

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



Clearing invasive bramble during National Tree Week, Sunday, 5 December 1993

growth. Now well established the young trees are putting on substantial height, cherry (*prunus avium*) and maple (*acer campestre*) leading the field at about four feet. Growth is naturally variable according to the habitat, some of which is exposed ground, some sheltered, some with reasonable topsoil, some with very poor. With a few of the leafless cherry and maple shrouded in bramble and wild clematis, it is as well we left the shelters, if only as locating beacons. Some appear to enjoy their bramble bed-mates and height-wise are excelling themselves. It would appear to be all a question of balance!

The two sessions were adequate for the task, with eight volunteers turning up this year. We had time to spare to take in the sheer beauty of the surrounding countryside – on the Sunday, that was!

Will you help?

THE DOVER SOCIETY PROJECT SUPPORT GROUP will be out and about for a few hours helping environmentally on 23 April and again during Environment Week, 20/30 May. Details on (0304) 202 207.

Deadline for CONTRIBUTORS

The Editor welcomes contributions and illustrations, particularly line drawings. Discs formatted to DCA are also welcome. The deadline for issue No. 20 – for publication on 1 August – is Monday, 4 July.

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