

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

ENTRANCE PATH FROM MARKHAM ROAD: GREAT NEWS!

As you will know from previous newsletters, Norman and Chris Riley had spent many hours in making two separate applications for funding to enable the creation of a new entrance path from Markham Road. This would make it suitable for wheelchair and pushchair users or anyone with mobility problems to gain access safely to the Markham Road site. The present path from a corner of this road is exceptionally steep and the applications were for a more gradual path to be created. Sadly both these applications were unsuccessful.

It was therefore a very unexpected and welcome email we received from Chris Riley towards the end of April to say that The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had contacted all local councils asking if they had any projects that required funding and would be beneficial to open space areas. Chris immediately contacted them and explained the project we had which had already been fully costed. The outcome was that they agreed this was a very worthwhile improvement and the money was provided. This money will also cover the costs of resurfacing the circular stone path on Alexandrina Plantation reserve and replacing some of the steps from Thoresby Road. Work is scheduled to start in the week beginning July 1st so by the time you are reading this the work should be nearing completion.

This will be a great improvement to both our reserves and it also means that Norman and Chris's earlier hard work in trying to obtain funding for it finally paid off.

WORKING SESSION REPORT APRIL to JUNE 2019

The April session had eleven members present and the priority this time was to cut down and clear a fairly large dead hawthorn tree that had collapsed onto the bridle path. Two other trees on the same path had low overhanging branches which were removed. Most of the group concentrated on clearing an alcove alongside the circular path on Alexandrina Plantation which had been created by the Council a few years ago but had become overgrown, mainly with brambles. The object in maintaining these alcoves amongst the trees is to provide a more diverse habitat that is beneficial to both small mammals, butterflies and other insects.



We also had eleven members turning out in May and the main task that day was to get the wildflower areas ready for new seed to be sown. The recently extended section of the area alongside Thoresby Road was thoroughly dug over and then raked before sowing. The rest of this section, which was such a success last year, was already showing plenty of re-growth where it had re-seeded so apart from digging out a few of the larger weeds we only very lightly added new seed there. The area near the entrance from Sandy Lane was very difficult to prepare properly as it had been sprayed with weed killer only five days earlier and this year for the first time had not been rotovated. With the limited number of volunteers available only partial clearance of weeds and preparation ready for seed sowing was possible.

Finally, in June we had to cut down another three dead hawthorn trees which were all showing signs of collapse alongside the bridle path. We also continued the final clearance of the alcove which had been mainly cleared in April. This time we removed the numerous protruding bramble and small tree stumps; we also managed to dig out a good proportion of the bramble roots. The whole area was then raked over.

Weeds had engulfed the green metal seat alongside one of the wildflower areas and these were cleared.

All the signs were cleaned and the usual litter picking was completed on all sessions.

NEXT WORKING DATES: Aug 4th, Sept 1st, Oct 6th, Nov 3rd and Dec 1st.

On the October, November and December sessions we should have the Practical Conservation Volunteers working with us again. They made a great job of clearing a very heavily overgrown path on the Markham Road site for us in June.