

## Report on Trustees meeting March 2014

The Beckford Nature Reserve committee met on March 19<sup>th</sup> and were welcomed by the chairman, Geoff Stringer. The main items on the agenda were the Conservation Wardens' report, the appointment of a new Conservation Warden, the proposed maintenance plan, the installation of another dog waste bin and the involvement of the Reserve in the Open Village weekend.

The committee expressed their gratitude to Huntsmans' Quarries for providing bags of aggregate and Andy Tustin for wood chippings, which would be used to maintain the paths and other areas in the Reserve. New signs had been installed to remind people to keep their dogs on leads within the Reserve. 420 hedging plants had been given to the Reserve by the Woodland Trust through the W.I. A working party had managed to plant about 300 of these and they will be a valuable new habitat for the birds once they have grown into mature plants. A new bench seat has been installed which will add to the amenity of the site.

The imminent retirement of John Clifford from his role as Conservation Warden, leaves a big gap in the management of the Reserve. There was much discussion as to the best way to replace someone who has been at the heart of the Reserve since its inception. Trevor McGill will continue in his role as Conservation and Tree Warden but needs help with organising working parties and preparing reports. It was decided to advertise the post locally. John will be greatly missed but fortunately will continue to help with volunteering on various projects.

A 3-year maintenance plan had been prepared by the Conservation Wardens and while it is recognised that absolute timings are not possible, as much of the work is weather-dependent, it is a valuable tool in helping to prepare for the work that is needed to keep the Reserve in good heart. The more immediate targets involve clearing brambles and cutting back some plant growth to allow better access to pathways and better views of the lake and wildfowl.

A new dog waste bin has been ordered from Wychavon Council and will be sited opposite the entrance to Beckford Silk on Ashton Road. This will make it easier for owners to dispose responsibly of the waste produced by their dogs. (It has been installed since the meeting). The costs are to be met by the Nature Reserve.

The Reserve is hoping to host a number of activities during the Open Village weekend, including a stand by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and the local Earth Heritage Trust.

A working party will help prepare the Reserve for the Open Village event and the date will be advertised on the website. All volunteers welcome. Cards featuring scenes from the Reserve are available at a number of outlets in the area and Andy Slade's help in preparing the advertising material was much appreciated by the committee.

The next committee meeting is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May.