

Heritage Report for the Year to May 2017.

Progress at Coleorton Wood.

The biggest issue in the wood has been the number of fallen trees, particularly in the Post Office Field. Whilst these have been made safe and tidied-up it appears that there is an ongoing problem with the stability of the remaining trees. The Parish Council and the Volunteer Group are investigating this issue.

The Volunteer Group has made changes to the outflow of the pond to increase the level in the pond throughout the summer period. This is being monitored to establish how well it works.

The bird feeders have not been replaced following the vandalism earlier in 2016. This will be reviewed for next year.

The Volunteer Group had a stand at LCC's Countryside Fair, where the children built an insect hotel; this has been transferred to Coleorton Wood where it was rebuilt.

The Volunteer Group has completed the work required in the site's management plan and also carried out some aspects of site maintenance throughout the year. The hedge-laying in one area has also been completed.

New Lount Nature Reserve.

The Volunteer Group has created a countryside view from the top of the pit bank by clearing a number of trees, which has generated a lot of positive comments. The group continues to work at the large workload of habitat management that the site demands and could do with more volunteer hours to keep up with this work. The group has also carried out a lot of site maintenance throughout the summer period.

Through the workshop sessions the group has designed, built and installed a sand martin bank beside the large top pond. Whilst this was too late for the 2017 season it is hoped that sand martins will find it next year.

The group has also carried out all of the on-site work required for the New Lount Colliery Heritage Trail, which was officially opened in May 2017.

Two volunteers have been trained in the use of pesticides and the necessary equipment has also been purchased. This will help the group to control some of the habitats which have arisen from the woodland thinning across both sites.

The workshop sessions also manufactured a number of wooden mushrooms throughout the year, which have been sold to raise group funds. The group plant sales at both sites have also significantly contributed to increasing funds, which are being used to replace essential tools, equipment and materials.

Newbold Heritage Group.

The heritage group has completed its project to research, design and install an industrial heritage trail based on the New Lount Colliery at New Lount Nature Reserve; this was official opened on 13th May 2017.

War Memorial.

The Parish Council are investigating the possibility of cleaning the war memorial and having the inscriptions re-cut to improve their visibility.

Ashby Museum.

The old parish records have now been catalogued at the museum as part of the museum's Coleorton collection.

Throughout the year mini exhibitions for the museum's Coleorton display have been held on the topics:- WW1, Coleorton Pottery and St Mary's Church.

Cataloguing of the John Crocker collection has been completed this year after six years work.