

COLEORTON & NEW LOUNT VOLUNTEER GROUP.



JUNE UPDATE.

The work programme for JULY - SEPTEMBER is as follows:-

Tuesday 10th July - Coleorton Wood - Non-Ranger Day
Saturday 14th July – Coleorton Wood – Non- Ranger Day
Tuesday 24th July– New Lount – Ranger Day
Saturday 28th July – New Lount - Ranger Day

Tuesday 7th August – Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day
Saturday 11th August – New Lount - Ranger Day
Tuesday 21st August – New Lount - Ranger Day
Saturday 25th August – Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day

Tuesday 4th September – New Lount - Ranger day
Saturday 8th September – Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day
Tuesday 18th September – Coleorton Wood- Non-Ranger Day
Saturday 22nd September – New Lount - Ranger Day

Now that summer has arrived (it's only the weather that hasn't been told) the work will be mainly maintenance type work and not the woodland management work which has been possible through the winter period. Coleorton Parish Council are in the process of developing a management plan for the wood, but this will take some months, which means we may well not have specific work available at Coleorton Wood. If this is the case we will move the sessions to New Lount where there is more available work. We can also look at workshop sessions as there are a number of projects which can best be carried out in the workshop.

1. Management Committee

Chairman: John Macdonald

Treasurer: Jane Elson

Secretary: Brian Bartram

Operations: Mick Specht

Social and Fundraising: Madeline McCormick.

2.

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.

3. **Progress at Coleorton Wood.**

Progress with development of the 5 year management plan is slow as the Parish Council has a number of administrative things to complete before the contractor can start work on developing the plan. Unfortunately these things always take longer than anticipated so we will need to be patient. Hopefully everything will be available for the autumn when woodland management will be commenced.



The new fence in front of the pond.

Since the last report we have only had one work session at Coleorton Wood in which the following work was completed:-

Wood treatment of the fence in front of the pond was completed and the notice board was also treated at the same time. There was a number trees that had been blown over by the heavy winds and these were made safe by ensuring they were all grounded. There are one or two fallen trees that need to be cut up, but this work requires power tools so will have to be done by a contractor. The ditch feeding into the pond had become partially blocked, as had the overflow from the pond, and both of these were cleared.

The bird feeding station has been set up with the wire and hooks in place. We also have the storage bin for the bird food and this will be installed during the remainder of June. We will then obtain some feeders and bird food and start the feeding station possibly during July. The making of hazel screens will now need to wait until autumn when the material becomes available.

The Bluebell bulbs have flowered and looked very promising. We will need to monitor how they progress and look at planting more next year.

One of the owl nesting boxes that the group helped to erect last year has been used by a pair of Tawny Owls and it has been confirmed that they have produced at least two chicks.



One of the owlets in the nesting box. (This one has been named "Colin")

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

The temporary bird feeding station is being very well utilised by a wide range of birds and is attracting positive comments from visitors to the site. The plan for the bird feeding stations has been changed and we are now installing bird feed storage bins so that a rota can be set up for filling up the bird feeders. The storage bin for New Lount has been installed and we will set up a feeding rota during July.

The group has also completed the snake nesting pit, which we hope will encourage the snake population on the site. We will monitor the progress with this pit.



The completed snake nesting pit.

Some of the trees that were overhanging the main paths have been removed for safety reason.

We have also started to remove the tree guards that are scattered across the very large acreage of planted woodland. This work will continue through the summer period.

The work with the LCC Rangers to draw up the management plan is progressing well; it is

hoped to have a draft plan in July. The plan will give the group a clearer understanding of the work to be completed over the winter period.

The two glade areas that have recently been cleared are showing significant improvement in the range of ground vegetation and will need to be managed over the summer/autumn period.

5. **Social and Fund Raising Programme.**

Unfortunately we had to cancel the Bat Night scheduled for the 19th May as the weather was too cold and too wet. We have a further Bat Night scheduled for Friday 7th September.

We also withdrew from the Open Gardens part of the Jubilee celebrations as we were unable to encourage enough owners to open their gardens.

Forthcoming Events:-

Friday 7th September Bat Walk & BBQ

Lount Nature Reserve, we will have a BBQ followed by a walk listening /looking for bats. Time and cost to be confirmed

Other Events include:-

Wednesday 10th October, another Quiz Night at the Cross Keys, Newbold

Saturday 3rd November, A Ceilidh Night at Swannington Village Hall. – Details will be issued nearer these events.

6. **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