

COLEORTON & NEW LOUNT VOLUNTEER GROUP.



April Update.

1. The work programme for the next three months has now been agreed and the dates are as follows:-

April

Tuesday 5th April Lount NR
Saturday 9th April Lount NR
Tuesday 19th April Coleorton Wood
Saturday 23rd April Coleorton Wood

May

Tuesday 3rd May Coleorton Wood
Saturday 7th May Lount NR
Tuesday 17th May Lount NR
Saturday 21st May Lount NR
Tuesday 31st May Coleorton Wood

June

Saturday 4th June Coleorton Wood
Tuesday 14th June Lount NR
Saturday 18th June Coleorton Wood

2. Nesting Boxes. A small number of additional nesting boxes have been installed at both Coleorton Wood and New Lount Reserve.
3. Members of the group will be monitoring the birds at both sites throughout the spring and summer and would welcome any interesting observations that individuals may record during these periods:- contact the Heritage Wardens at heritagewarden@coleorton.org.uk
4. Management Committee
The Management Committee for the group is as follows:-

Chairman: John Macdonald
Treasurer: Jane Elson
Secretary: Brian Bartram
Operations: Mick Specht

5. Monitoring of Species at the two Sites.

A number of wildlife organisations and individuals have expressed an interest in assisting the Volunteer Group to monitor the species at both sites, and the group will be working with these groups and individuals to focus its conservation work so that suitable habitats are maintained to support existing species, and where possible, attract new species. The groups and individuals are also assisting the Volunteer Group by offering advice on their specific species groups. These groups include:-

LCC Environmental Resource Centre, Holly Hayes, Birstall, (link =

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/naturalenvironment/hollyhayes.htm>)

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. (link = <http://www.lrwat.org.uk/>)

Loughborough Naturalists. (link = <http://loughboroughnats.org.uk/>)

Leicestershire & Rutland Dragonfly Group (link = <http://www.lrdg.org.uk/>)

Leicestershire Fungi Study Group (link = <http://www.leicsfungi.btik.com/>)

Leicestershire & Rutland Moth Group (link =

<http://www.rutnet.co.uk/pp/club/detail.asp?id=1096>)

These groups will be surveying the sites throughout the summer period and we are hoping to be able to report all interesting results from these surveys. The group is very thankful to these groups and individuals for their support.

6. Fundraising.

The group held its first fundraising event at the Swannington Table Top Sale on Saturday 19th March, which was very successful. The next fundraising event will be:-

A Quiz Night to be held on Monday 9th May at the Kings Arms, Coleorton starting at 7.30p.m.

Tickets are only £5 per person and include a light supper. Please do support the group and help to maintain our local wildlife heritage. Further details from the Heritage Wardens.

Other fundraising events include:-

A Ceilidh Evening in Newbold on Friday 22nd July.

A Teddy Bears' Picnic on Sunday 14th August.

7. Progress at Coleorton Wood.

Since the last report the area around the car park has now been cleared this enables visitors to be able to see into the wood; the group will manage the shrubs as they re-grow.

No additional work has been carried out in the area of the pond, although it is planned to enlarge one end of it. The feed of water to the pond needs to be investigated as the supply is unreliable. Replacing the fence around the pond will require additional funds before it can be completed.

We have completed laying a hedge which is surrounded by woodland, which has created an additional walk through the wood and allows visitors additional access to this part of the wood.

The group will be working on clearing all of the remaining tree protectors; this will significantly tidy up the woodland areas.

The open area in the wood immediately above the pond has been strimmed to encourage a grassland habitat, and a path has been created from this clearing to the pond.

The group has a programme of work for Coleorton Wood for the next six months and will report progress against this plan.

8. Progress at New Lount Reserve.

The area around the entrance of the reserve has had some clearing so the entrance is tidier and more obvious. It is planned to paint the gates and fences in this area. The large grassland area on the site has also been cleared to take out saplings and retain the short

grassland habitat which contains some very rare fungal species. A large area, which is below the ponds, has also been cleared to create an open space; this space will be managed as a clearing in the surrounding woodland.

The smallest of the top three ponds has had about one third of the reeds removed to create a clear area of water. There is still more that needs to be cleared out of this pond, but it will now need to wait until the autumn to carry out this work. The group has built a boardwalk around one side of this pond, where the path is so thick with mud it is impassable in normal footwear. The group still has the task of removing the reeds that have been taken out of the pond; this task will also give better access to the pond.

9. Training.

Members of the group have been supplied with training through the VIP Scheme. This training includes strimmer and brush cutter training as well as first aid training. On site training is also being received from the LCC Country Park Rangers.

10. Logo Competition.

The children of Viscount Beaumont School have taken part in a competition run by the group to find a group logo. The results of this competition were:-

Winner:- Tom Raffle.

Second place:- Edward Burrows

Third place:- Cameron Haley.

The winners were presented with their prizes at Viscount Beaumont School on Friday 25th March. The group are very thankful to both the school and all the children; the standard was very high.

This is Tom's winning logo:-



11. National Forest.

The success of the group has been recently recognised when the group was asked to make a small presentation to the National Forest at their forum held at Conkers on Thursday 31st March 2011. We were able to talk to a large group of influential people on the success that

the group has achieved – well done to all members!

12. Anyone wishing to either comment on the group, or indeed join the group should contact the Heritage Wardens at heritagewarden@coleorton.org.uk