

1. Local Volunteer Group

Coleorton Wood.

Some further strimming has been carried out, but the main work has focused on clearing an area of scrub between the picnic area and the small brook. This will both extend the picnic area and will create a line of sight from the wood across the neighbouring fields. This area has now been cleared and the rubbish burnt.

The wood has now been registered with the Rural Land Register, which makes it possible for the Parish Council to apply for a Forestry Commission Woodland Planning Grant. The Coleorton Wood Advisory Committee is arranging a meeting with the contractor to see if a programme of work for Coleorton Wood can be arranged for the next six months.

Angela Dixon has presented us with her "bird report" for the wood and it is a mixture of good and bad news. The weather has obviously been a major issue, but there have been some effects due to the scrub and shrubs that we have removed as part of our woodland management. It will take time for these habitats to re-establish but long term there should be an improvement in the number of suitable habitats. We do need to add new and suitable bird boxes to encourage some of the smaller birds.

The Leicestershire Fungi Working Group surveyed Coleorton Wood for the first time on Sunday 14th October and was very pleased with the wide variety of species that they recorded; two of the species were recorded in Leicestershire for the first time.

New Lount Reserve.

Work at New Lount is progressing well now that we are back in the woodland management season. We have tidied up the area behind the fence along side the main road into the site. This area had become very untidy with cuttings, rubbish and other waste being thrown over the fence.

The second picnic area has been cleared and all of the waste material has been chipped, although we are intending to thin out more of the trees to make the area lighter. The benches in this area need to be cleaned and treated and we are hoping we can do this without removing the benches.

The area of species rich grassland has now been completely strimmed and raked off, which has taken a lot of the work session time.

The Country Park Rangers are working with Bardon Aggregates on a corporate volunteer day to create a new path within the reserve and the volunteer group will be working with the Bardon Volunteers on this project. The volunteer group have started this path and it is hoped to complete the project during November. The group is also working with the Princes Trust Volunteers on projects that they are carrying out with the LCC Country Parks.

The final draft for the 5 Year Management Plan has been circulated to the Parish Council by LCC.

Social Events.

The Quiz Night was held at the Cross Keys, Newbold on Wednesday 10th October and was a great success. Being a very enjoyable evening and raising necessary funds for the group.

The next social event will be:-

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

2. War memorial Project.

This project is progressing well.

John Macdonald (October 2012)