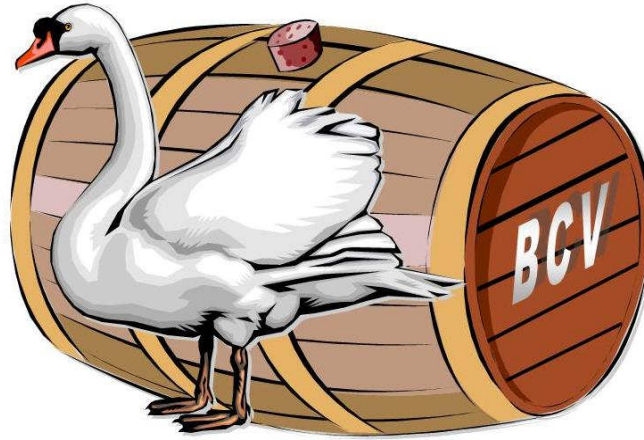


CONSERVATION

BURTON



VOLUNTEERS

www.bcv.org.uk



Burton Conservation Volunteers Annual
Report 2008

It has been another busy year up again on last year with 588 work days by BCV plus 102 days by others including local Lichfield and Uttoxeter residents, as well as the Kingfisher Project and Lichfield Rotarians. These were carried out on a total of 61 different work days or tasks.

As in previous years I have not counted in time for committee meetings, admin work, site surveys, and general organisation like tool collection or sorting out car share. The many hours of work on the allotment have not been included, not because it is not highly valued, but because we do not have a proper record of volunteer numbers. Nor have I included team-building socials/walks, manning displays or the building of the 'BCV heart' for display, along with many others, at the Stretton Church Christmas Festival, so the basic figures do not reflect the total amount of commitment given to the group by volunteers. We have also worked with Community Punishment Order workers, Youth Offenders, Schools, ESBC Parks dept, National Trust and numerous Parish and District Councils. We have also provided support for local landowners like Yoxall Lodge other orgs. like Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Burton and District Wildlife Group, Lichfield Gardening Group, Saxon Hill School, Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Scouts.

I do not like to single specific people out in what has been a tremendous team effort, but I think a few deserve special mention;

Lynn Pickering has led a number of very informative training walks, helping to raise the core knowledge within the group.

Richard Sanville has continued to keep the excellent BCV website interesting and up to date.

Shane Waters for organising walking holidays inc. the week long Dales Way walk from Ilkley to Lake Windermere, and socials like the trip to the Globe Theatre in London.

Jo Rosser, for her patience and excellent management of the allotments as well as for organising a number of social meals throughout the year.

Steve Betteridge our treasurer will be stepping down at the AGM, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work. He took over at a very difficult time following Shellys death and has kept the books up to date and reorganised the accounts, despite my slowness with task reports.

We have almost completed our move from the ESBC tool store to a lock up container on the allotment site (inc. the installation of solar lighting for the container) making us totally independent. We have also invested in a new custom made trailer with the new logo on the sides, so that we are able to lock tools away securely when working in remote areas.

Highlights

It is difficult to pick out highlights from so many successful tasks, but it is great to see many of our previous projects growing and taking effect. We have carried out a number of tasks on the Kingfisher Trail, including running 2 weekend hedgelaying courses and planting fruit trees close to all the entrances, so that park users will be welcomed by spring blossom and autumn fruits. Trees include apple plum and pear, so that local schools can teach lessons on food miles and old fashioned fruits like quince, damson, medlar and wild service, so that schools can also teach the history of fruit.

The hedge at Morrey was a major success with lots of support from pupils, parents and teachers helping to reinstate an ancient hedge line alongside a former sunken road.

The working weekend for the National Trust at Walcott wood in Shropshire was great fun and a potential new area to explore.

Socials

A very enjoyable trip to the Globe Theatre in London to see 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' was again a great success and hopefully a regular feature for the future.

The camping/walking holiday along the Dales way was a challenge, but great fun and little Shaun was as always great company.

We had a number of walks, inc. the Llama trek at New Year and a good turnout for the Heather Hike. Lynn led a number of educational walks sponsored by ESBC.

Big Mose Base camp/Walcott Woods (NT) was a working away weekend, but an excellent social occasion as well.

Jo's well organised evening meals at a variety of venues have again proved to be popular

Training

No one from the group did any special training although I did a bit of dry willow work with SWT and the group provided training for many others with hedgelaying courses and Lynn's walks.

Summary

We have continued to work on some old favourite sites and observed the effects of our work at places like, like Branston Water Park, Jinnie Trail, Walton Hall etc. whilst adding new ones like the Kingfisher, Morrey, and a number of Lichfield sites and the groups reputation and skills continue to grow.

So thank you to everyone who has taken part in the group, making Burton Conservation Volunteers such a happy team and a successful organisation.

Lawrence Oates Chair and Project Officer 7-5-2009.

Looking forward to a successful 2009