

## **Heritage Progress Report.**

**April 2017.**

### 1. **Volunteer Group**

#### **Coleorton Wood.**

We have completed the clearing and coppicing of the shrub areas required to be maintained in the management plan. 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. There is a small leak on one side of the pond and we will look at blocking this off over the summer period.

The remainder of the group's time has been spent clearing fallen or partially fallen trees, predominantly in the Post Office Field.

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

We have now ceased the thinning of woodland for the summer period. We have spent some time burning off woodland waste and waste cut in the open glades. The remaining time has been spent preparing and installing the sand martin bank, which is now complete.

The Workshop Group has completed the manufacture of the Sand Martin Bank, which is now installed beside the large pond. The remaining time has been spent manufacturing the sign posts required for New Lount Reserve; these are now ready to install.

**Group Plant Sales.** The Volunteer Group is holding two plant sales in May. The first is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May and will be at Coleorton Wood – 10.00a.m. to 1.00p.m.

The second one will be at New Lount Nature Reserve on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May, same times.

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

The seven interpretation boards have now been manufactured and are being stored in my garage. We have a detailed plan for the installation of both the sign posts and the interpretation boards. We are short of volunteers to assist on the day of the launch and are looking for assistance from other sources. LCC are preparing a publicity leaflet for the site which will strongly feature the heritage trail. 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. This would eliminate Skillingtons quotation as they cannot do re-cutting of letters. The WMT 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. The location of the war memorial is very rural and this is partly to blame as the lichen thrive in this environment, which means that the war memorial will require regular cleaning to keep it clean enough to read the inscriptions. They have also advised me that this work could be funded, up to possibly 75%, through the War Memorials Trust's grant scheme and are amenable to considering a two-phase project. We would need to supply a minimum of two quotations.

### 4. **Ashby Museum.**

I have set up the display on "A Brief History of St Mary's Church". This will be available at the museum until September when it will be changed to feature Coleorton in WW1. I have completed cataloguing the Coleorton Parish Council records that were handed over to the museum.

5. **Replanting the Post Office Field.**

Mick and I have discussed the current situation which has resulted in a large number of trees coming down within the Post Office Field, some of which have fallen in the period after storm "Doris". They create a great deal of work to bring them all down to the ground and then tidy up the fallen trees. We now have a lot of timber which is difficult to remove from the wood and gain any value from.

The main reason for these trees falling is the previous lack of management resulting in the larches in particular growing tall, to reach the light, whilst still having a small root-ball – they are basically "unstable". The effect of taking out some of the trees is to expose the trees that are left to any high winds. It is also likely that storm "Doris" weakened some of the trees which is probably why they have come down since. We have taken a number of trees out that had obvious signs of the root ball moving and would have fallen at some stage.

I believe we should take some advice on the best plan of action and I have already started to ask some of the appropriate people. The option to take out all of the larch trees would be very drastic and may generate some adverse comments from visitors to the wood. It would probably be more acceptable to take out the larch trees an area at a time and replant, section by section. This work could be carried out by the Volunteer Group, but there is an issue of extracting the cut timber from the wood; a contractor would have the equipment to do this.

**John Macdonald (April 2017)**