



## SPRING NEWSLETTER

### FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

#### **HEDGE LAYING UPDATE**

When the last newsletter was issued in January the hedge laying on the path leading up from Heather Rise was still in progress; this work was completed soon afterwards and in total now extends to about 100 metres. It has been well received, especially by those who regularly use this entrance to the reserve. As mentioned previously a local contractor employed by the Council carried out the work using the traditional method of managing hedgerows which has been practised for hundreds of years. The manager of the firm employed comes from a long line of traditional agricultural workers; he was taught the skill by an uncle and was pleased this project gave him the opportunity to continue practising the family tradition and showing others this method.

Whilst it can look drastic to start with it will soon provide a dense habitat for wildlife and the new growth starts a new life cycle for the hedge.



#### **WORKING SESSIONS REPORT: JANUARY to MARCH 2022**

We have had excellent turnouts over the last three months and thank you to everyone who has attended.

In January as well as 12 members we had a visit from the Mayor of Broxtowe, Councillor Richard McRae, Bramcote Councillor Hannah Land, and Chris Riley from Broxtowe BC.

Chris came to talk to us about his future plans for improving the diversity of our reserves to increase the amount of pollinator plants and the importance of grassland areas which many species of butterfly need, both as a food plant and a suitable place for breeding. He brought with him a tray of birds-foot trefoil and a mixture of different perennial wildflower seeds as well as wild garlic and wood anemone bulbs.

Most of the group spent the morning scarifying the various grassland areas before sowing the seed and then planting the plug plants and bulbs in suitable locations. We also swept the steps leading down to Thoresby Rd and cleared away soil that had made many of these steps uneven and potentially dangerous.

February saw a turnout of 15 members so all the scheduled jobs were able to be completed. This included clearing the areas of bramble around the hazel trees planted two years ago and the area alongside the hedgerow near the Jasmine Close entrance. This was covered in dead bracken, cow parsley and others but underneath were primroses and cowslips desperately searching for the light. We also put up the six new poster boards confirming our Green Flag Community Award for 2021/2022.

We had 16 members in March as well as six children on another sunny spring day. We had been lucky to receive ten buckthorns and four trays of plug plants of various perennial wildflowers from the Council so there was plenty to keep most of the group busy. Steve had also obtained a good selection of tree saplings from "I Dig Trees"; hawthorns, hazels and dog rose were planted in gaps in a hedgerow and the rest were planted in various places all on the Markham Rd reserve.

On all three sessions litter was collected from both reserves.



**Next working session dates are: May 1st, June 12<sup>th</sup>, July 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please note the June session is on the second Sunday of the month as it is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend in early June and the Sunday has been designated for street parties so it was felt some members will be involved in these or visiting friends.**

#### **NEW MEMBER**

We had another new member in this last quarter so a warm welcome to Robert Armitage.