

COLEORTON & NEW LOUNT VOLUNTEER GROUP.



FEBRUARY UPDATE.

The work programme for February - March is as follows:-

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

Tuesday 6th March – Coleorton Wood - Non-Ranger day
Saturday 10th March – New Lount - Ranger Day
Tuesday 20th March – New Lount - Ranger Day
Saturday 24th March – Coleorton Wood - non-Ranger Day

It is some time since our last update and we have moved into that time of year when there is a great deal of conservation work to carryout. We have programmes of work for both sites and where possible we will let volunteers know the work planned for each of the above sessions.

1. Management Committee

Following the AGM on Saturday 28th January the Management Committee for the group is now as follows:-

Chairman: John Macdonald
Treasurer: Jane Elson
Secretary: Brian Bartram
Operations: Mick Specht
Social and Fundraising: Madeline McCormick.

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.

We have a very active programme for the autumn and winter so if you are able to assist the committee in any way please let us know.

2. **Progress at Coleorton Wood.**

The most important change has been the purchase of Coleorton Wood by the Parish Council.

The ditch/brook feeding the pond has now been cleared and the pond is now full.



Recent picture of the pond.



Ditch/brook feeding the pond.

The situation will be monitored. The LCC Rangers have agreed that the fence around the pond can be completed using materials that they have already allocated for this project. The work will be carried out by the group on 7th February.

The group has been awarded a grant by NWLDC to install bird feeding stations at both sites.

This work is progressing at Coleorton Wood and it is hoped the group will be making hazel screens for these stations over the coming weeks.

A 1000 Bluebell bulbs have now been planted in the cleared area to the right going towards the pond; our thanks to LCC Rangers for supplying the bulbs.

The crown lifting is now complete in the Post Office Field, although there is still some rubbish to dispose of.

The Interpretation board for the wood is being refurbished and Helene Towers has been kind enough to redraw the plan of the site. It is now hoped to install this board during February.

The group is now working closely with the Parish Council to plan the ongoing management of the wood. The group will continue with its planned programme of work until a management contractor has been appointed by the Parish Council.

3. **Progress at New Lount Reserve.**

The temporary bird feeding station is being well utilised by a wide range of birds and is attracting positive comments from visitors to the site. This temporary system will be replaced with a pulley system for the feeders now that we have the grant from NWLDC. It is intended to make hazel screens for this area, and this work should start in February.

It has been difficult to organise workshop sessions over the Christmas/New Year period so we still have the large wooden bench-seat to complete. We are hoping to install this during February.

LCC have transferred the revised habitat plan into an electronic format. The group is now working with the LCC Rangers to draw up the management plan; this will take a few weeks and then the final draft will need to be agreed by LCC Country Parks Department.

Work has started on repairing the wooden supports for the pier at the top large pond. It was not possible to complete this work in December due to the height of water in the pond. LCC may need to use a contractor to complete the work.

The small planted woodland area just above the large top pond has been thinned and crown topping has also been carried out, and all the waste has been removed. The group has also cleared a large glade on the pit bank below one of the large ponds. There is another large glade that requires clearing near to the cleared



Glade being cleared at New Lount

4. **Social and Fund Raising Programme.**

Christmas Carols. Members of the group had a very enjoyable evening on FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER visiting three of the local pubs to entertain the punters with Christmas carols. The pubs were all very supportive, the volunteers had a few beers and we raised some funds for the group. Our thanks to The New Inn, The Angel and The Kings Arms for their support. Planned Social & Fundraising events are:-

Do make a note of the following planned events:-

Monday 19th March Quiz
Kings Arms, Coleorton 7.30pm £5.00 to include light supper

Saturday 21st April Dawn Chorus
Lount Nature Reserve, following a walk in the woods a BBQ breakfast will be served.
Time and cost to be confirmed

Wednesday 30th May 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.

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

5. **The Group AGM.**

The Group's 2nd AGM was held on SATURDAY 28th JANUARY 2012 and was well attended and was followed by a display for any members of the public to illustrate the progress the group has made during the last year. Tea and cakes were provided for all; a very big thanks for all those that supplied cakes.

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