

Heritage Wardens' Progress Report.

March 2014.

1. Local Volunteer Group

Coleorton Wood.

The group have continued with the coppicing and thinning of shrubs along the rides in keeping with the management plan, which is now up to date. We have also removed the posts from the car park as required by the WIG plan. The group has also spent some time checking the wood for fallen trees and other obstructions due to the recent high winds.

2. New Lount Reserve.

The group has continued to thin and crown-lift the mixed woodland at the front of the site, near the Melbourne Road, which is now complete. We have now cleaned and replaced all of the bird nesting boxes ready for the spring. Around 90% of the nesting boxes had been used in the 2013 season.

The group has spent some sessions working at Snibston Country Park to assist the Country Park Rangers with a boardwalk project which had to be completed by the end of February.

The workshop sessions continued with the reconditioning of the large notice board, but most of these sessions have been assisting the Rangers at Snibston Country Park.

3. Social Events.

The Group held its AGM on Saturday 8th February at 7.00p.m. at The Beaumont Centre. This was followed by a Social Evening of Bingo and Refreshments and was very well attended.

2. War memorial Project.

Ashby Museum estimate that the printing for the WW1 Project Book will be in the region of £6,000 for 1,000 books. The Ashby Group now has a list of groups and organisations that it will approach to raise the necessary funds to print the required number of books. This list includes all the Parish Councils that are covered in the book - Ashby (and Blackfordby) Town Council, Appleby, Breedon, Coleorton, Packington, Ravenstone and Staunton Harold. The group has opened a Bank Account at The Nationwide to manage these funds. The group is still investigating where the profits from the sale of these books will go to. The two national charities, British Legion and Help for Hero's, have been deemed unsuitable as the funds will not go direct to local causes.

3. War Memorial and 100 Years commemorations?

Following discussion with a number of contacts I am now investigating having the black lettering on the war memorial re-instated, as it would appear that funds could be available for this project; it will include cleaning of the war memorial. I wondered if the Parish Council intends to have any special event in commemoration of 100 years since the start of WW1.

Trevor Stewart's Books.

All three books are on sale at the Post Office and Redhall Garage and the History book, in particular is selling extremely well. I am looking at advertising these books to a wider audience to help maintain the sales.

John Macdonald (March 2014)