

COLEORTON & NEW LOUNT VOLUNTEER GROUP.



MARCH UPDATE.

The work programme for APRIL to JUNE 2013 is as follows:-

- Tuesday 2nd April - Coleorton Wood - Non-Ranger Day**
Saturday 6th April – New Lount – Ranger Day
Tuesday 16th April– New Lount – Ranger Day
Saturday 20th April– Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day
Tuesday 30th April Coleorton Wood – Non Ranger Day
- Saturday 4th May – New Lount - Ranger Day**
Tuesday 14th May – New Lount - Ranger Day
Saturday 18th May – Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day
Tuesday 28th May – Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day
- Saturday 1st June – New Lount – Ranger Day**
Tuesday 11th June – Coleorton Wood- Non-Ranger Day
Saturday 15th June– New Lount - Ranger Day
Tuesday 25th June – New Lount - Ranger day
Saturday 29th June – Coleorton Wood – Non-Ranger Day

The winter is now hopefully moving into spring which means our period of woodland management is coming to an end. We do now have complete management plans for the two sites, but we will now have to wait until September before we can get back to the habitat management of these plans. We do however have a great deal of “other work” which needs to be done including boardwalks, picnic benches and even more bird boxes to build; the following is the provisional programme for workshop sessions:-

- Wednesday 3rd April**
Monday 8th April
Wednesday 17th April
Monday 22nd April
Wednesday 15th May
Monday 20th May
Monday 3rd June
Wednesday 12th June
Monday 17th June
Wednesday 26th June

These sessions will be held at the Ranger's Workshop at Snibston Discovery Park. 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.

The AGM was held on Friday 1st February at 7.00p.m. in The Beaumont Centre, Peggs Green, and was very well attended. All of the above committee members were re-elected. We will publish the minutes of the AGM as soon as they are available.

3. Progress at Coleorton Wood.

We do now have the complete Management Plan for the wood and to assist the group with the execution of this work the Parish Council have very kindly purchased over £1000.00 of tools and equipment. You will notice that we are now monitoring these tools much more closely than we have previously; it behoves us all to take care of these tools and get the maximum from them.

We have managed to complete a reasonable amount of woodland management in the wood despite not having a management plan to work to. We have also learnt the new skill of constructing "dead hedges" as a means of utilising the brush we cut out. We will need to review where we are on the 5 year plan in the autumn to see where we need to catch up.



Woodland management in part of the wood.

The group has also managed both the flow of water into and out of the pond as well as clearing the area around the pond. We will need to monitor the pond through the summer to see the benefits of our improvements; I will investigate someone carrying out a survey of the pond.



The pond before the area around it was cleared.

We have spent a great deal of our time burning the waste material in the Post Office Field, which has made a significant difference to this area of the wood; it now looks much better.



One of the many bonfire sessions in the Post Office field.

We have made a large number of bird nesting boxes, twelve of which have now been put up in Coleorton Wood. The map locating these nesting boxes has been passed over to Angela Dixon who will monitor them through the nesting period. We have also made a bird table for the smaller wild birds and this has been set up in the bird feeding area.



New bird table in the bird feeding area.

We have also completed much of the preparatory work for the installation of the QEII Fields-in-Trust Plaque, which will be located in the car park and the Royal Oak Sapling will be planted immediately behind the plaque. It is hoped to have all this installed before the Annual Parish Meeting in Coleorton Wood on Saturday 18th May.

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

The group has been able to make more progress at New Lount and the winter season has been remarkably busy. The three glades that the group created last year required strimming and raking off, and all three were completed.



Steve strimming one of the glades.

We have also cleared a number of trees from the area beside the Fen habitat area to encourage further expansion of this habitat.

The group has also removed all of the tall vegetation from the waste mounds in the open concrete area, which we hope will recreate the low growth habitat that these waste mounds previously offered.



The waste mounds with the tall vegetation removed.

The group has also carried out woodland thinning at the Melbourne Road end of the site, as well as tidying up the frontage along the Melbourne Road.

The biggest task through the winter has been building the new path to the bottom of the first set of steps. This has now been completed and was officially opened by Peter Lewis, Chairman of LCC on 9th February.



"The Crew" and Peter Lewis at the opening ceremony.



The completed path before the opening.

Our thanks to Bardon Aggregates for their assistance and our thanks go to The Princes Trust who also helped with the work.

We have put up a large number of bird nesting boxes at New Lount, including two woodpecker boxes. We will monitor these through the season.



Nesting boxes being put up at New Lount.

We have also installed a bird feeding table in the bird feeding area.

The group has started a trial with wild heather plants which have been planted by children from Newbold Coleorton School in the open grassland at the very top of the site. The children joined the group on Tuesday 5th March and enjoyed asking David more questions than he was ever expecting. We, and the children, will monitor these plants to see how they progress through the summer.

5. **Workshop Session.**

The workshop sessions have progressed very well with a large number of bird nesting boxes being manufactured together with the two bird feeding tables. We have recently been given authority by Coleorton Parish Council to manufacture two bench seats for Coleorton Wood, which we will start during March

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

On Friday 1st February, following the AGM we had the Group's first ever Beetle drive. Tea and cakes were provided for the large number of contestants and it turned out to be a very enjoyable, and very competitive evening.

Future Events:-

Wednesday 13th March 2013 – Darts evening with supper at Robin Hood, Swannington.

Tuesday 4th June 2013 – Petanque evening with supper at Kings Arms, Coleorton – full details to follow

21st September 2013 – Table-Top Sale. We are organising this table top sale as a fundraising event and will require as much input from members as possible. Can you please start saving bric-a-brac, books, etc for this event and please ask other organisation that you are connected with to see if they would like to book a table.

Saturday 5th October 2013 – Dance with Derbyshire Ranters and Caller Jane Squire, at Swannington Institute – full details to follow.

We are also in the throes of organising another BBQ & Bat Night for early in September.

7. **Green Footprints Awards**

The group is very pleased to have been short-listed for the NWLDC Green Footprints Awards. The final results will be announced on Friday 26th April at the Civic Dinner to be held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, East Midlands Airport.

8. **Membership.**

We have had a number of new members over the last few months and we welcome all of them to the group. With the arrival of the detailed management plans for both sites we now have a great deal of work which we can tackle, so more members would be more than welcome.

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