

Heritage Progress Report.

July 2017.

1. **Volunteer Group**

Coleorton Wood.

We have had only two work sessions since the last meeting in May and these have been spent strimming and raking off a number of areas, some to make sure the paths are clear. We have also sorted some of the cut timber from the fallen trees which we will be using to make rest benches (benches without a back) for LCC at Snibston.

The Group is investigating the purchase of equipment which will allow us to manufacture cut timber (planks) from the fallen or cut trees, thus making this wood more useful.

New Lount Reserve.

We have spent some time repairing areas of the perimeter fencing. We have strimmed and raked off a number of areas mainly beside paths and the picnic areas. We have added wire mesh to the small boardwalk beside the top pond to improve safety in wet weather. We have also cleared the areas of Ragwort, which has grown very well this year (this is a controlled plant).

The Workshop Group has completed the manufacture of a number of wooden mushrooms and we have started to manufacture the rest benches for LCC at Snibston. We have completed the manufacture of the marker posts for New Lount and some of these have been installed on-site.

Group Plant Sales. The Volunteer Group's two plant sales were held in May and raised over £800. The events were well attended despite the appalling weather, it rained!

2. **Newbold Heritage Group.**

The New Lount Colliery Heritage Trail was officially opened on Saturday 13th May by Charlie Beresford an ex-collier from New Lount Colliery. The event was extremely well attended and there has since been a great interest in the heritage trail; all the feedback has been extremely positive. I have entered this Project into the Rural Community Council's 2017 Awards, in the Community Engagement category.

3. **List of Local Heritage Assets.**

NWLDC are inviting nominations for local heritage assets, which are currently not included in Historic England's listings. I have asked the Coleorton Heritage Group if they intend to submit any nominations, but at the time of writing have not received a response.

4. **War Memorial Cleaning/Restoration.**

I have now submitted a "pre-application" to the War Memorials Trust on the basis that the Parish Council will accept the Barham Stone Ltd's quotation for this work. If this pre-application is accepted then we will be asked to make an official application for funding support for the project, which could be up to 75% of the costs.

We are looking for the project to be carried out in two phases:-

Phase 1 will be to have the war memorial cleaned and the lettering inspected to assess what re-cutting is required – Cost £800 + VAT

Phase 2 would be to get the necessary letters re-cut – The maximum Cost for this is £1,520 + VAT

The WMT have indicated that they will accept this project as a two phase project and would be able to assist with funding for both phases up to a level of 75% of the costs.

It is targeted to have the project complete by the end of 2017.

5. **Ashby Museum.**

The display on "A Brief History of St Mary's Church" is due to be changed in August to "Childhood in Coleorton (1920 – 1990)", although I am struggling to find suitable material for this theme. This display will be changed in September to feature Coleorton in WW1.

6. **Replanting the Post Office Field.**

Angus Hancock has submitted a report to the Parish Council in the form of a letter. As a result I am investigating the costs involved with training for removing wind thrown trees with chainsaws.

Cost per trainee would be £295 +VAT for the training (2 day course)

Assessment is £105 + £32 registration – there is no VAT on these charges.

Total per trainee = £432. (Plus VAT on training)

The major problem with such training is finding the opportunity to train with wind thrown trees – you need to have such a situation to do both the training and assessment. Park Hill Training would be prepared to carry out this training at Coleorton Wood.

I am also investigating the possibility of using a risk assessment approach to these issues.

It will be useful to revise the management plan sometime later in the year so that the volunteer group can focus on targeted work.

7. **Millennium Garden.**

I have sprayed the Millennium Garden although the continued dry weather after the treatment reduced the effect of the herbicide. The main issue was moss between the brickwork of the path, some of which I have removed manually. The garden requires to be maintained on a regular basis and as it is a small garden this should be easily possible. Such things as moss in the brickwork and a small number of other weeds do not really need to be sprayed; they can easily be removed as they develop. Whilst maintaining the path brickwork the lady who owns the field behind the garden suggested that they would be pleased to look after the garden, something which could be considered?

8. **Viscount Beaumont School.**

We have had a number of emails from Louise Drummond who is running the sessions with the school children and there should be no specific issues with the school using the wood for the purposes she has outlined. I have pointed out that the wood is open to the public on a daily basis so anything left in the wood could well be interfered with. It would be very good to have the children using the wood and I have offered to help in any way we can.

9. **Notice Boards.**

Can I suggest that someone from the Parish Council takes a look at all of the parish notice boards? Two in particular are in a very poor state, Beaumont Green and The Moorlands, and possibly need replacing; some of the wood is rotting. There is an issue of people using staples to fix posters to the boards, which do not get removed, making the addition of further notices difficult.

John Macdonald (July 2017)