

Beckford Nature Reserve

With the approach of Autumn it is time for another progress report on the Nature Reserve.

Early in the spring our tree surgeon completed the demise of the white poplar suckers on the north side of the lake. This has opened up large areas that will allow plants and grasses to regenerate, giving a more diverse habitat for plants and insects. Several hundred native bluebell bulbs have been donated, and planted both in this area, and in the adjacent woodland either side. Hopefully we will see evidence of this in the spring. We have also had four more bird boxes given to us which have been installed in various locations around the Reserve.

On 16th May we held our first Open Day when visitors braved the inclement weather to walk the site, and chat with the trustees and volunteers. Completed questionnaires were all very positive, giving us feedback on our efforts, and thanks go to all those who took time to fill them in.

Early in June we accepted a quotation to construct a pathway from the new gate in Rabbit Lane to the edge of the lake, enabling wheelchair access. This also includes a hard standing for a future hide, and work is expected to commence in late October.

The very rank grass on the north side has been cut, raked, and removed in the hope of encouraging the return of the bee orchids, and improving habitats generally.

Contact has now been made with Natural England regarding the geological SSSI, and we had a successful visit from one of their staff on another very soggy day in July. The trustees have since heard that they will produce a management plan for the SSSI with the possibility of funds becoming available despite recent cutbacks.

Local visitors, and those from much further afield continue to enjoy Beckford Nature Reserve, and comment on how very lucky we are as a village to have such a precious amenity on our doorstep.

Just a reminder to all members of the 200 Club if you have not yet renewed your numbers please could you let Jennifer Berriman have the remittances by Monday 5th October, otherwise you will miss the draw which will take place on Tuesday 6th October.

QUIZ NIGHT

We are holding a revised version of the Beckford Nature Reserve Quiz evening on Friday 13th November. The new format will start with a Lancashire Hotpot supper and homemade mince pies (well it is nearly Christmas) followed by a shorter quiz. Our very generous prizes will stay the same. The tickets including the cost of the quiz are £8.00 per person. If you would like to book your table (6 per table) please ring either Jennifer Berriman 01386 882029 or Angie Davies 01386 881126 for further details.