

MEITHEAL NEWS

AUGUST 2002

DJOUCE SUMMIT PATH

Work has progressed well on the Djouce summit path over the last few months and we are now nearing completion. We have almost completed **1,600 m of scree walls** - these define the path - **and installed ten waterbars and steps**. More waterbars and steps are needed and we have to tidy up the scree walls on the bottom section before the onset of winter but the next two work days should see it finished.

Well done to all who have contributed to this project- it shows what can be done by hardworking volunteers even if we are still learning our trade and making the odd mistake - trail width!!! Sorry to all concerned. On a visit last Sunday I found that the vast majority of walkers were staying on the path and between the walls - a great result which is allowing the vegetation (heather and grasses) to regenerate on the now “protected” slopes. **Conservation works!**

Next Outing

- **SUNDAY 18th August**
- **TIME : 10.30 (We will be closing the gate on the forest road at 10.45 so don't be late)**
- **WHERE: CRONE CAR PARK**
- **BRING: Spade, pick, shovel or similar - We were short on tools last time!!!! Work Gloves and waterproof gear and lunch**
- **WORK: Waterbars, Steps and Scree wall alignment**

September meet: SATURDAY 7th Sept.

PATH SURVEY

We have started on the work of compiling a survey of all the mountain and forest tracks in the Wicklow uplands. John Monaghan (johnmon@eircom.net) has volunteered to manage this project for mountain meitheal. Duchas (the National Park Service) are assisting with this important work.

John has designed a standard survey method and has completed many kilometres of trail but many more need surveying. **Can you help?** If

interested please contact John directly as he plans to run a short introductory course on the trail survey.

TRAINING CREW LEADERS

We had hoped to organise a training course for crew leaders in July but with holidays etc. it proved difficult to organise this. We now hope to proceed with this in late August/early Sept.

Are you interested in volunteering to be a crew leader?

Please contact Bill Murphy at murphy_w@coillte.ie or Gay Needham at gneedham@indigo.ie or Francis Hannon at sales@dunns.ie to volunteer.

HERITAGE WEEK

We have been asked to enter a display on the meitheal scheme for the exhibition on Mountains being organised by Dúchas and Wicklow Co. Council. It will concentrate on the Djouce path.

The exhibition runs from Sept 1st - 8th in Glendalough.