

Lydden Pond Project

A Progress Report

The problem has been that in recent years the pond dries out completely with attendant damage to the natural clay lining of the pond in the shape of cracking and extensive spreading of dock weed which further undermines the ability to retain water. Additionally there is no natural feeder stream running through nor is there any evidence of a spring or springs. The source of water is simply surface drainage from the adjacent high ground and highway. When it rains, water drains into the pond via gulleys and pipes. In the recent rainy weather we have seen the water lie for only a few days before drying out.

Consideration has been given to lining the pond – at least partially. Two options seem to present themselves: a butyl liner or a clay lining. Both are expensive processes but the latter appears to be the better plan bearing in mind the large area involved and the presence of flintstones. It does however hinge on the availability of clay supplies locally.

Dependent as it is on regular rainfall the pond clearly requires some help in enabling it to retain some water, as it did in the past. Water lying at depths of less than 15 inches (381mm) of water presents a problem in itself and a greater depth is desirable environmentally.

Ann, Marjorie, Dick, John, Peter, Dave, Leo, Jack and Daren along with schoolchildren and their parents have all done much at the pond so far this year. The clearing of the dead growth, collection of rubbish and general tidying-up has proceeded well and a big effort to complete this phase was made during Environmental Week 91 (11th - 19th May).

During Environment Week children from Lydden Village School led by their teacher and assisted by some of their mothers, helped clear litter and weeds, and planted a large number of bluebells for future years. A weeping willow (*Salix alba tristis*) donated by The Dover Society as an Environment Week contribution to the rejuvenation of the pond, was planted by the Chairman in the presence of the children and with their ready assistance! Mrs Cross, Headteacher of Lydden School, said "I am pleased that the children have been involved with their village pond and have actually done something to help. It complements their school studies on the environment which were also centred on Environment Week this year".

Pond care sessions will continue to take place at intervals in the future when any help you can give will be most appreciated – the number to ring is (0304) 202 207.

JOHN OWEN

Chairman Projects Committee. 27.6.91



Drawing by Hilary King



above: Clearing the banks before planting the bluebells.

below left: The Chairman plants a willow tree . Right: 'Workers of the world unite'



190 *CLEANING THE POND AT LYDDEN*

by *Class I Lydden School*

On Monday, 13th May, Class I of Lydden Primary School went to clean out the village pond. We walked along Canterbury Road with four mums. As we arrived at the pond Mr and Mrs Owen came along. While Mrs Owen was planting the willow tree, Mr Owen was talking to all of us, telling us what what we were actually there for and what we had to do.

We had bluebells to plant and we tried to make an island in the middle of the pond. We are hopeful the water will collect in it.

A photographer came from the *Dover Express*: he took photographs of most of us, and they are now on display in school.

We think it is very important that Lydden Pond should be restored. It is part of our village history and could be made to look very attractive, especially if people *do not* throw their rubbish into it.

Maybe they have adorned your walls for decades, yellowing or fading, with the backing paper splitting and disintegrating. I have two such pictures which for years have admonished me, fixing me with feelings of guilt from time to time, as I pass them on the staircase. Is it time to consider giving them a new lease of life?

EDITOR

A Paper Conservator writes about her work

DEBORAH COLAM

THE CARE OF WORKS OF ART ON PAPER

Do you have any old pictures, maps or stamps that you know are in need of care or conservation?

An examination of your artwork can reveal if it requires possible attention. If framed, carefully remove the backing. What colour is the back of the artwork? Is it yellow or brown? What colour is the front? Have the colours faded badly? Does it have vertical brown marks which correspond to splits in the backing material? Is it stuck down to a backing material? Are there signs of moisture-staining, mould or foxing? Is the paper brittle, torn or dirty? All these indicate serious deterioration which should be given attention.

Good quality paper can last hundreds of years if protected from harmful conditions. When work is exposed to strong light, extremes of humidity, atmospheric pollution, infestation, poor mounting and framing materials and bad handling it soon deteriorates. Poor quality paper is inherently unstable, containing such substances as iron and copper salts, lignin (the bonding material in cellulose), bleaches and many others, which react with each other and surrounding sources of acidity causing grave damage. The