

# WINTER NEWSLETTER

## FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

### BROXTOWE'S CLEAN and GREEN CAMPAIGN

Broxtowe Borough Council launched this campaign in September 2018 as part of an initiative to make Broxtowe a cleaner place. They asked community groups, schools and businesses to take collective responsibility for helping to keep the borough clean and tidy and to encourage people to recycle more. We were more than happy to take part in this and arranged for our December and January work sessions to be used as our contribution.

In December, as part of the "Green" campaign, we were visited by the Mayor and Mayoress of Broxtowe who thanked everyone for their support. Most of the group then started to rake off leaf litter and tree debris from the site that had been badly damaged by fire last summer. When this was cleared 2kg of mixed native grass seed was sown and 600 plug plants were set. These included birds-foot trefoil, ox-eye daisy, field scabious, cowslips and primrose. The total area covered on this rocky outcrop at the top of the ridge was 1000 square metres and later this year it should be transformed into a meadow and be a haven for honey bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects.



The January session was devoted to a litter collection on the roads to the south of the Markham Road reserve as well as the usual collection on our two reserves. In total fourteen bags were filled and these were collected shortly afterwards by the Council refuse collection team. We hope this might encourage more people to think twice before discarding litter on the ground.

## **GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD**

Our application for this award for 2019/2020 was submitted in December. As we had a full inspection last year this year's inspection will be by what is described as a "mystery shopper". This means we will not know when the judging takes place but are hopeful for another award.

## **WORKING SESSION REPORT: OCTOBER to DECEMBER 2018**

On a perfect autumn morning we had a great turnout of 18 volunteers for our October session. This included 4 new people (all young and fit!) which was really good to see. Contractors had been working on the site the previous week on the part damaged by fire and they had been clearing dead gorse, broom and tree branches. Most of us spent the morning raking off leaf litter, clearing more gorse bushes and several more damaged tree branches. We also dug out some of the worst protruding bush stumps. The pavement area alongside Thoresby Road was cleared of overhanging bramble and a very overgrown path on the Markham Road reserve was also almost cleared.

November saw a turnout of 13 members. The majority of the group tackled clearing the bridle path of leaf litter and we also cut down several overhanging dead tree branches on this path to avoid the risk of accidents to users of this popular pathway. The path alongside the wildflower area near the Sandy Lane entrance was almost covered in grass and this was first cleared before wood chippings from an area nearby were used to resurface this path.

In December we had another excellent turnout of 16 members and the work most of us did is described in the first item of this newsletter.

In addition the final clearance of the overgrown path on the Markham Road Site was completed. On all three sessions the usual litter pick was carried out and in December the information boards and "welcome to our reserves" signs were cleaned.



**NEXT WORK SESSION DATES are Feb 3, March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2**

## **AND FINALLY**

A warm welcome to our latest two members, Rachel Smith and Matthew Purkis