

Some confusion existed at one stage as to who was competing with whom or whether we were *all* as it were competing against the common enemy – litter. The question of ‘territorial waters’, which we were able to settle amicably, certainly arose at one point. The task itself, however, was self-evident to any passer-by and what we lacked in numbers was well compensated for with sheer enthusiasm. Thanks to the voluntary efforts of Dover cadets the area is now much more presentable to the passing public.

For a number of years annual clean-up operations have been organised by The Dover Society in partnership with Dover District Council; the first involving cadets was in the East Cliff/Castle Hill area in 1990, since when the cadets have removed tons of litter from our local environment as a voluntary community service.

Working against the clock the Combined Cadet Force team from Dover Grammar School was declared the winner and Sgt James Glover CCF received the civic shield award donated by DDC. In presenting the award Jeremy Cope, of The Dover Society, thanked the cadets for giving up their Sunday morning and complimented them on their cheerfulness in carrying out their allotted task.

The project was sponsored by Dover Marks & Spencers and also Dover MacDonalds who provided hospitality and refreshment for the participants on completion of what was another successful Society project.

THE LYDDEN POND PROJECT

FEBRUARY APART, more normal rainfall in recent months has ensured plenty of water in the pond with retention seemingly improving all the time. Meanwhile we continue to hope for a more balanced weather pattern than that experienced in recent years.

The newly planted daffodils gave a good splash of colour in the spring where none had existed before and much wildlife is presently enjoying the cover and sustenance of the new growth on the banks.

As usual at this time of the year we are leaving nature to itself with as little interference as possible apart from the occasional impromptu evening session when necessary. Peter Hargraves and Ernie Dixon in particular keep a regular eye on things.

Our work-sessions will re-start in the autumn. If you are interested in the welfare of the pond, particularly if you live in the village, do get in touch!

THE LOUSYBERRY WOOD PROJECT

LOSSES HAVE BEEN MINIMAL during the winter months; the saplings are now fully in leaf and thriving. Some shelters we have removed as being no longer necessary; mainly those in relatively bramble-free areas flanking the public footpath.

Where we have left the shelters the saplings are either a) still quite small or b) situated deep in the bramble jungle where they serve as beacons when in the dormant season, for a year or two more, we will again need to clear back the bramble.

It is suggested that as the project area is on Footpath ER182 Temple Ewell (Malvern Rd/Park Rd) to Whitfield now would be a good time to walk this rural area.