

# Downley Common Newsletter

Newsletter of the Downley Common Preservation Society Issue 30. April 2008

Web: <http://www.downleycommon.org.uk>. Email [bill.thompson@downleycommon.org.uk](mailto:bill.thompson@downleycommon.org.uk)

## Downley Walk

Rogation Sunday is early this year as a result of the early Easter. Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox which was the method determined at the Council of Nicaea in the year 325. This year the full moon was on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, Easter was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Interestingly, while the Western Churches use this method to calculate the date of Easter due to their use of the Gregorian calendar, many Eastern Orthodox Churches still use the older Julian calendar to determine the date of Easter, which can differ by up to 5 weeks. Apparently there is also a difference between the astronomical full moon and the ecclesiastical full moon.

Rogation day is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter which falls this year on 27<sup>th</sup> April. A map and description of the route will be published in due course, but make a note in your diary of the date so you don't miss it.

## Common Activities

### *Coppice Planting*

This year we have resumed the coppice project after a break of 2-3 years. We cleared an area near the track to the old Dairy last autumn and a few weeks ago had to clear away a huge mass of brambles that had grown up in the meantime. In the space left we put in about 30 mixed whips including sweet chestnuts, ash and pussy willow as you can

see in the photo.



## Survey & Common Map

In 1998, the DCPS commissioned a Management Plan and botanical survey which can both be viewed on the DCPS website.

At a recent meeting of the DCPS it was decided to repeat the botanical survey to track the changes that have occurred over the last ten years.

Once that survey is complete it is planned to produce and publish a map of the Common showing the principal botanical features. This will be made available to the general public in exchange for a small contribution to the Society funds.

Any one wishing to assist with this project should contact the Editor.

	Diary	
27 April 2008, 2.00pm	Downley Walk	Meet at Village Hall
4 May 2008, 10.00am	Working Party	Meet at Old Dairy
1 June 2008, 10.00am	Working Party	Meet at Old Dairy
21 June 2008, 1.00pm	Downley Day	Commonside
6 July 2008, 10.00am	Working Party	Meet at Old Dairy
18 July 2008, 6.30pm	Concert on the Common	Commonside
3 August 2008, 10.00am	Working Party	Meet at Old Dairy