

Beckford Nature Reserve

2020 Chairman's Report

Welcome

Good evening and welcome to our 13th AGM. Unfortunately, due to current Government guidelines around Covid-19 it has not been possible to hold an AGM under normal circumstances. Therefore, draft reports have been made available in advance for people of the village to read and raise any question that they may have at the AGM being attended by Trustees only.

A few things that I would like to mention and talk through:

- Look back at the main things that have happened in the last year
- General upkeep of The Reserve
- My reflection of our financial position
- A few words on the support that the BNR receives in general

1) Reflection of what's happened over the past 12 months:

- a) Change of Trustees – This year saw a change of Peter Tyrell stand down as Treasurer and Natalie Tyrell as a Trustee; the committee are very grateful for what they have done over their tenure for the Nature Reserve. We welcome Jonathan Grice back as Treasurer (and Trustee) and have also started the process of advertising for another Trustee, taking us back up to the full complement of five.
- b) Covid-19 has been a huge shock and disruption to us all. It's been great to see people taking full advantage of the reserve, offering a haven of peace and tranquillity during these challenging times. The team have done a great job in making the reserve as safe as possible by making sure footpaths have passing spots and are woodchipped, gate catches tied up to minimise contact, and the old hide temporarily locked out of service.

2) General condition of The Reserve:

- a) General upkeep – Thanks to Tina and her stewardship, and the contribution from our volunteers, the BNR is in a very good condition. The organisation of the working parties helps significantly in minimising the cost of contract work.
- b) Safety – Also a significant amount of work also goes in to making sure that the BNR is safe for everyone to enjoy (footpath chippings, barriers, overhanging foliage etc.). This is reflected in the Maintenance plan and risk assessment which has been updated and posted on our Website.

- c) Future work – The Trustees are looking at replacing the two main sets of steps on the North and West banks with something more permanent but still in keeping with the Reserve. Whilst this likely to be a significant investment, we're sure this will be offset by making the steps safer, and lower maintenance in the long-run. We will provide more details when we receive quotes and designs from the contractors we have engaged with.

3) Financial position

- a) Overview – We are really fortunate for the level of support we receive, and this is generally reflected in the healthy financial position of the BNR; this year the overall surplus was £683. The 200 club continues to be our main source of income and I would like to thank Jayne & Dave for running this on behalf of the team. This year we decided to leaflet drop the 200 Club renewals to Alstone, Ashton and Conderton; to date we have circa 20-25 additional renewals this year compared to last year.
- b) Opportunities – The Trustees are always mindful of protecting our financial position. A couple of things we can do in addition to our current activities are:
- i. Maximise Gift-Aid on donations, where applicable
 - ii. Continue with publication and increased promotion of the 200 Club renewals in order to increase the uptake, also look at the possibilities of automatic renewals through Direct Debit
 - iii. If anybody else has any ideas, then please let us know

4) General Support

- a) We are incredibly fortunate for the support we have for the BNR, be it those that support through their 200 Club membership, helping out at working parties, and general donations. We would like to extend our thanks to Andy Slade for running our Website and for the work carried out on this year's 200 Club flyer.
- b) I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Trustees for their help and commitment throughout the course of the year. Despite the challenges that Covid-19 brought us all, the team managed to maintain the schedule of meetings, be it virtually or socially distancing, making sure that all behind the scenes activities were managed in a timely manner.

Acceptance of Chairman's report:

Proposed - xx

Seconded - xx