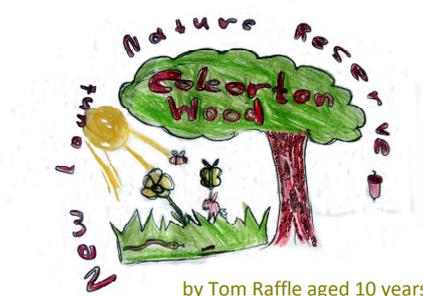


## COLEORTON & NEW LOUNT VOLUNTEER GROUP



### OCTOBER UPDATE

The work programme for October to December is 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 is now as follows:-

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

Social and Fundraising: Madeline McCormick.

With the growing demands on the group, and in particular the committee, we are pleased to welcome Madeline McCormick to the management committee. We have now reorganised the structure of the committee as follows:-

Social & Fund Raising will be organised by:-  
Jane Elson,  
Madeline McCormick and  
Vera Macdonald.

Woodland Management will be organised by:-  
John Macdonald  
Brian Bartram  
Mick Specht  
And LCC Rangers.

We have a very active programme for the autumn and winter so if you are able to assist the committee in any way please let us know.

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

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

The Leicestershire Fungi Study Group has carried out a provisional survey of Coleorton Wood and again, due to the dry spring and summer there were few species available. The Fungi Group does however consider that the wood has great potential and will attempt to re-survey in November if possible.

The Fungi Group will survey New Lount Reserve on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November; any members of the Volunteer Group are welcome to join them for the morning – meet in the car park at 10.00a.m.

As part of the habitat survey for the five year management plan for New Lount Reserve, Michael Hopkins has recorded a number of species as well.



The Fly Agaric fungus recorded at New Lount Reserve.

3. **Progress at Coleorton Wood.**

The pond has now been dug out; the work was organised by the LCC Rangers. The Volunteer group are now working at clearing the ditch which feeds the pond and have completed about half of the distance required to be cleared. It will now be possible to replace the fence around the pond.

The group has cleared an area near the car park for a bird feeding station, although further work is required to make the area large enough to locate bird feeders. It is proposed to put up some temporary feeders. The group has applied to NWLDC for funding to install a wire pulley system at both sites as a permanent method for the bird feeding stations. Screens for the bird feeding station will be made by the group during November and December.

The LCC Rangers have ordered 1000 Bluebell bulbs, which we are hoping to plant in the wood, although some tree clearance is required before the bulbs can be planted.

The group has also been crown topping in the Post Office Field and this work will continue throughout the autumn and winter.

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 and the path edges have been strimmed and raked over. This work will need to be completed in the autumn.

The Interpretation board is being refurbished and Helene Towers has been kind enough to redraw the plan of the site. It is hoped to install this board during November.

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

A temporary bird feeding station has been created near to the picnic benches in the car park area. After a few days the birds have now started to feed from the feeders and it is possible to sit on the benches and watch the birds feeding. As mentioned above, it is intended to make some screens for this area, and this work should start in November. If we obtain funding from NWLDC it will be used to install a wire pulley system at both sites.

The group has almost completed work on a large wooden bench-seat that should be installed during November.

The re-survey of the site is now complete and we are working on producing a revised habitat plan for the site. It is hoped that once we have the detailed habitat plan that we will be able to generate a five year management plan for the site. This plan will obviously need to be agreed by LCC



A male Great Crested Newt recorded at New Lount during the site survey.

Work has started on repairing the wooden supports for the pier at the top large pond and will continue into November. The group attempted to start clearing reeds from the small top pond, but had to abandon the work as the pond was too dry, making the work almost impossible. The Rangers will look at getting this work completed with a mechanical digger. 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 and the birch saplings have now been sprayed to kill them. The dead saplings will be cut back in the spring of 2012. Some of the larger shrubs have now also been removed from this area. A revised programme of work for autumn 2011 and spring 2012 has now been agreed. There are a lot of very interesting projects included in this programme, together with a substantial amount of woodland management.

**5. Interpretation Boards for New Lount Reserve.**

We are hoping that LCC will fund the installation of interpretation boards at New Lount and if we can include heritage information it is possible that we may get like-for-like funding from other sources. This work will be set up as a specific project so if you have a particular interest in either the wildlife heritage of the site, or the coal mining heritage of the site, do contact us and get involved in this very interesting project. [coleorton11@gmail.com](mailto:coleorton11@gmail.com)

**6. Social and Fund Raising Programme.**

The Social & Fund Raising group has put together an extensive, and interesting programme of events; the nearest forthcoming ones are:-

**A Beer & Skittles Evening** at Hugglescote WMC on THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER. The cost will be £8.50 per person and will include a supper. Please come along and enjoy the evening; contact:- [coleorton11@gmail.com](mailto:coleorton11@gmail.com)

**Christmas Wreaths.** This is an opportunity for you to make your own Christmas Wreath. All materials will be supplied together with mulled wine and mince pies. It is being organised at Snibston Discovery Park, Coalville on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 7.00p.m.

**Christmas Carols.** The group will be breaking into song on FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER. We have two options for this event; one to visit the pubs and sing carols to the unsuspecting punters, or to hold the event at Coleorton Wood. Whichever is decided I am sure a great time will be had by all – should be more mulled wine and mince pie.

**7. The Group AGM.**

We will be holding the group's 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM on SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012 and it will start at 10.00a.m. The AGM will only be part of this event as we intend to have displays showing the progress that the group has made over its first year. We will also be serving refreshments so it will be more of a social event. Please put the date in your diary as it is important that as many people as possible attend.

**8. Membership.**

We have devised a very full work programme for both Coleorton Wood and New Lount Reserve and we would like 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. We have introduced a "12 o'clock Break" to the work sessions and some of these include FREE hot food. We really do want you to enjoy being a volunteer. If you would like to join us, or comment on the group, do contact [coleorton11@gmail.com](mailto:coleorton11@gmail.com)