
NEWSLETTER

Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group



Hello Everyone,

It is now well over 6 weeks since we were able to do some work at both Coleorton Wood and New Lount. The rangers are all still at work, but due to the requirement to self isolate they are very restricted on what they are able to achieve. Fortunately this time of year generally requires less habitat management work, so that at least does help. However it does mean that when we do eventually get back to work sessions there could be quite a lot of catching up to do.

Don't forget that both Marion and Sarah have their own Plant Sale, organised at the end of their drives and need our support - if you happen to be passing by do make a contribution. They are doing really well and

**Blossom over the path
up to top glade at New
Lount**

have raised well over £200, some of which will go to the group and some will go to Coronavirus charities. Well done to you both.

We thought some of you might like to let the rest of the group know about things that have happened to you, or other things that you know of, which you think would be of interest, or just funny. It would be good to maintain some form of communication between us, as it may be several more weeks before we can have our usual 'informed' discussions. For those that can do it, using the Facebook page will be a good way to relate this information - don't forget photographs if you have some. There is always emails as well.

We look forward to hearing from you all.

In the mean time - Stay safe.

John, Mick and Ian



Middle Glade New
Lount

New Tools for the Group

Brian has ordered for us some new equipment to give us better 'reach' around the woods. We have bought firstly a large coarse blade folding saw - a Silky Katanaboy.

And we have ventured into battery powered tools with a pole saw and a long reach hedge cutter together with their accessory items.

Stihl HTA85 battery pole saw with 2 x AP300 battery and 1 x AL charger

Stihl HLA 65 long reach hedge cutter

Brian also sourced and fitted the bespoke throttle linkage to the Kawasaki brush cutter, replacing the broken part and this is now ready to go.

Sightings at New Lount

Ian McCormick

I've made several walks around New Lount during April during that warm patch, following a butterfly trail, and saw the common orange tip and peacock butterflies expected in Spring.

More interestingly, perhaps because it is quiet and few dogs around, birdlife is more visible than I've seen. Wren and long tailed tit were out and about and green woodpecker could be heard on the southern edge. A blackcap was seen singing down near the tramlines.

On the large pond there are a pair, who may be a resident, of mallard and of coot. A heron dropped in but didn't stay. I have to report that the sandmartin bank remains unoccupied!

Near Woody's bench a snake, about 20cm long, disappeared fast. Olive in colour and with a creamy yellow band behind the head, I'm opting for small grass snake.

Coleorton Wood

Marion Aggas

I have been pleasantly surprised at how many butterflies there are in the woods having previously noticed some spectacular large dragonfly but never paid much attention to the other small flying beasties.

I am walking in the afternoon so as you would expect transects 2,3 and 7 are in full sun and yield the most butterflies but I have also been surprised at the number that venture in from the fields to the pools of sun on transect 4 (the rear hedge line of Postman's).



Coleorton Wood Transects

Early on in April the predominant species were peacock, comma and orange tip. At this time I suspect the white butterflies we were seeing were female orange tips although we had a definite sighting of a green veined white on the road just before the entrance to the woods. We also saw a smattering of speckled wood.

Today was very exciting as I saw a yellow brimstone on transect 7 and I think some of the whites I was seeing were either large, small or green veined whites on the basis that they appeared to be mating and none had orange tips to their wings.

As well as the butterflies I have seen jays in the woods several times which I'm not sure I remember before and today I was treated to a crow seeing off a raptor of some sort.

A very kind fairy (Jan) is also gradually rebuilding the bug house. filling in the spaces where the original material has fallen out or rotted away.

The plant sale is doing very well despite doing no advertising at all, either word has got around or there are just more people passing by but we have both had to ask for donations to be posted into our post boxes. We are still putting veg out as it germinates.

Obviously the hedgehog survey was cancelled but Tim made one for the garden. The idea is that the beastie walks across the strip of dye on the way to the food and then leaves a trail on the way back out. We got some prints, they actually look like they could be hedgehog but probably not so exciting and these are increasingly rare and given the way the gardens on either side of us are being manicured to within an inch of their existence I would be surprised if anything much thrives here despite our efforts!

