



## WINTER NEWSLETTER

### FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

#### WORKING SESSIONS REPORT DECEMBER 2023 to FEBRUARY 2024

The December session had to be cancelled as we had about 3 inches of snow falling overnight making it dangerous for any work to be carried out. In January 14 members attended and this session was devoted to distributing leaflets to all roads surrounding the reserves encouraging people to join our group; at the same time we collected litter from these roads in addition to completing the usual litter collection on the ridge. The bags of rubbish were collected the next day by the Council who also supplied us with litter pickers, bags and hi-vis jackets for the day.

In February 12 members turned out. Fourteen repaired and new bird boxes were erected on the reserves. The wildflower area at the entrance from Sandy Lane was scarified and a long meadow seed mix was sown. The other wildflower area near Thoresby Rd was tidied up and some of the group carried out the clearance of bramble from around the hazel trees planted four years ago.

Future working session dates are **March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2.**

#### GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD 2023/24

Even though we were informed in July that we had received the award for 2023/24 the inspection was not carried out until October. This sounds very odd but it is normal when a mystery shop is due and the previous year's full assessment had shown a comfortable pass score. I thought it was worth quoting the judge's final comments:

*“Thoroughly enjoyed my time walking this green space and will definitely visit again for a moment of exercise and quiet reflection. Given the location and various access points to the site a valuable green lung for the community who utilise and engage with this outdoor space. Also adds value to the volunteer experience and has potential to evolve with the support and resource it needs bringing tangible benefits for future generations – as well as for the local flora and fauna”*

#### NEW MEMBER

Neil Calder joined our group in January and we extend a warm welcome to him.