

Heritage Progress Report.

April 2015.

1. Volunteer Group

Coleorton Wood.

The group has now completed the habitat management work required in the management plan for 2014-15. The group has cleared the old hedgerow on one side of the Post Office Field and replanted a new Hawthorn Hedge. Angus Hancock supplied the whips, guards and canes, and it is assumed these will be charged to the Parish Council. The group has also cleared the car park of the brash and waste left by the thinning contractors. The group has a work programme for the spring/summer period.

New Lount Reserve.

The group has devoted all of its time to thinning a very large area of planted woodland towards the top of the old pit bank. This work has progressed extremely well and we have been burning off some of the waste as we progressed. Through the National Forest the group also had a complete days work at New Lount with over fifty volunteers from Lex Leasing Limited as part of their "Community Volunteering Programme". This helped to extend the work we were able to complete in this woodland area. We will be working out a programme of work for the spring/summer period with the LCC Country Park Rangers.

The workshop sessions have completed one of the two additional picnic tables and is close to completing the second. We will install two of the picnic tables and the two additional bench seats (already produced) hopefully before the Parish Council meeting. The remaining two picnic tables will be installed as soon as we can in April. We have also manufactured a special Kestrel nesting box to be mounted on a tall post at New Lount Reserve.

2. National Forest visit to Coleorton Wood.

The National Forest has organised a visit to Coleorton Wood by other volunteer groups in the National Forest on Tuesday 21st April, starting at 10.00a.m. This visit is being hosted by the Volunteer Group and we will be explaining to the visitors what work has been carried out and what we have planned for the wood. I idea is to exchange information between groups in the National Forest. Posters will be put up in the village inviting local people to attend.

3. St Mary's Graveyard Audit

Trevor Stewart and I have carried out an audit of St Mary's Church graveyard, which we have reviewed against a previous audit. We have started to uncover some of the "hidden" graves, but it will take a great deal of work to tidy up the complete graveyard.

4. Ashby Museum.

The display to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WW1 will be taken down in April and will be replaced by a display on "Coleorton Pottery". I have now almost completed cataloguing John Crocker's collection on Coleorton and the Beaumonts. Trevor Stewart is utilising some of this material to write a further history book which he is hoping to have printed in May.

5. Chainsaw and Hedge Cutter.

We agreed that the following equipment would be most suitable for the work which the group will be required to carry out:-

Stihl MS241C-M Chainsaw – this is identical to the one we already have. £420.00 + VAT = £504.00

Stihl HS81RC-E Hedge Trimmer – this is a semi-professional trimmer and will tackle all of the heavier work we will have. We found this model on special offer. £332.50 + VAT = £399.00

Total cost = £903.00.

We have applied to NWLDC for a “One-Off Grant” of £451.50 (50%) and have anticipated the match funding of £451.50 from the Parish Council as agreed at the last meeting. It is essential under the terms of the grant that this equipment is actually purchased by the Volunteer Group, which is why we have had to include the VAT. We are expecting to hear from NWLDC in early April if we have been successful.

6. **Lount Pottery Boards.**

After such a prolonged period Robert Smith does not wish to continue with the design and installation of these boards so I have asked Trevor Stewart, who has recently written a book on the History of Coleorton Pottery, to assist me in designing these boards. I could do with knowing who the contact is at Bellway Homes and also how much money is allocated for these two boards.

I understand that one of the boards could relate to “the flora and fauna of the area”; if this is the case we would need to know what is actually expected of this board so that we can discuss the possible content with the appropriate people.

7. **Fallen Trees at Coleorton Wood.**

The recent strong winds have brought down eight large trees, six of which came down across the central ride, completely blocking it. We have removed these and cleared the ride and will deal with the waste at a later date. There is one tree which has been uprooted, but is propped up by two other trees. This tree is off the ride and would fall away from the ride should it come down in more strong winds. We will take this tree down at a later date as it will require careful handling to bring it down safely.

This problem of falling trees in high winds may be an ongoing problem post the thinning of this area of the wood. We will need to monitor the situation and consider if there is a safety issue in this area of the wood.

John Macdonald (April 2015)