



FRIENDS OF BRAMCOTE RIDGE

COVID-19

We hope this newsletter finds you and your families all well. The last six months have been very difficult for everyone in one way or other with little prospect of anything like a return to something like normal for the next few months.

We have managed a tentative resumption of our monthly working sessions since August but seven of our regular volunteers did not wish to restart until the situation improves. This has meant volunteers bringing their own tools and maintaining at least a 2m distance at all times. We have been lucky as we had four new members, who all recently joined, taking part in these sessions and Helene has been organising everything so a big thank you to her.

The committee decided a few months ago **that it would not be possible to hold the AGM this year so this is postponed until November 2021.** They also decided that **no membership subscriptions would be due this year** so all **existing** members have a free year up to 31st October 2021. We have quite a healthy bank balance at present and expenses have been less this year which has made this possible.

WORKING SESSIONS REPORT JULY 2020 to SEPTEMBER 2020

There was no session in July but, as mentioned above, we did manage to resume in August.

The August session had a good turnout of eight members on a pleasant Sunday morning. After a few months of neglect the priority was to begin clearing pathways that had become overgrown and were now getting difficult to pass. A good start was made on these. There was also a step near the viewpoint where the wood had rotted and broken off leaving a protruding steel rebar creating a dangerous trip hazard. This step was completely replaced. Unfortunately there are other steps in this section that will need attention in the next few months. The usual litter picking was also completed on both reserves although the litter situation was fairly reasonable as several of our members have included this when doing their daily walk over the last few months.

In September we had an excellent turnout of eleven members and it was especially good to welcome three of our new members. The other new member also came in August.

The weather was perfect and path clearance was again a priority concentrating on those paths beyond the stile near Heather Rise. After these were cleared everyone moved to the area where the hazel tree saplings and bulbs were planted in January as bramble had begun to invade this area. See photo on the next page. As usual litter picking was completed on both our reserves.

NEXT WORKING SESSION DATES are : November 1st, December 6th, January 3rd and February 7th.



TREES

Chris Riley recently sent Helene an email to say that the council intended to remove several Lombardy Poplars which are in a poor state and potentially dangerous. The main parts of the tree trunks will be left on site to provide suitable habitat for insects and small mammals. These trees can easily be seen, provided of course that they have not already been cut down, if you walk down the short grassy path towards Jasmine Close and look to your left.

GREEN FLAG COMMUNITY AWARD 2020/21

All judging of Green Flag sites was suspended this year but the Green Flag organisation announced a few months ago that awards would still be made this year based on different methodology. This year the awards will be based on the last full assessment each site had. This was especially fortunate as our last full assessment was in 2018 when we received the highest score they give; consequently 2019 was what they call a "mystery shop" year for us.

It was no surprise therefore to have it confirmed this week that we have again received this prestigious award for 2020/21 which makes it twelve consecutive years for us.

Thank you very much to all those who have contributed to our continued success by attending any of the working sessions or helping in other ways.