

## COLEORTON & NEW LOUNT VOLUNTEER GROUP.



### OCTOBER UPDATE.

The work programme for OCTOBER - DECEMBER is as follows:-

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Coleorton Wood - Non-Ranger Day**  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October – New Lount – Ranger Day**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October– New Lount – Ranger Day**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October– Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day**  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – New Lount - Ranger Day**  
**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November – New Lount - Ranger Day**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November – New Lount - Ranger day**  
**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December– Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day**  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Coleorton Wood- Non-Ranger Day**  
**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December – New Lount - Ranger Day**

We have now moved into the winter period where we can focus our attention on the conservation work – woodland management – grassland management and pond management. There is a lot of this work at both sites so we could really do with some good turnouts.

Coleorton Parish Council are in the process of developing a management plan for Coleorton Wood, but this is likely to take some months, so we are hoping to agree a temporary programme of work with the Parish Council as soon as possible.

We have also provisionally booked some workshop sessions as follows:-

Wed 10th October  
Mon 15th October  
Wed 14th November  
Mon 19th November  
Wed 28th November  
Mon 3rd December  
Wed 12 December  
Mon 17th December

These sessions will be held at the Ranger's Workshop at Snibston Discovery Park and we will be making items which are required at both sites:- benches, notice boards, bird tables, bird boxes, etc. These sessions usually start at 9.30a.m. and finish around lunchtime (1.30p.m.)

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.**

The Parish Council have now registered the wood with the Rural Land Register, which opens the pathway to applying for a Forestry Commission, Woodland Planning Grant. Once this grant has been obtained the 5 Year Management Plan can be developed. As this will almost certainly take a few months we are working on a temporary programme of work for the wood.



*Southern Marsh Orchid which flowered again this year.*

There has been limited work that could be carried out during the summer period, and the very wet weather did not make matters any better. We have spent time clearing the overhanging branches from the pathways and around the few benches that are around the

site. We have also removed some of the “dens” that were being erected in the wood; reducing them to habitat piles.

The LCC Rangers have kindly loaned us their strimmers over the summer period which has allowed us to trim and rake off a number of areas and some of the pathways. There is still a lot of strimming to be completed and we will be able to get onto this over the coming months.

The group also cut back the edges and the shrubs in the areas where the “Woodlympics” were held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. We also organised a “Nature Hunt” for this event, but the weather on the day hampered the brave villagers who turned up to support the event. Considering the very wet weather a good number of people supported the Parish Council with the event.

We have started to clear the large area of scrub between the picnic area and the brook, which will create a better line of sight from the picnic area over the fields. This work should be completed in the next two sessions.



*The view which we will be opening up.*

The wet weather has been particularly beneficial for the pond, which has been full to overflowing for the whole of the season. The shrubs around the pond that had been cut back earlier in the year have re-grown and will need to be selectively cut back again. The bird feeding station is now operational with Angela and Sandra keeping the feeders topped up. This will be monitored and we will decide the next stage in its development.

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

The group has spent two sessions clearing Ragwort from the grassland area at the top of the pit bank. The areas that were cleared last year were almost clear of Ragwort this year, which was very encouraging after all the hard work carried out last year.

The group has also cleaned up, and treated with teak oil, the picnic benches in the picnic area near to the car park. This area has also been strimmed twice through the summer and now looks much more inviting.

The group has also spent time clearing the second picnic area, where shrubs and trees have been removed to open up the area. There is still more work to do with this area, cleaning and treating the picnic table, clearing more shrubs and taking out more trees to create a more inviting picnic area.



*The cleaned-up picnic area being enjoyed at a work session.*

The removal of tree guards has continued, but there are still large areas still to be cleared. These areas will now be left until the spring as there is a great deal of conservation work to get started on.

There has also been a lot of strimming carried out throughout the summer, which has been around the car park, along many of the pathways and near the entrance to the site. The Species Rich Grassland area has also been partially strimmed and raked off, with about half of it complete. This area will be completed as soon as possible to ensure that the open habitat is maintained. We are taking the strimmings from this and other areas to the snake pit where we hope it will generate a better environment for nesting snakes (this will be in time for next year's nesting season).



*Strimming in the Species Rich Grassland.*

We have also tidied up the area behind the fence along the main road into the site. There were large piles of woodland rubbish and the area required some thinning; it now looks a lot more presentable as visitors arrive at the site.

The draft 5 Year Management Plan for the site is now complete and is being assessed by independent individuals to ensure that it meets the standards required. The programme of work included in the plan will be started by the group over the next few work sessions. The

Senior Ranger and John Macdonald have surveyed the site and agreed a programme of work for the next three months (This programme includes work within the 5 Year Management Plan). There is a great deal of work which can be carried out and progress will depend on the level of turnouts for each work session (The last two work sessions have been very well attended and a lot of excellent work has been achieved).

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

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September Bat Walk & BBQ**

This event, which was at Lount Nature Reserve, was very well attended, and took place on an ideal evening for detecting and recording bats. All those who attended had a very enjoyable time socialising, and were treated to the opportunity to get close up to a live baby bat. The bat walk itself was very fruitful with many bats being spotted, detected and recorded. Overall we recorded 4 species of bats, which were:-

The Noctule Bat  
Soprano Pipistrelle  
Common Pipistrelle, and  
A Myotis species possible Daubenton's Bat.

These records have been filed with the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre.



A Noctule Bat (photograph borrowed – not taken on the night!)

**Future Events include:-**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Quiz Night at the Cross Keys, Newbold

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, A Ceilidh Night at Swannington Village Hall. – Details will be issued nearer the event.

6. **Survey Group.**

We are targeting to set up a small group of volunteers to carryout species surveys at both Coleorton Wood and New Lount Reserve. The reason for this is to give the group more detailed information about species recorded in each of the habitats on the site, so that we are better informed of what the key species are and how the conservation work we carryout is effecting these species. We will look at supplying training to this small group, so if you are

interested let John Macdonald know.

7. **Membership.**

We have recently carried out a leaflet drop throughout Coleorton, Peggs Green, Griffydham and Newbold. It is hoped that this will raise awareness of the group and help to enlarge the number of volunteers. As mentioned before, we have a great deal of work that can be carried out across the two sites and the more volunteers we have the more of this work we will be able to complete. There will be opportunities during the coming months for volunteers to learn new skills, and we are planning to build new tasks into the work programmes.

The work sessions are enjoyable and we make every effort to benefit from the time we spend during these sessions. 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)