



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

## FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

### **AN APPEAL FROM THE CHAIR**

Next Spring, 2019, we will have been in existence for twenty years. During this time I feel we have made huge improvements to the Ridge and I know Broxtowe Borough Council have greatly appreciated our input. I feel, however, that the time has come for a change of leadership. Some of us have served on the committee since our formation in 1999.

The addition of some new faces on the committee will be necessary if we are to continue as a successful group. I am, therefore, hoping that some members will consider joining us on the committee at the next AGM. It is not too onerous and only involves a maximum three meetings a year.

**The Friends Need You!**

### **GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD**

Our reserves were judged for this in May and we have just learned that we have again received this award. This is the tenth successive year for us and is a testament to all those who attend our monthly working sessions and also to everyone who continues to support us by continuing their membership with us. Thank you to everyone.

We received, for the first time, the highest score possible and also a really brilliant feedback report from the judge. The full report will be available for everyone to read as usual at the AGM but I will just for now include the judge's final comment:

**"The Friends of Bramcote Ridge are a shining example of a hard working and dedicated community group who really care for their local green spaces and who have worked tirelessly for decades to keep them in good condition for people and wildlife to enjoy. Well done and keep up the good work! "**

### **PATHWAY APPLICATION – another word from Norman**

We have always considered the steep entrance to the Markham Road site to be unsuitable for wheelchair and pushchair use or for those with mobility problems. It is certainly dangerous when leaving this Reserve and this has been raised on several occasions by the Green Flag judges. Last year on behalf of the Friends I applied for Lottery funding to replace the existing path with a more user-friendly incline. As you will recall we were unsuccessful in our bid owing to the fact that we did not own the land. In January this year I spent many hours again with Chris Riley from Broxtowe Borough Council completing a new application, this time to Nottinghamshire County Council for the Local Improvement Scheme Capital Funding. Sad to say this bid has also been rejected. I suspect in this economic climate they have to select projects that benefit the greatest number of people. It is not my intention at this stage to consider further applications.

## **WORKING SESSIONS REPORT APRIL TO JUNE 2018**

The April session fell on Easter Sunday so the turnout was low but normal service was resumed in May and June with our average of 12 volunteers. In April the snowdrops near the Sandy Lane entrance were split up and replanted to cover a larger area and tree and shrub debris was removed from the Markham Rd reserve. In May we installed another step in the steep part of the path leading down from the viewpoint, more shrubs and branches were removed and some pathways cleared. Some of the rosebay willow herb was cut back in June; whilst this is attractive it is also invasive and needs controlling every few years. Many minor paths were cleared to make access easier. On all three sessions we did the usual litter picking.

**NEXT WORKING SESSION DATES Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

## **UNWANTED TOOLS**

Long Eaton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club have teamed up with the charity "Tools for Africa" to collect unwanted tools of all types and in any condition which they refurbish and send to Africa as tool kits. If you have any unwanted/unloved tools you are prepared to donate Dawnbreakers will collect them if you contact Paul Burrows at [p.burrows37@ntlworld.com](mailto:p.burrows37@ntlworld.com)

## **WILDFLOWER AREAS and FIRE DAMAGE**

The two wildflower areas were not rotovated until almost the middle of May and although we sowed seed four days afterwards we then had probably the hottest and driest few weeks, still continuing. Consequently the areas have mostly been a bit of a disaster and the few plants that struggled to grow soon withered in the heat apart from some colourful cornflowers on the Thoresby Road grassy area. There have also been two fairly serious fires on Alexandrina Plantation which have destroyed mostly gorse and grass. In both cases the fire brigade attended promptly. When we get some rain much of the two areas affected will re-grow. Let's just hope we don't suffer any more fires but the whole area is very vulnerable at present.

