

A photograph of a field of yellow daffodils in bloom, with green grass and stems visible. The image is used as a background for the newsletter header.

# SPRING NEWSLETTER

## FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

### **COVID 19**

Now lockdown has ended we were able to resume working sessions on April 4<sup>th</sup> even though many restrictions remain. Hopefully we will be able to continue working monthly taking into account all Government guidelines. We appreciate that everyone's personal circumstances and decisions will be different so only ever attend if you feel safe to do so.

### **WORKING SESSIONS JANUARY TO MARCH 2021**

Obviously there were no normal sessions but some useful work was still carried out by individuals. Brian cut down four trees that were dead and had collapsed over paths. Ewan, our D of E member, cleared numerous ash saplings from Ivy Wood and also cleared a partly blocked path. He is now going to make bird boxes for us. Several individuals did at least twice weekly litter picks on our two reserves.

**Future Working Session dates (provisional!) : May 2nd, June 6th, July 4th, August 1st.**

### **TREES ON ALEXANDRINA PLANTATION**

The council arranged for two mature oak trees to be cut down near to where the hazel trees were planted just over a year ago. Many members expressed dismay at this and I had similar concerns sent to me via the website by local residents. As the decision to do this was made by the Council, who are the landowners, I asked Chris Riley to reply. I quote his prompt response:

The trees in this location were coppiced by the Council to create a glade in the woodland. This provides an open area in the woodland where wildflowers and young trees are able to develop and is part of the overall plan to maintain and increase biodiversity on the site. The coppiced oaks will be allowed to regrow from the base, providing a lower level of habitat for different species of wildlife not found in the area of older trees. Even the logs which have been left on the ground to decay will provide habitat for insect larvae, which in turn provide food for birds such as woodpeckers.

We also maintain areas of grassland and scrub on the site which all contribute to the mosaic of habitats, supporting the wide range of plants, insects and bird life we enjoy on the Ridge.

I accept that cutting trees may seem the wrong thing to do on a local nature reserve, but sometimes there are good reasons and I am sure that as spring and summer arrive you will notice the new vegetation and wildlife that colonise the open area. Overall we plant far more trees than we cut down.

I am glad to say that the concerned local residents all wrote back after I sent them this, thanking me for the very prompt reply and with comments such as “ It feels good to know the reason behind their decision” and “I look forward to seeing how this area develops. The FoBR perform a very important service on behalf of us all.”