

PROJECTS

UPDATE by JOHN OWEN, Chairman of the Projects Committee

WITH our highly successful St. Martin's leopards project completed during Environment Week in May and with our autumn schedule not yet begun, a small group of members lent practical Society support to the White Cliffs Countryside Project team's beach cleaning project.

Lydden village pond working sessions recommenced with the autumn tidy-up in October and the installation of the Society's public amenity seat which permits a more relaxed appreciation of the restored pond. With plenty of water being retained and generous attractive cover, there is an abundance of wildlife now in evidence. A veritable treasure chest for the naturalist, its autumn tints and hues can be appreciated by all who pass by. The Dover Society Willow, planted by Chairman Jack Woolford during Environment Week 1991, which suffered some die-back, is now prospering after remedial surgery, albeit without a replacement lead-shoot as yet!

Which leads us to our trees planted in Lousyberry Wood, Temple Ewell. They continue to prosper. Occasional checks throughout the summer indicate that the young trees in the bramble intensive areas are not being dominated but rather are reaching for the sky very effectively and generally are being left with their shelters in situ. Elsewhere, now mostly without shelters, the trees are in good heart. On visiting the project site in September, the District Council Tree Officer commented on both the healthy state of the beech trees planted to ensure a beech wood continuity and the loss in favour of mainly ash, if natural regeneration had been relied upon after the 1987 storm damage. A flanking area of beech woodland similarly devastated has not as yet been replanted and clearly shows this. We are of course pleased that it has all been worthwhile and are also glad that we introduced some maple and cherry while we were at it.

Our third annual wood management weekend will take place on Saturday and Sunday, 4 and 5 December, 10.00 to 12.00, during National Tree Week. You are welcome to join us (bring secateurs and/or sickle for clearance work).

The Dover Society will again support the Dover Pageant in Connaught Park on 2 May, 1994 and we hope also to repeat the hospitality tent which was so successful previously, Volunteers, please, for this project a.s.a.p.

Dover Society Project Support Group

Members are invited to join our small and select core group on the ground. Our aim is to ensure that our projects are successful. It gets us out for a couple of hours now and again and we experience things others never do!

Contact John Owen on (0304) 202 207



THE GREAT BEACH CLEAN



MEMBERS of the Dover Society thoroughly enjoyed working alongside over 100 volunteers who cleaned-up the beach at Lydden Spout in September.

In a part of Kent's Heritage Coast, the project was organised by our local White Cliffs Countryside Project team. The area is 'one of the few sections of the Kent coast where there is a genuine feeling of wilderness' and is close to the channel tunnel platform scheduled for re-instatement as a natural stretch of coastline with public access.

“FRONTLINE BRITAIN ‘93”

50th Anniversary of the End of Frontline Britain

Monday 26 September 1994 is the 50th anniversary of the last German Shells falling on Dover. This day is planned to be the scene of a major act of commemoration and reconciliation. Negotiations are well advanced for a leading member of the Royal Family to take the Salute at a Parade featuring members of the Armed Forces and thousands of veterans from across the world.

I was very pleased to respond to an invitation to support this venture and represented The Dover Society at a reception in Dover Castle headed by Viscount De L'Isle, M.B.E., Committee Chairman A. Summers, Esq. and Vice-CHAIRMAN MAJOR C.H. PARNHAM, T.D.

There followed the ceremony of Sounding the Retreat by the band and bugles of The Royal Green Jackets (by kind permission of Lt.-Col. C. E. M. Snagge).

The occasion signalled the hard work already in hand leading to this prestigious Dover event in 1994.

J. O.