



FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

On behalf of your committee a big thank you to all who have again shown their support by renewing their subscriptions for another year. We really appreciate this.

WORKING SESSIONS REPORT OCTOBER to DECEMBER 2017

A very damp October morning saw seven hardy folk attending this session. Four of the group spent the morning digging out the stronger weeds from the wildflower area near to the Sandy Lane entrance. We also cleared an area on the edge of the football pitch where a fire to burn a load of metal cans and plastic had occurred a few days earlier and paint had then been poured over it, most of which was still in its liquid form. A really messy job to clear!

November's session was partly to plant the 1700 crocus corms in the grass alongside Thoresby Road and on a perfect autumn morning we had an excellent turnout of 18 volunteers. As mentioned in the last newsletter these crocus had been donated partly by Wollaton Park Rotary Club and partly by some of our members. This was in support of the End Polio Now campaign organised by the Rotarians. As well as the planting we swept the nearby steps, cleared an outbreak of broom from the grassland area near the Jasmine Close entrance and also transferred about 20 holly bushes from Ivy Wood to a slope near the play area. This was in response to a serious accident that occurred here earlier this year on what is a very slippery area. The gentleman concerned in this accident broke his ankle and leg so planting these shrubs should make people avoid this section and go to the flatter part just a few yards away.

In December we again had a brilliant turnout of 16 members and most of the group concentrated on clearing the bridle path which was covered in leaves and other tree debris. After the leaves had been swept into piles they were moved onto tarpaulin sheets and carried well into the adjacent woodland. We also dug out some laurel bushes and planted these with the holly bushes on the slope referred to above.

On all three sessions we completed the usual litter picking on both reserves.



The bridle path before and after



The next working session dates are on February 4th, March 4th, April 1st, May 6th and June 3rd.

GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD 2017/2018 and 2018/2019

This year we had what is called a mystery shopper inspection of our reserves. This was only carried out in October and it coincided with our working session although we were unaware of this. The feedback report was quite a positive one and the judge noticed people litter picking "which was good to see and also good use of arm bands to help identify people as volunteers". The final summary stated: "a good local site, volunteers clearly active on site, helping to keep things to the required standards".

It is that time of year when our application for this award in 2018/2019 needs to be submitted and this is almost ready and will be submitted in the next few days for what we hope will be a tenth consecutive year of receiving this. This year will be a full assessment, probably in May.

DUKE of EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD and LOCAL SCOUT GROUP

This year we were asked if we were willing to have a pupil from Nottingham High School (a local resident) working with us for a few months for part of his DOE bronze award. We did this a few years ago with another school pupil and so were happy for him to join us.

In the spring we again plan to have the local scout group working with us on one of working sessions. We have had an ongoing link with this scout group for over five years doing various joint activities as part of our community involvement.



Our group ready to begin planting crocus corms at our November working session