

Report on the Trustees' meeting February 2015

The 39th meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on Wednesday 4th February 2015. Geoff welcomed the Trustees and gave his Chairman's report. He said that he had been contacted by Graham Huxley who is a member of the BTO and Graham has nominated the Nature Reserve as a suitable site for a monthly survey of wetland birds. He will look out for other birds as well. Geoff had agreed to this and it was suggested that the results be put on the website and published at the AGM.

All the Trustees expressed their deep sadness at the news of the death of John Clifford, one of the founder members of the Nature Reserve committee. His dedication to the Reserve having resulted in the special place it is today. Jonathan reported that the donations from the mourners at the funeral service would provide a generous gift to the Reserve's finances and would allow for a suitable memorial to be established in John's memory. There followed some discussion as to a suitable memorial which might include a wildflower bank, a seat or refurbishment of the old hide to allow it to become a more useful place to watch the wildlife of the Reserve.

Tina then presented her Conservation Warden's report and said that the recent working party was very successful and well-attended despite the poor weather. Work had begun on clearing the area at the base of the quarry face and the flowing water that had been discovered would be monitored to see if it needed piping away or whether it was just a seasonal phenomenon. The results of the bramble clearance are already being shown in the increase of ground flora which now has access to much more light and has better conditions for growth. There is a need to fell some trees and these have been identified and a qualified tree surgeon needs to be employed to carry out the work in the autumn.

Tina has annotated the maintenance plan and is considering changing the format to a spreadsheet which would identify the timing of various activities more clearly. Chippings need to be spread on the pathways but will be put down after the mowing season. She reported that the student who had been helping on the Reserve as part of his Duke of Edinburgh challenge had successfully completed his tasks and had been signed off. Geoff agreed to write a tribute to John Clifford for inclusion in the next Parish Magazine and also to publish the same on the Reserve's website.

The next meeting of the Trustees is to be on Wednesday 15th April.