



WINTER NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD 2021/2022

In the last newsletter confirmation of our award was announced. Since then, we have had the reserves inspected (on the 17th November) and the judge's feedback report has been received. I know this sounds the wrong way round, but this happens quite often when a "mystery shop" is the way of deciding on the pass as they base this on the last full year assessment which was one in which we received a very high mark. The feedback report only highlighted a few slightly negative comments, but the overall assessment was fine. The final comment on the report was "This is a very pleasant and well managed site and is no doubt of great benefit to the local community". The chair of Broxtowe BC's Environment Committee stated that "all the Broxtowe sites had very favourable reports and the role of Friends Groups was seen as very important as well as the high standards achieved".

NEW BENCHES

During December two new metal benches were installed by the Council. One was a replacement for the one near the entrance from Sandy Lane which had been vandalised. The other was on the open grassland area beyond the play area. This is sited on the upper side so anyone can sit and relax to enjoy the surrounding area and is a very welcome addition as this site had up to now only had the benches at the play area.



The new bench on Alexandrina Plantation



The new bench on Sandy Lane Open Space

HEDGE LAYING

The Council arranged for a contractor to carry out hedge laying on the path leading down to the stile above the Heather Rise entrance. This work was started just after Christmas and the work done so far looks very impressive.

WORKING SESSIONS REPORT OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021

In October eleven members turned out on a perfect autumn morning. The two alcoves at the beginning of the main path leading from Markham Road were both cleared of all the new growth that had come from the trees that were cut down here so that we can maintain an open area to help plant growth and subsequently pollinators. The path alongside the wildflower patch at the Sandy Lane entrance was cleared of weeds and all the minor pathways were checked and cleared of overhanging bramble etc.

November had another really good turnout with thirteen members attending on another pleasant morning which also saw the first Redwings of this autumn arrive on the ridge. Litter picking was carried out as usual on both reserves. Most of the group spent the morning clearing the worst of the weeds from the wildflower area at the entrance from Sandy Lane and afterwards a mixture of perennial seeds was sown. Later in the week Chris Riley from the Council came to the site to sow some additional seed here.

In December nine volunteers came and once again we were lucky with the weather. The bird boxes were cleaned out and disinfected and the good news was that all but one had been used. The bridle path was swept to remove leaves and tree debris and despite a lot of wind the following week it remained reasonably clear. A few members did an experimental dig on the mugwort triangle near Brookside Avenue entrance mainly to see how deep the roots were and how big a job this would be to clear. The usual litter pick was also completed.



PLANS FOR IMPROVING HABITATS TO ATTRACT MORE POLLINATORS AND OTHER SPECIES

Chris Riley came to talk to us in early January about his ideas for generally improving different areas to create habitats that would help to attract more pollinators and other small mammals. He gave us some really useful suggestions for planting etc next year. The Mayor of Broxtowe, Councillor Richard MacRae also came and Bramcote Councillor Hannah Land and both were impressed with the area.

Next working session dates: **February 6th, March 6th, April 3rd. May 1st.**