



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.

12 'The ambitious plan is to re-instate the village pond which will require all the resources of know-how, finance and voluntary labour that we can get' – (*Newsletter*, No. 10, 1991). 'We are under no illusions about this – it is going to take a long time – it is a major operation' – (Society interview on the pond, BBC Radio Kent 1991). *Newsletter* reports of the last few years reveal just how widespread the involvement has been and how much sustained effort was put in by the regular volunteers whose jovial and at times caustic banter kept them going!

Notwithstanding the falling snow, after the handing over of the seat and the speeches, the last of another batch of daffodils was planted which will, in the spring, add to those which were so successful last year. There followed a quick celebratory sampling of some fizz which preceded the dash for the village hall and welcome hot coffee laid on with the help of Mrs Burkimsher, Ann, Linda and Joan.

'They're restoring their village pond (Lydden) or at least more accurately they *have* restored their pond and have won a Community Pride Award in the process' (Society interview with Chris Harris BBC Radio Kent 1992).

Over a year on and with a continuous water presence since August 1992, things are looking well from the newly installed seat, at Lydden Pond.

National Tree Week

'National Tree Week is a national festival of trees which has been organised by the Tree Council every year since 1975. Its aim is to high-

light the importance of trees in our environment and to encourage tree planting and good management.'

The Dover Society re-planted a 1987 hurricane-devastated section of Lousyberry Wood, Temple Ewell in December 1990 with 200 predominately beech trees to conserve its character during the natural regeneration process of subsequent years.

Our aim during National Tree Week this year was again to provide the necessary after-care to sustain this process. Regeneration of the wood *is* proceeding, with the usual proliferation of ash and sycamore and it is good to see the beech we planted with retained golden brown leaves, unashamedly conspicuous in the month of December. With the deployment of the planted species so enhanced it is not too difficult to visualise the future and contemplate the scene when they reach maturity. Appropriately Tree Week's 1993 theme was 'Trees for all Ages'. Our after-care sessions took place on 4 and 5 December with extreme weather conditions on both days. The Saturday was foul with wind and rain and we got wet!; the Sunday bright and sunny with clear blue skies and we got hot!. On both occasions coffee was most welcome.

On this third anniversary of the planting we cleared back invasive bramble as necessary, replaced two failed trees, removed some shelters and cleared competitive