

Heritage Progress Report.

May 2015.

1. Volunteer Group

Coleorton Wood.

The group has now started on the work for the spring/summer period. All four of the new picnic tables have now been installed in the picnic area and two additional bench seats have also been installed. The group has started tidying up the trees that have fallen in the Post Office Field and has also cleared the majority of stumps which remained in the shrub areas.

New Lount Reserve.

The group has now stopped the woodland thinning work and has spent some time just making sure this large area is tidy. The group has started on the spring/summer work which has included clearing the concrete area near the car park of mud. We have also installed a kestrel nesting box at the top of large telegraph pole which has been installed near the top of the pit bank. Work has also been carried out on the bird feeding station to try and make the feeders more secure (See report below). Work has also started on completing the small boardwalk near the top pond.

The workshop sessions have completed the two additional picnic tables. They have also manufactured a very large flower planter to be located at the A512 end of Lower Moor Road.

2. National Forest visit to Coleorton Wood.

The National Forest visit to Coleorton Wood by other volunteer groups in the National Forest on Tuesday 21st April, went ahead as planned and was both well attended and appreciated by those who attended. The Volunteer Group explained the work that has been going on in the wood over the last few years and was able to show the visitors the progress being made.

3. St Mary's Graveyard Audit

This work has not progressed since the last meeting.

4. Ashby Museum.

The display on "Coleorton Pottery" has yet to be set up in the museum.

5. Chainsaw and Hedge Cutter.

The group has received the £451.50 grant from NWLDC and has purchase the two powered tools from Massey's of Swadlincote. The Parish Council's agreed 50% funding of £451.50 needs to be paid into the Group's bank account.

6. Lount Pottery Boards.

Trevor Stewart and myself have rearranged our meeting with Nick Wilkins of Bellway Homes for Tuesday 19th May (the original meeting was cancelled through illness). Once this meeting has taken place we should be able to progress this project reasonably rapidly. I understand the money available for these two boards is £3,212.10 and I assume this money is the cover the cost of designing the boards, printing the boards, the structures that the boards will be in and the installation of the two boards? Does any of the money need to be retained for ongoing maintenance of the boards?

7. Fallen Trees at Coleorton Wood.

The fallen trees have been removed from the rides and we intend to recover some of the timber with a view of "making something useful" from it. We will consider what action, if any, is required to the tree which is only partially fallen. 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.

8. **Bird Feeders at both Sites.**

We are experiencing problems at both sites with the bird feeders being stolen. I purchased two new bird feeders for Coleorton Wood back in March 2015 (cost £22.98) and before I have had the opportunity to recover this money from the Parish Council the feeders have already been stolen. Following this second theft I have stopped the bird feeding at Coleorton Wood. We have experienced similar problems at New Lount Reserve and are now looking at ways to make these feeders more secure.

There is great value to feeding the birds at New Lount as they can be easily seen from the car park and picnic tables and the feeders are attracting a large range of birds throughout the year. It has also become a site attraction in that several people will spend time watching the birds at the feeding station. For these reasons we will try and secure the feeders at New Lount so that we can continue to feed the birds. Unfortunately Coleorton Wood does not attract a particularly interesting variety of birds and to my knowledge nobody is watching these birds, although we have now moved the old picnic tables in front of the bird feeding station.

Can I suggest that we stop feeding birds at Coleorton Wood until such time as we can be sure that the feeders are much more secure?

John Macdonald (May 2015)