

## Meeting of the Bolton Conservation Volunteers held at Ye Olde Man & Scythe on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010

### **Present:**

Trish Calderbank (TC)   Lynn Entwistle (LE)   Lewis Jones (LJ)   John Loder (JL)  
Colin Mather (CMA)   Rick Parker (RP)   Paul Crawshaw (PC)

**Apologies:**   Colette Peachey

**Minutes:**   apart from RP's confirmation that he was talking about fairy rings not furry rings, the minutes were accepted from last meeting as an accurate record.

### **Matters Arising:**

#### **1.            Cars to Tasks**

RP reiterated that those who give lifts to members on task days should claim for expenses, as they are providing a valuable service. RP will bring claim forms to the next few tasks.

#### **2.            Bellthorn Feedback**

The farmer who provided the wall for our walling task said our work was 'all right'. High praise indeed from a Blackburn farmer.

#### **3.            Next Task Programme**

RP went through the latest release:

- 1   Rivington dry stone walling – training day with Paul the Wall.
- 2   Anderton resi weekend – balsam pulling, possible burning of remnants. Some walling. Not sure of the Galloways attendance. Names to Rick – up to now, LE, TC, PC, CMA, Anna Cocker will be there on Saturday.
- 3   Mersey clean up – not sure of the actual site yet, but should be a change for us.
- 4   Kirklees Valley, Bury – pondwork with our very own Anna, who is the ranger here.
- 5   Heathland management at Moses Gate – clearing brush to assist the growth of heather.
- 6   Blackleach island – more cockleshells on this nice site – the trees are now down, so this will not be a hard task like previously.

#### **4.            Next task – Blackleach, 13<sup>th</sup> June**

The evolution of our common reed planting technique continues. Now there will be a complex structure of cages and stakes etc that will protect our young plants from Canada Geese and other water fowl. The plants are grown in root trainers at Parker Villas. Another experimental technique is to cut mature reed and just place it in bare areas of silt. It is planned to have a website article giving the secret of our success in the future. It is planned to visit our successful planted area at Moses Gate afterwards.

#### **5.            RP's updates**

Blackleach newt eggs are in. As everywhere else, the ponds in Darcy Lever Gravel Pits are well down. Richard will get a machine in to deepen the pond in the corral area at Blackleach. Common tern – Dave Edwards has reported that there are 20 babies at Doffcocker. One pair

at Moses Gate, and the raft has been refurbished. Blackleach pair have gone without breeding, but the raft has been a success. Look out for updates on the terns on the website message board page.

**6. Red Moss Task – 27.06.10**

The water table is quite low, due to the recent drought. RP has not seen any evidence of the recent fire.

**7. Grow Your Own Food**

RP distributed details of the BTCV's latest free offer – a guide book that ticks all the right eco-friendly boxes.

**8. Xmas Meal**

Plenty of time, but as we have no racing certainty at present, please suggest your favourite so we can discuss the runners and riders. It could be possible to visit one of those in the frame for a run out, as a nice social. Watch this space.

**Any Other Business:**

**9. A Lush at BCV?**

LE informed us that Lush Cosmetics had seen our website and contacted her regarding advertising our group at their shop in the Market Place. We assisted by providing assistance regarding honey bees. Their website [www.Lush.co.uk](http://www.Lush.co.uk) has links. They are holding a recycling/sustainable party. We hope to send them details to advertise our task programme etc. Brian sent them information on woodland wildflowers that attract bees.

**10. Volunteer Involvement**

CMA reported that Greater Manchester Youth Network had been in touch, and we had sent them details on how we can provide volunteer opportunities. We will see if anything comes of this, as our very young volunteers have gone off and got jobs, and some disappeared to study ecology. The details have been sent to RP. Speaking of numbers, there now followed a discussion on numbers. They are very healthy at present, and we are in a Goldilocks era – not too few so we cannot do the tasks, and not too many that compromises our supervisory capabilities.

**11. Next Walk**

TC said the next walk would be 2<sup>nd</sup> July – a weekend in Northumberland. Camping. Probably 1 day walking near Hadrian's Wall, and another sightseeing. Names to Trish. CMA took details for the website.

Following this, on 14<sup>th</sup> August there would be a walk around the moors. Food at the Brewhouse in Dunscar, About 7 miles. Meet at 11 a.m.

**12. DVD's**

JL has recorded 'Wild Wales' – 3 x 1 hour programmes from the BBC on a DVD, that is doing the rounds amongst friends. Will be available soon. There may be excerpts from Springwatch & other programmes with stunning dragonfly shots in slow motion, if JL can get Sharon to edit them in to a decent DVD.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 14th July 2010, 8:00 p.m. at the Old Man & Scythe, Bolton.