

10 PROJECTS

UPDATE by JOHN OWEN, Chairman of the Projects Committee

THE PROJECTS SUPPORT GROUP HELPS OUT AT THE MILL

An interesting and enjoyable morning was spent at Crabble Mill on Sunday 12 December helping with the annual clean-up. The Dover Society group numbered five and at 0930 we went to work under the direction of Ann and David Courtney of the mill, cutting back excess growth and overhanging branches. Fire emergency access routes surrounding the mill were cleared but we couldn't bring ourselves to remove a swan's nest lest it be needed again in the coming season. Debris was removed from causeways and gullies – we made a stinking good job of that!

Perhaps the most satisfying job was the clearance of rampant ivy some ten or twelve feet high, which had become dominant in the walled garden to the rear of the mill. Additionally weeds and ground cover were removed to produce a much greater awareness of space, needing only a centre feature to complete the improvement. This was ably accomplished by Barry and Ernie, who planted the weeping ash provided.

Peter with his long-handled billhook, encouraged by Glyn, made easy work of the heavy stuff, finding time also to do some wattle work at the water's edge.

Muriel Goulding, a Dover Society member, wearing her Crabble Mill Volunteer's hat on this occasion, prepared our 'elevenses' in the comfort of the mill restaurant.

Using the cleared routes the accumulated waste was removed to the waiting skip, now almost full, when the forecast rain arrived with a vengeance at about 1145. By 12.00 much had been accomplished and we responded to the call of "The Fox".

Crabble Mill



In the walled garden at the rear of the mill





Snow fails to dampen Society occasion!

Over twenty-five souls braved the elements at Lydden Pond on Sunday 21 November to mark the completion of the clay re-lining of the pond and the return of water, with the presentation by The Dover Society of a public amenity seat, alongside the pond, to Lydden Parish Council. Chairman Jack Woolford said a few words before formally presenting the inscribed seat to Councillor Dick Hubbard, Chairman of Lydden Parish Council. Councillor Hubbard replied, thanking the Dover Society for the gift and complimenting it on the hard work put in by the volunteers over a long period. Dover Society President, Brigadier M. A. Atherton, Vice-Chairman J. Jerrard and Mrs P. Hewlett, Vice-Chairman Lydden Parish Council, were also present along with many of the volunteers and helpers who were all in fine spirit and without whom the project could not have been undertaken.

It was nearly three years ago that the parish council approached the Society for help. The first site meeting was arranged by the Society's Projects Committee in February 1991 with representatives from Kent County Council, Lydden P.C., The Junior Leaders Regiment, and The Dover Society. This was followed by many subsequent meetings and visits to other recently restored ponds. The first work session was in March with essential preparatory clean-up work in a completely dry, overgrown basin. Lydden School supported the mainstay continuity team of Peter, Ernie, Glyn and John, working mainly at weekends. The pupils helped with tidying-up, weeding and planting and have an enduring educational interest in their pond.