

Report on the Trustees' meeting April 2015

The 40th meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on Monday 20th April 2015. It had to be postponed from the advertised date. Geoff welcomed all the trustees and signed the minutes from the previous meeting. There had been a much needed gift of two bags of aggregate from the new owners of Huntsman's Quarry, Breedon Aggregates, who had responded to Tina's visit to the quarry and her request for the aggregate. They have indicated that they will put the details of the Nature Reserve on their computer system. We look forward to continuing the relationship with the new quarry owners.

Geoff confirmed the date of the AGM as 9th October and has booked the Village Hall for the evening. Adam Tatlow has been booked to give a talk about rural life at the AGM. One of the memorials for John Clifford is to be a carved seat and arrangements are in hand for this to be started as soon as possible. The treasurer's report indicated that the finances were healthy and £1,136.50 had been received in donations in memory of John Clifford. This will be increased by the addition of GiftAid. David and Jayne Allchurch were continuing the efficient running of the 200 Club and had increased the number of members of the club and thanks were expressed for all their hard work.

Tina then presented the Conservation Warden's report. During the last working party, it had been noticed that there was a foul water problem at the quarry base. The contact made with Severn Trent and the Environment agency has resulted in a survey which has revealed an unmapped sewer crossing the reserve. This was blocked and Severn Trent removed the blockage. They also put a new manhole cover in place to enable easier access. It is intended to hide this with trailing plants such as native honeysuckle. It was felt that there might be problems with toxic materials leaching from the old landfill site in the land adjacent to the reserve and Worcester Regulatory Service have been contacted to supply details of the likelihood of any problems. The purchase of new throw ropes has been investigated. A major problem has arisen with the dead trees that border the reserve and overhang the lane to Ashton. They pose a significant safety hazard and despite the fact that we are in the nesting season, it is important that they be felled as soon as possible. The suggestion was that the dead trees be removed and the live material be trimmed back and dealt with in the autumn. The main gate onto Rabbit Lane needed attention and the best option would be to rub it down and then repaint.

The next meeting is scheduled for 8th July 2015.