



FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

THANK YOU NORMAN and SHEILA

At the AGM last November Norman indicated his intention to step down as chairman of our group. Norman has been on the committee since we began in 1999. For the first two years he was our vice-chairman and then for the last eighteen years he has been our chairman. Until fairly recently this was a demanding role which included having to attend a number of different group meetings, dealing with a great many phone calls and emails, completing the green flag community award applications, spending hours on separate grant applications and of course chairing our committee meetings and the AGM. At our first committee meeting this year in early March he formally confirmed his resignation both as chair and from the committee. As he said, he felt it was essential for new people to take the group forward to secure the future of The Friends. He also said he will continue to join our regular working session meetings. At the same committee meeting Sheila too announced her resignation both as secretary and from the committee for similar reasons. Sheila has been our secretary for the whole of the last twenty years. Our sincere thanks go to both of them; we have indeed been very fortunate to have their loyal and committed service over so many years.

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

Following the confirmation of Norman's and Sheila's resignations the first thing we needed to do was find two people willing to take on the roles of chair and secretary. We are very pleased to confirm that Helene Laanest is our new chair and Dave Woodward our new secretary. We are very thankful that Eric Curtis has agreed to continue as our treasurer. Your new committee is therefore:

- Helene Laanest.....Chair
- David Woodward.....Secretary
- Eric Curtis.....Treasurer

Other members:

- John Appleton
- Allan Bridgwater
- Chris Burgess
- Jane Hardman
- Maureen Snow

WORKING SESSION REPORT: JANUARY TO MARCH 2019

We had a perfect winter morning without a cloud in the sky for our first session of the year attended by seventeen volunteers including two new people. This was the day that we had agreed with the Council would be our second session in support of Broxtowe's Clean and Green campaign. As the amount of litter on the ridge can be collected by two people we agreed to extend the litter collection to the roads to the south of our reserve as far as the A52. We collected a total of fourteen bags of rubbish from these streets and some concrete was collected from the reserve. The Council posted the following on social media the week after.



The amazing folks at the Friends of Bramcote Ridge did a [#CleanandGreen](#) [#Litterpick](#) on the ridge the other week. 17 people volunteered and collected 14 full bags of rubbish. Thank you for all of your hard work!
[#CommunityCleanTeam](#)



The February session was held on another sunny morning and even though it was very cold ten members attended. Four of the group again swept the bridle path of leaves and tree debris whilst most of the rest concentrated on clearing overhanging ivy and tree branches which were in danger of collapse on the Devil's Steps if we had any further strong winds. Three large branches were cut from another nearby path. Our regular litter pickers carried out the usual collection on both reserves. In March we had another good turnout of fourteen members despite light drizzle all morning. The wildflower area alongside Thoresby Road, which was such a success last year, was extended so it is now approximately double the size it was. The grass that was dug up was removed from the site and the whole area raked over ready for seed to be sown, hopefully before the end of April. The same seed mixture as we had last year has been ordered so let's hope for an equally colourful and lasting display. The steps leading up from Thoresby Road were cleared of accumulated leaves and two separate areas on the Markham Road site where trees had been cut down a year ago were showing plenty of re-growth so these were cut back to ground level. This is to allow grasses and other plants in the understorey to be able to establish themselves. Another path on the Markham Road site was widened and the usual litter pick completed.

NEXT WORK SESSION DATES: MAY 5, JUNE 2, JULY 7 AUGUST 4 and SEPT 1

AND FINALLY

A warm welcome to our latest new member Glennis Brookes.