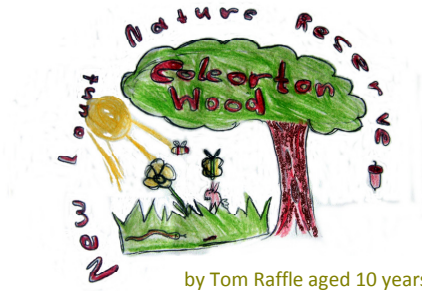


**COLEORTON & NEW LOUNT VOLUNTEER GROUP.**



**September Update.**

The work programme for October to December has now been released and the dates are as follows:-

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October – New Lount – Ranger Day**  
**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Coleorton Wood – Ranger Day**  
**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day**  
**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – New Lount – Non-Ranger Day**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November – New Lount – Non-Ranger Day**  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Coleorton Wood – Ranger Day**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November – Coleorton Wood - Ranger Day**  
**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November – New Lount – Non-Ranger Day**

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> December – New Lount – Non-Ranger Day**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Coleorton Wood – Ranger Day**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December – New Lount – Christmas Work Session/Party**

We are hoping that the Rangers will be able to assist us more over this period as this is the time of year when we can restart the woodland management work and there is a great deal of it to do at both sites. We are intending to publish a programme of the work that we expect to carryout at each of these sessions which will give members a better idea of what work is scheduled for each session, as well as making it better for the committee to ensure that the right equipment is available.

We will need as many people as possible at these sessions so if you are able to spare the time please do come along.

**1. Management Committee**

The Management Committee for the group continues to be as follows:-

Chairman: John Macdonald

Treasurer: Jane Elson

Secretary: Brian Bartram

Operations: Mick Spech

With the growing demands on the group, and in particular the committee, we would like to see more people on our Management Committee, so if you are able to assist the committee in any way please do let us know.

2. **Monitoring of Species at the two Sites.**

Neill Talbot of LRWT carried out a survey at New Lount in July and recorded a large number of species, both flora and fauna; we are very grateful to Neill for this information.

The weather has been particularly difficult this year especially for surveys.

The Bat Walk also doubled as a survey and despite the weather we were able to record 4 different species of bats.

Despite several surveys to spot the Dingy Skipper butterfly it has not been recorded this year.

3. **Progress at Coleorton Wood.**

The LCC Rangers have started to replace the fence around the pond. All the materials have been source for this project and it will be completed as soon as the pond has been dug out. It is hoped to get the pond dug-out by the end of this month.

The group has cleared an area near the car park for a bird feeding station to be incorporated into the wood. The project will be phased as it is hoped that the screens will be built by the group in the autumn when the materials will be available.

The very dry weather has resulted in the pond drying out completely, although toads had been recorded before this occurred, and have been recorded in the wood in recent weeks. A number of other walks through the woodland areas have also been created to encourage visitors to walk through these areas.

Most of the open areas have been strimmed and raked over as part of the preparation for the Teddy Bears' Picnic event in August. The path edges will also be strimmed and raked off as part of the habitat management of these areas.

The notice board has had a door fitted so that notices can be changed more easily.

4. **Progress at New Lount Reserve.**

The entrance to the site is now complete.

Ragwort removal has taken up most of the time in the work sessions and has now been completed and the weed disposed of through burning it. Those who have taken part in this work are to be congratulated on all the hard work that it took to clear all the ragwort.

Unfortunately the group will have to repeat this work again next year as Ragwort is a biennial species.

The area for the bird feeding station has been cleared and it will be phased in the same way as the project at Coleorton Wood. It is hoped to put some bird feeders up at New Lount before the end of September as a first stage in this project. A new Notice Board has been made by the group and has been installed at the site. The group has also started work on a large wooden bench-seat that should be completed this month.

The re-survey of the site is progressing, but it has taken significantly longer than anticipated. The initial site survey was carried out in 2000 and the habitats have drastically changed since this time. This has meant that the whole site needs to be completely surveyed, which is taking a very long time to complete. We are hoping that the re-surveying will be completed by the end of September and we will then be able to start to draw up a five year management plan for the site.

With the very dry weather that we have had all of the ponds have lost a great deal of water,

which is very apparent. The large pond on the top has some of the support posts actually out of the water (in the air) and these will require to be properly secured to the base of the pond.

The large open area had become almost completely overgrown with birch saplings and Rose Bay Willow herb. The area has now been strimmed and raked off although the birch saplings have been untouched as it is hoped to spray these so that we do not get re-growth in the spring.



Peacock butterfly on Spear Thistle. Note the ladybird to the right; they are to be found everywhere this year.

##### **5. Bat Walk & BBQ.**

This event was very successful and was over-subscribed; all 50 places were filled. The weather was not really suitable as it was too windy; however despite this a number of bats were both spotted and detected. We were also able to record bat echolocation calls which were later analysed and the following bats were identified:-

Common Pipistrelle.

Soprano Pipistrelle.

Myotis species possibly - Daubenton's Bat.

Noctule Bat.

The group would like to thank the Rangers for all their assistance with this event, both in cooking the BBQ and in taking the two groups on the bat walk.

6. Membership. We are actively looking to increase the membership of the group so that we have a larger pool to support the work. A number of new recruits have joined the group recently and we would like to see more volunteers joining. The work sessions are enjoyable and we make every effort to enjoy the time we spend at the two sites. If you would like to join us, or comment on the group, do contact [coleorton11@gmail.com](mailto:coleorton11@gmail.com)