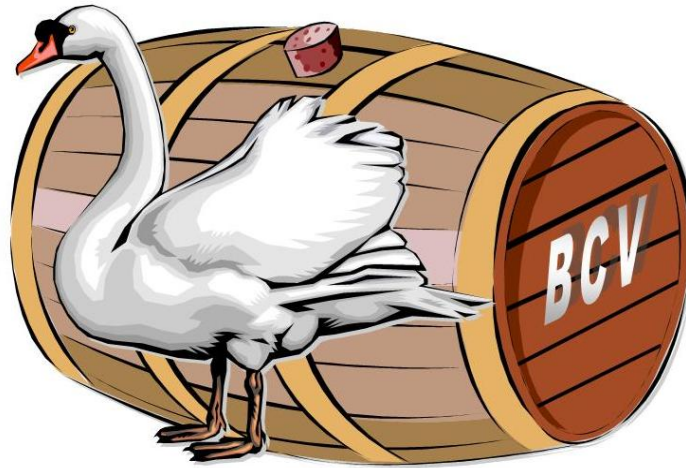


CONSERVATION

BURTON



VOLUNTEERS

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Burton Conservation Volunteers

Annual Report 2009

It has been another busy year slightly down on last year, possibly due to someone's birthday celebrations taking up a number of weekends and also we did not have a major project over the summer. We carried out 501 work days by BCV plus 84 days by others including local Lichfield and Burton residents, as well as the Kingfisher Project and Lichfield Rotarians. These were carried out on a total of 53 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, educational talks etc. 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, and numerous Parish and District Councils. We have also provided support for local landowners like Yoxall Lodge and the vets at Alrewas other orgs. like Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Burton and District Wildlife Group, Lichfield Gardening Group, Saxon Hill School, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Scouts a short lived Transition Towns group and the National Society of Hedgelayers.

New clients this year have included RSPB, British Waterways, Groundwork Trust and Broome Cider Farm nr Ross on Wye.

I do not like to single specific people out in what has been a tremendous team effort, but I would like to thank Pete Bolas for continuing in the role of secretary (17 years now) and Emily Hayto for taking on the role as treasurer.

Thanks also go to the rest of the people who help to organise walks, meals website etc. help to make working with BCV an enjoyable and social experience as well as a fulfilling and productive one for volunteers, clients and the environment.

We 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 and the new custom made trailer with the new logo on the sides, has proved to be a very valuable asset.

Highlights

It is difficult to pick out highlights from so many successful tasks, but it is great to revisit many of our previous projects either for work days or on walks and to see them growing and taking effect. We have carried out a number of tasks on the Kingfisher Trail, and these have been a major factor in the Trail achieving second in its class at the prestigious British Urban Regeneration Awards (BURA) only being beaten by a multi million pound project.

My other personal highlight was the very thoughtful birthday gifts from the group, inc. fresh veg from the allotment and a weekend on a cider farm!

Socials

We have continued the very enjoyable trips to the Globe Theatre in London plus seeing the Mikron at Barton Marina

The camping/walking holiday along the Geopark Way was fascinating as well as great fun and little Shaun was, as always great company.

Yoxall Lodge rewarded all the hard work by BCV with a delicious bacon and sausage breakfast and guided tour to view the snowdrops and winter aconites

Jo's well organised evening meals at a variety of venues have again proved to be popular and long may they continue.

I don't know how to categorise the cider making visit to Broome Farm, it could be social, highlights or training (it was educational) but everyone had a brilliant weekend camping and helping to make that most special of English beverages.

Training

Nine from the group attended a National Forest training session on new wood management and formative pruning and the group provided training for many others with hedgelaying/willow weaving/coppice/woodland work days and Lynn and I gave a number of talks.

The group was also well represented at a number of projects organised by LDC inc. Mammals at Muckley, Grafting and Wassail in Beacon Park, plus visits to Eggington Willow Fest and to see heavy horses working in Needwood Forest.

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, Kingfisher Trail, Linton pond etc. whilst adding new ones like Fradley Junction, Middleton Lakes and Broome Farm, plus a number of Lichfield sites and the groups widening reputation for hard work to a high standard will, I am sure, ensure many busy years to come.

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 10-6-2010.



Looking forward to a successful 2010