

## **Heritage Progress Report.**

**March 2017.**

### **1. Volunteer Group**

#### **Coleorton Wood.**

We are making good progress with the clearing and coppicing of the shrub areas required to be maintained in the management plan, and will complete the work by the end of March. We have been closely monitoring the inflow and outflow of the pond to try and maintain a high water level for the drier summer period.

Storm "Doris" brought down a number (about 12) of trees in the wood and some required immediate attention to clear the paths. We have cleared all the paths but we still need to tidy up the remaining trees.

#### **New Lount Reserve.**

We have continued with the thinning of woodland and have made very good progress. We have also spent one complete work session clearing fallen trees as a result of storm "Doris". Extra work sessions are being worked at New Lount to prepare for the installation of the sand martin bank and also to clear, and uncover, colliery features that will be part of the Colliery Heritage Trail.

The Workshop Group is continuing with the manufacture of the Sand Martin Bank, which is now almost complete. We are targeting to have this installed at New Lount by the end of March. We have started on the manufacture of a large number of sign posts required for both the Colliery Heritage Trail and the circular walk at New Lount.

#### **GROUP AGM**

The group's AGM was held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00p.m. and was well attended; it was followed by a social evening.

#### **Pesticide Training:-**

We have now purchased all of the equipment and PPE required for pesticide spraying and will commence treating some of the tree stumps in Coleorton Wood. We are now qualified to carry out the annual spraying of the car park if the council wished to remove this from the mowing contract.

### **2. Newbold Heritage Group.**

The seven interpretation boards have now been manufactured and are being stored in my garage. These will be installed closer to the launch date, with the Volunteer Group's help. The launch of the heritage trail will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017 1.30p.m. for a 2.00p.m. start. We are hoping that as many members of the Parish Council will attend the launch.

### **3. War Memorial Cleaning/Restoration.**

I have been in contact with the War Memorials Trust who has informed me that they do not consider painting the lettering as the best way to improve the visual impact of the inscriptions. They suggest getting the lettering re-cut, which will improve the impact and then should remain clear provided the lettering is carefully washed on an annual basis. They have also advised me that this work could be funded, up to possibly 75%, through the War Memorials Trust's grant scheme.

4. **Ashby Museum.**

I am preparing to take down the small Coleorton display on Lount Pottery and replace it with a display on "A Brief History of St Mary's Church". This should be completed by the end of March. I have now completed the cataloguing of John Crocker's archive and have almost completed cataloguing the Coleorton Parish Council records that were handed over to the museum.

**John Macdonald (March 2017)**