
Woodland Words

Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group Newsletter



Yellow (Flag) iris at
New Lount

Hello Everyone,

Like me, I expect many of you are getting keen now to be back out enjoying working in the woods. The steps to get us back differ for the two sites. For New Lount the Rangers are working on revised work practices, and volunteering will initially re-start around very small groups. The details of this are being worked out but will involve some degree of pre-arranging numbers.

For Coleorton Wood we are writing our own group coronavirus risk assessment and work practice. This will be go to the Parish Council who will talk with their insurers to confirm that the public liability insurance we need remains ok. So we are a little way from getting going again but I will send out updates as we make progress.

Ian McC, Secretary

May at New Lount

From Ian

As you know Leicestershire Country Parks re-opened their car parks during May. As many other destinations remained shut the parks drew in large numbers of visitors. So New Lount was busier than we have known over the warm weekends and bank holidays, overwhelming the car parking at times. The rangers have set a capacity in the car park of 25 cars, and there are now 'Car Park Full' signs tucked behind the gate to put out if necessary. Volunteers local to New Lount have individually been monitoring parking over these periods.

On the positive side New Lount welcomed many new visitors, and also many young families. Ian Silver commented 'Living within easy walking distance of New Lount, my two-year old grandson and his family have enjoyed taking walks there. In particular, he has recently really enjoyed being a train along the uncovered tracks of the reserve. I like to remind him that his grandad helped to dig out those tracks for his playtime, but I think it's probably lost on him! Great to see him enjoying himself there.'

The highlight for May must have been the jetty pond, pond 3, which was full of life. Shoals of tadpoles formed near the bank and are still there now. Impressively large dragonflies are hunting about. I identified Four-Spotted Chasers and Broad Bodied Chasers.

A good number of damselflies, either Azure or Common Blue, could be seen around much of the upper part of the reserve.



Broad Bodied Chaser on Pond 3, New Lount



Tadpoles enjoying a slice of bread!

Two refurbished nest-boxes in the low grassland area and a new box in the Forest school area have been successful with blue tit residents. Willow Tits visit the bird feeders, and I have heard

Chiffchaffs - first time I have heard Chiffchaffs here. However butterfly walks have not been very productive, very few seen. Marion has found the same at Coleorton Wood, as she tells below.

A great sighting near the BMX bumps, reported to Wayne by a conservationist friend, was a Pygmy Shrew, distinguished from the common shrew by size and body ratios.

Coleorton Wood

From Marion

The number of butterflies in Coleorton Wood has reduced recently, peacocks are now a rare sight, there are a variety of white, as the male orange spot are now in short supply it is difficult to identify which of the common four varieties they are, another yellow brimstone appeared and the spotted wood and comma are more in evidence.



Re-furbished Insect Hotel - thanks to Jan!

From Ian

The main impression I get walking round Coleorton Wood at the moment is nettles! There are so many of them along side the well mowed rides. Nettle is good food for Small Tortoiseshell and Admiral butterflies, so hopefully we will see many into summer. The dominant wild flower in the nettles is Red Campion. These can be seen along the field edge when going into the Post office field.

Plant Sales

Marian and Sarah made £550 from their hard work. They will split £50 to Coalville Food Bank, £250 to the volunteer group and £250 to the international Rescue Committee. A very good result and many thanks to them from the group.

Out and About



From Marion

Along Lower Moor Lane, a stretch of verge dug up during the winter months was at the start of the year just a stretch of mud. At the start of the spring was a riot of yellow with daffodils which have now given way to a wonderful display of wild flowers.

Isla Stones in Coleorton

During my lovely daughter's final year at Ashby, she raised money to go on a volunteering trip to Swaziland taking commissions to paint stones. As she has chosen to remain in her university town of Montpellier, it was a happy reminder to see stones appearing

around Coleorton and to be able to share them with her. I also became aware of one of the many stone painting communities, IslaStones set up in memory of a little girl from Hinckley who sadly died from cancer but during her short life had released many stones into the community to be moved around giving pleasure to those who found them and sent them further on their way. Some communities have been creating Covid snakes from painted stones and it does bring a smile to see them appearing on verges and posts.



From Kirstie - our friend from Cadent

'George is missing his 4 weekly trips to Lount. I suspect it's Tilly & Lillie he's missing the most.'

From John

'I feed sultanas to blackbirds on a fence post just outside my kitchen window. This particular one has become very friendly and occasionally comes inside the back porch looking for more sultanas.'

