and could have originally indicated part of a boundary between two parishes or districts. Finally we completed litter picking on both reserves on all three months.

NEXT WORKING SESSION DATES are November 6th, December 4th, January 8th (this is the second Sunday of the month to avoid New Year's Day), February 5th.

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS

Please keep sending your photos taken on the ridge to jrappleton@aol.com

As nobody had supplied one recently we have used one taken on the ridge by Sandra (who is a member!) but ideally we would like to feature more from the whole membership. Anyway we hope you like this robin.

