



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that most will be welcoming the beginning of autumn this year. We have just come to the end of the UK's second hottest summer and one with exceptionally dry weather. This was obvious all over the ridge with grassy areas turning brown by the end of July and many of the wildflowers succumbing to the heat and lack of rain. We were fortunate that on the two reserves there were only two relatively minor fires and once the rain did arrive it was encouraging to see much of the grassy areas beginning to recover.

WORKING SESSIONS REPORT JULY to SEPTEMBER 2022

In July we continued to have another very good turnout of fourteen members on a fine and sunny morning. The concentration was on clearing those minor pathways that had not been tackled in June. We also cleared the two alcoves on either side of the main path near the entrance from Markham Road.

The August session had 13 members volunteering and two of us cleared all the mugwort that had completely surrounded the wildflower area that is alongside the Thoresby Road pavement. This was all bagged up and removed from the reserve to prevent any possibility of seed being allowed to spread. Fortunately it was possible to pull out the majority of this by its root. Most of the group concentrated on the Markham Rd reserve, particularly the area in and around Ivy Wood. A path within the wood was cleared and overhanging branches on a section behind Tracey Court were also cleared as was a tree that had partly collapsed on a nearby path. On the path leading down to Heather Rise the hedge that was layered in January had a lot of soft new growth which was cut back to encourage it to thicken out.

For some reason (holidays?) we had only a very small group for the September session so we spent the morning clearing bramble which had again started to surround the hazel trees planted two years ago.

On all three sessions litter was collected from both reserves.

NEXT WORKING SESSION DATES: NOV 6th, DEC 4th, JAN 8th and FEB 5th.

Note that the January session is on the second Sunday of the month. We didn't think New Year's Day would be very popular!