



FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

WORKING SESSIONS REPORT JANUARY to MARCH 2018

In January on a sunny but cold morning we had a good turnout of twelve members. Every January since we started eighteen years ago we have had a big litter clear up. This would include large items like car tyres, mattresses, furniture, fencing etc that our regular monthly litter pickers wouldn't be able to move and then the Council would arrange a special collection the following day. Having walked around both reserves a few days earlier it was really good news to be able to confirm that this year this would not be necessary as there were only the usual small items of litter around. Instead most of the group worked in Ivy Wood clearing numerous ash saplings that had sprung up since we did a lot of clearance there a few years ago. This will help the understory plants to thrive. We also replaced two of the wooden steps on Alexandrina Plantation that were rotting.

February also saw a good turnout of thirteen volunteers and again we were lucky with the weather as it was dry and sunny. Two of us installed an additional step near the viewpoint where soil erosion had meant the bottom step had become quite a steep drop and we will probably add another here very shortly. The rest of the group continued with the clearance of saplings and bramble in Ivy Wood.

We had to cancel the March session as the ground was still covered in several inches of snow and working on the reserves would have been too dangerous.

PRACTICAL CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Even though we hadn't been able to work on March 4th Broxtowe BC had arranged for these volunteers to have two Sunday sessions working here and this they did on March 11th and 25th. This group works on sites throughout the County in conjunction with local Councils. Here they cleared an area of trees near the beginning of the main path leading from Markham Road to create another alcove which should help to allow more sunlight to fall onto the path which regular users will know gets extremely muddy and slippery whenever we have wet weather. The supervisor of the group was qualified and insured to use a chainsaw so trees could easily be cut down to ground level. On their second visit they cleared several trees and shrubs alongside the path that leads eastwards from the bottom of "The Devil's Steps". They also cut down the final three large branches at the end of the tree avenue near the Jasmine Close entrance.

MEMBERSHIP and OTHER NEWS

It was really encouraging to see that almost all our members had renewed their membership for another year and we are very grateful to all of you for that. We were also glad to have three new members join us and they are very welcome. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining our group, even if it might mean they could attend only the occasional working session, please encourage them to come along. We always meet on the first Sunday of the month at 10.30am at the top end of Sandy Lane. All tools are provided so they only need bring suitable gloves.

Matthew, who was doing his Duke of Edinburgh bronze award, has just completed the number of hours he needed to spend working with us and I think he enjoyed it!

We have been informed that the full judging for the Green Flag Community Award 2018/19 will be carried out in late April or May with the result being notified to us in July.

Regarding the possibility of a new path being created at the Markham Road entrance, a second application was submitted to a different funding body at the end of January and we expect to hear shortly whether or not this has been successful.

THIS ISSUE'S PHOTOGRAPH

Thanks to Norman for this photo of the crocus that were planted last November. Since it was taken quite a few more have appeared so we know the squirrels did not eat too many!



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