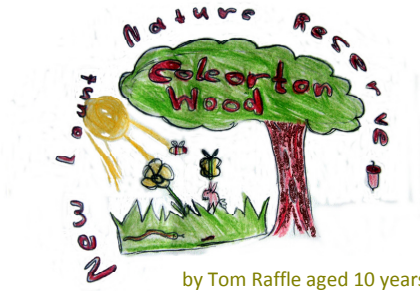


COLEORTON & NEW LOUNT VOLUNTEER GROUP



NOVEMBER UPDATE.

The work programme for December is as follows:-

Sat 3rd December – New Lount – Non-Ranger Day

Wednesday 14th December – Coleorton Wood – Ranger Day

Saturday 17th December – New Lount – Christmas Work Session/Party

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 carry out 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.

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 surveyed New Lount Reserve on Sunday 6th November; this turned out to be “the group’s most productive foray for this season and as varied and interesting as any previous list made at New Lount”. I will add a separate report for this survey with some photographs.

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.

Unfortunately the weather has not been conducive for surveys and a lot less have been carried out this season. We are hoping to get a full report from our own group member, Angela Dixon, on the birds that she has recorded at Coleorton Wood and possibly New Lount.



Sparrowhawk – a pair nested in Coleorton Wood this season.

3. **Progress at Coleorton Wood.**

The pond has now been dug out; the work was organised by the LCC Rangers. The Volunteer group have continued clearing the ditch which feeds the pond and have completed about two thirds of the distance required to be cleared. It will now be possible to replace the fence around the pond, which is included in the work programme.

The area near the car park, designated for a bird feeding station has now been cleared and is ready for some temporary bird feeders to be suspended from the trees.

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 stations will be made by the group during December and January.

The area designated for the planting of 1000 Bluebell bulbs has now been cleared and it is hoped to plant the bulbs during December; the LCC Rangers have supplied the bulbs

The group has continued the work of crown topping in the Post Office Field and a very large area has now been completed. Most of the waste material has also been burnt.

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

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

The temporary bird feeding station is being well utilised and will be completed with a pulley

system for the feeders should NWLDC award the group a grant to carry out the work. It is intended to make some screens for this area, and this work should start in December. The group has almost completed work on a large wooden bench-seat that should be installed during December.

The re-survey of the site is now complete and a revised habitat plan has been drawn up. The next stage is to generate a five year management plan for the site. This plan needs to be agreed by LCC.



Open grassland at the top of the Pit Bank

Work has started on repairing the wooden supports for the pier at the top large pond and will continue into December if the weather permits.

A small planted woodland area just above the large top pond has been thinned and crown topping has also been carried out. Most of the waste has now been removed mainly by burning. There is a small part of this area that needs to be completed and this work will be carried out in December.

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 provided the industrial heritage of the site is included it is possible that like-for-like funding may be available from another source. 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

We have made contact with a gentleman whose grandfather was responsible for clearing the New Lount site in readiness to sink the shafts for the colliery in 1924, and fortunately he had photographs of this work.

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

A Beer & Skittles Evening at Hugglescote WMC on THURSDAY 24th NOVEMBER. This was another successful social event that was well attended and enjoyed by all. The event also raised over £150 for the evening. Well done all who helped to make it such a successful event.

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 12th December from 7.00p.m.

Christmas Carols. The group will be breaking into song on FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER. We have now decided on the option to visit the pubs and sing carols to the unsuspecting punters. Starting at the New Inn, we then progress to the Angel and then take the final curtain call at The Kings Arms. Do come along if you enjoy either carols or going to pubs.

7. **The Group AGM.**

We will be holding the group's 2nd AGM on SATURDAY 28th JANUARY 2012 and it will start at 10.00a.m. and will be held at The Beaumont Centre, Peggs Green. 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, which will make it 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