

SCOURING THE DOUR

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The Dover Society and local Cadets

Spring-clean the River Dour at Charlton Green

The burning issue at the start of The Dover Society's clean-up of the RIVER DOUR at Charlton Green on Sunday 10th March was whether or not the Sea Cadets with their specialist training had a clear advantage over the Air Cadets where water is concerned!

At the stroke of 10.00, elements of TS LYNX SCC, 354 Squadron ATC, and Dover Grammar CCF numbering some 25 cadets in co-operation with DDC, set to clearing litter and debris from the river. The sea cadets not surprisingly deftly handled their grappling iron to recover a superstore trolley along with other large obstructions from deep water, whilst Barry 'Waders' got into deeper water than most of us owing to his borrowed waders from Dad! Amanda Doble showed spirit when cheerfully accepting an accidental ducking received in the course of her duty (her first as a sea cadet?)

Photo: Ray Newsum



Meanwhile the air cadets had flown to the road bridge over the River Dour and were bust skirmishing and removing all the rubbish they could lay hands on. The ducks which had taken wing were keeping a careful eye on the manoeuvres from a safe distance.

The project was becoming more of a combined op than was envisaged, for the removal of the dead willow required "all hands to the pump", just about all taking some part in removing this large rubbish trap safely from the river flow.

Despite our wellies this amphibious operation was at times hazardous as the depth in places was difficult to judge. The heaps of rubbish on the banks mounted with each team taking in turn the lead. With seconds to go to 12.00 the last large item reached the collecting point, the air cadets sheepishly accepting assistance from the navy and encouragement from quite a few interested spectators.



Photo by Eddie Clapson by courtesy of 'Dover Extra'

Once again the people of Dover can be proud of their keenness and cheerfulness in carrying out a community project successfully. The Charlton Green Stretch of the RIVER DOUR is the cleaner for their efforts.

As the task ended the ducks soon returned to their 'island', now free of rubbish, where they can get on with their nesting.

Specially commissioned Dover Society shields were presented to all three teams as it was judged by Mr M'Farnel (DDC) that all merited an award for their tremendous effort. The awards were presented by the Chairman of the Dover Society, Mr Jack Woolford, to: ATC (Mr Francis), SCC (L/Seaman Holley) and CCF (F/Sgt Creed). Refreshments were provided by The Dover Society and were served at HQ 354 Squadron ATC (with kind permission of the Commanding Officer).

JOHN OWEN
Chairman, Projects Committee