
Downley Common Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter of the Downley Common Preservation Society - Issue 5. January 1998

The Bonfire

Yet another successful bonfire was held on 5 November last year and despite the rain we sold over 250 torches. The bonfire was built by the usual band of volunteers from materials that seem to appear as if by magic, although there was one unwanted load of building rubble that was deposited late one night under cover of darkness. Some people just don't care!

The barbeque was manned by the Downley Scouts who were raising money to send two of their unit to the World Scouting Jamboree in Chile this year. Many thanks to them for working hard to provide food, mulled wine and roast chestnuts.

The photos on this page were taken by Kristina Frydberg and illustrate the building and the burning of the bonfire as well as the torches that make up the traditional torchlight procession from the start point on Commonside across the Common to the bonfire site.



Off-road vehicles have been detected driving along the bridlepath at the top of the Common by Mannings Pond. The Preservation Society will be improving the barrier posts where the bridleway joins the track to Cookshall Farm, but it is nevertheless difficult to block off all the ways that a determined off-roader can get onto the Common. We would ask anyone seeing such vehicles to take the number and report them to the Police.

Telephone Cables

An event related to the re-laying of

the telephone cables into an underground route was reported recently. While the trenches were being dug, Ed West's beehive was accidentally knocked with the the result that the workmen were promptly pursued by several hundred angry bees. So now they know what those funny-looking little huts are!

New Footpaths

The routes of the new footpaths that have been proposed running through Common Wood, Flagmore Wood and Hanging Wood have now been published by Bucks County Council.

They take the form of a proposal in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for which comments are invited.

This proposal may be seen by contacting Chris Hamilton at the Post Office or either of the Parish Path Wardens.

Off-roaders



Landmark Trees

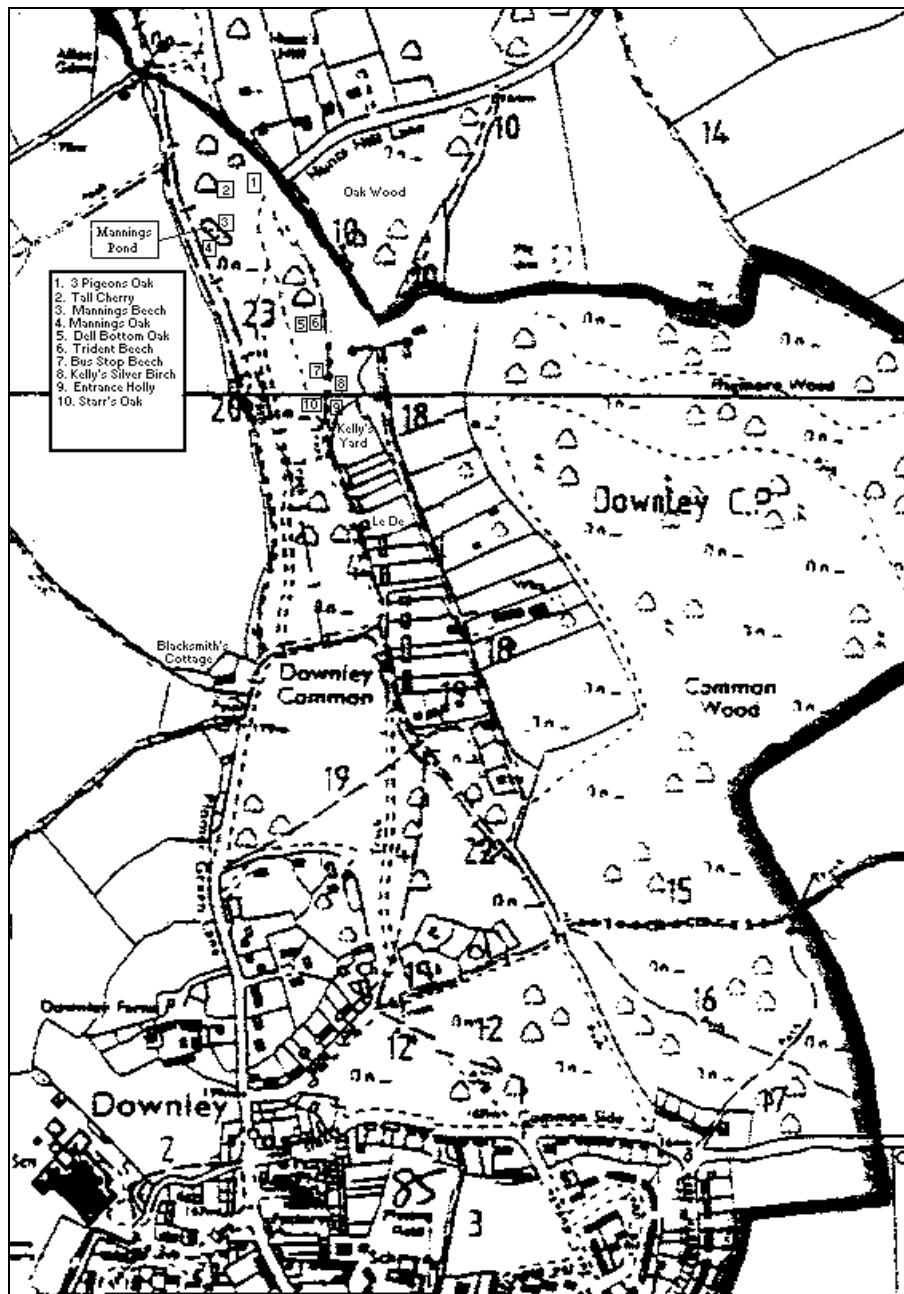
At a tree warden training day recently attended by Owen Rush and Bill Thompson, a talk was given by Mike Furness of the Countryside Chilterns Team of Bucks CC in which he proposed that a survey be carried out of landmark trees in the parish. A landmark tree is described as a tree of some social or geographical significance. It may be a boundary marker, a traditional meeting place or have other historical associations.

In addition, he mentioned that the survey should include veteran trees, i.e. those trees that are very old or dying but which are still alive.

The best time to identify such trees is during the Spring when it can be confirmed that the trees are still alive and it is also easier to identify the species of tree.

Your tree wardens have started such a survey and have expanded it slightly to include trees that appear to be good specimens whose condition should be monitored, but do not necessarily have any known social significance. No veteran trees have been identified to date, but this is hardly surprising as only the top end of the Common has so far been surveyed. Those trees so far identified have been marked on the map to the right and for convenience, they have been given names to aid in their identification. If any these trees already possess names different to those assigned, we would like to hear about it.

It is our intention to produce a map with the location of landmark trees indicated on it, together perhaps with photographs of each tree to aid in its identification. If you know of a tree that you would like to suggest for inclusion on the map, please indicate its position using the map to the right and let us know of its significance to you or the community. If you know a name, please include that also.



Diary

21 Jan 1998, 1.30pm	Mid week working party, LeDe Spencers
1 Feb 1998, 10.00am	Working party LeDe Spencers
18 Feb 1998, 1.30pm	Mid week working party, LeDe Spencers
1 Mar 1998, 10.00am	Working party LeDe Spencers
18 Mar 1998, 1.30pm	Mid week working party, LeDe Spencers
1 Apr 1998, 8.00pm (provisional date)	Quarterly Meeting, Sunnybank Methodist Church