

1. Local Volunteer Group

Coleorton Wood.

The work sessions since the last meeting have focused on strimming within the wood. The car park and several areas within the wood have been cleared. There is still quite a lot of strimming to be carried out. The two picnic benches have been cleaned down and it is hoped to have them treated before the Woodlympics event on 23rd September. The bird feeding station has now been set up and two volunteers are looking after the feeders.

Progress with the application for registration with the Rural Land Register is very slow, which will now reflect on what work the volunteers can carry out in the wood. Once the wood is registered it will then be possible to make an application for a Forestry Commission Woodland Planning Grant, which is also likely to be a fairly prolonged process. It will not be until this grant has been approved that the 5 Year Management Plan can be produced. I would propose, so that the volunteer group can carry out some woodland management work over the coming months, that we discuss with the Parish Council's contractor a "programme of work for the next 6 months", by which time we could have the 5 year plan, and the period available for woodland management will have ended.

New Lount Reserve.

The clearing of ragwort from the affected areas has now been completed and all the waste has been burnt.

The picnic benches in the area of the car park have been cleaned down and treated with wood preservative. This area has also been strimmed to tidy it up and make it look more like a picnic area. The other picnic area has also been cleared and opened up. There is still work to do on the benches in this area and a path into the area, from the main pathway, will be constructed. There has also been strimming of some of other paths on the site.

A large area at the top of the old pit bank had to be cleared of beer bottles and other rubbish following what must have been a large "Party"; this is unusual for the site and we hope it is not the start of a trend.

The final draft for the 5 Year Management Plan for the site has been completed and is being scrutinised by independent people before being implemented. The Volunteer Group forms an important part of this plan.

Social Events.

The Bat Night & BBQ on Friday 7th September was very well attended by both humans and bats. Recordings were taken of the bats and it is hoped that these will identify at least four species for the site.

The next event is a Quiz Night at the Cross Keys, Newbold on Wednesday 10th October and this will be followed by :-

An English Country Dance, on Saturday 3rd November at Swannington Village Hall.

2. War memorial Project.

This project is progressing well.

John Macdonald (September 2012)