

## Report on the Trustees' meeting December 2014

The 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Geoff welcomed the Trustees and was pleased to report that the Village Supper had been a great success and it was good to see so many people supporting the Nature Reserve by attending. There was some discussion about the timing of the event and the Trustees are to consider whether a Spring or early Summer date for future Village Suppers might be better.

Jonathan reported that the finances were boosted by nearly £500 by the Village Supper fundraising event and the 200 Club now had 111 members and this helped to provide for the annual costs such as insurance and materials to make the paths safe as well as specialist help with keeping the hides in weatherproof condition.

Tina then provided a comprehensive Warden's report and described the visit of Helen Trapp from Natural England who had come to give advice about conserving the exposed rock face where the sand martins nest. The main problem seems to be preventing damage by rabbits burrowing from the grassy area at the top of the cliff face. Brambles have been cleared from the base of the cliff as their growth seemed to have deterred the sand martins from using the nest holes in the rock face. In general careful clearing of brambles elsewhere in the reserve, where their growth has produced impenetrable thickets, should improve the light reaching the ground flora and as a result increase biodiversity as the greater the variety of plants, the greater the diversity of animals. Footpaths have been made safe by wood chippings laid on the surface. Recent working parties have been focussing on this area of maintenance..

She was pleased to report the help given by a student working towards his Duke of Edinburgh award. This has the dual benefit of improving the reserve and helping the student gain skills. The maintenance plan paperwork is to be rationalised.

The next meeting of the Trustees is to be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015.