

NEWS FROM THE CHELLASTON BRICKWORKS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



In the last 18 months, the Friends of the Reserve have had to restrict the amount of work they could carry out and, as nature never stands still, some areas had become very overgrown. Fortunately, as things have become more relaxed both the 'Friends' group and Derby Parks' Volunteers have been able to get back to work and the backlog of tasks are slowly getting dealt with.

Although our sessions have been restricted there are several things you may have noticed as you walk the reserve. The skip close to the access gates on Aston Lane was originally placed there to stop access by vehicles but over the years it had become an eyesore and attracted the dumping of rubbish. Two large planters, which had originally been placed outside the Council House, have replaced the

skip and have transformed the area. Removing the old skip and installing the planters was quite a task! The 'Friends' group have successfully applied for and been awarded shrubs and trees from the Woodland Trust so in the Spring we will be able to plant out and complete the task.

There is also a new sign board adjacent to the Scout Hut (pictured above), which was unveiled in early October and is the result of a project started before the pandemic. Chellaston Scouts, Cubs and Guides produced drawings of wildlife and Katie Smith spent many hours transferring the original drawings onto the noticeboard to give the brilliant result shown.

The trees in the Community Orchard (near Woodgate Drive) are doing well despite some pretty dry spells during the summer. Some of them even produced a small amount of fruit and as they mature over the next few years the harvest will increase. It is hoped to increase the size of the orchard and to introduce other varieties of fruit as time goes on.

A frequent question is why saplings and scrub need to be removed from some areas of the reserve. The answer is that, if this work was not carried out, the whole area would become covered in scrub within a very short time, greatly reducing its biodiversity. All such removal is carefully planned and forms part of the annual Management plan. The work that our volunteer groups carry out has once again been acknowledged by the Keep Britain Tidy organisation and for the 5th year running we have been awarded a Community Green Flag, a great pat on the back for everyone involved.



The Brickworks Local Nature Reserve is adjacent to the Pit Close Recreation Ground and may be accessed from the car park at the end of Bensley Close, off Pit Close Lane.

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