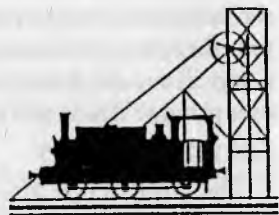


PROJECTS : Update

JOHN OWEN, Chairman, Projects sub-Committee

Working with the EAST KENT LIGHT RAILWAY SOCIETY



FOLLOWING ON from an idea discussed twelve months ago when the Dover Society visited the railway at Shepardswell, our Project Support Group turned up at 10.00 on 23 October, amidst thunder and lightning and in torrential rain, to help with the day's task. The sight of so much water meant that our numbers were depleted (can't swim?/no life jacket?) but the brave few climbed aboard the waiting loco, (No. 427, built by Ruston & Hornsby of Lincoln), for the short journey to the work site at the cutting leading to Golgotha Tunnel.

Magically, thunder and lightning ceased, the rain fell no more, blue skies appeared, the sun shone and in drying out we soon over-heated. The work, clearing brushwood and re-fencing required by the railway inspectorate, proved to be interesting rather than arduous, but much was accomplished in a short time, impressing both Ken and John, the leaders of the working party. Dover Society member John, wearing his EKLK hat was wielding a chain saw so we didn't hang about!



Discussing tactics before starting work

Meanwhile the loco, goods wagon and brake van shuttled to and fro transporting other volunteers and removing waste material.

The East Kent Light Railway Society was formed in 1985 to preserve the remnants of the East Kent Railway, built between 1911 and 1925 to serve Tilmanstone Colliery and the surrounding area. With nationalisation in 1948 the passenger services ceased and the line was closed except for the three-mile section below Tilmanstone which is, in fact, the line as it exists today. The EKLK Society, having taken over the line in 1989, is now engaged in a continuous programme of restoration and maintenance and its members and volunteers merit every possible encouragement and help they can get. ◇



All aboard en route to the work site and the passenger platform on the E.K. Light Railway at Shepherdswell

SPORTS & RECREATION STRATEGY WELCOMED

DOVER District Council in partnership with the South East Sports Council has commissioned the development of a sport and recreation strategy.

The Dover Society was represented at the workshop held in October as part of the community consultation process.

The issues and circumstances surrounding current and future provision of sport and recreational opportunities in the district were well aired by representatives from most local organisations. Calls were made for an imaginative scheme, for the provision of an ice rink and or bowling alley for the young as an alternative to clubbing.

Existing organisations asked for greater consideration generally from the local authority at a time when increasing demand for their facilities is constrained.

As the local amenity society the Dover Society warmly welcomed the setting up of an immediate strategy for the future especially as there appears to be a real danger that existing sports amenities such as tennis, cricket, football, rugby and bowls may suffer purely as a result of cost-effective criteria.

In this regard under-use of existing public sports amenities might benefit from more rigorous marketing combined with more partnerships and joint ventures networking the public, private, voluntary and school sectors. ◇

NATIONAL TREE WEEK

THIS YEAR the theme is 'Family Trees', suggesting, perhaps, a family walk along public footpath ER182 from Temple Ewell (junction Park Rd/Malvern Rd) towards Whitfield to view the thriving beech, maple and wild cherry trees planted by the Dover Society in 1990. You may not spot the maple and cherry at this time of the year but the beech, with their conspicuous golden leaves should be a picture against the largely leafless backdrop. On average 12 inches of growth has been put on this year, the maple and cherry leading the field. We plan to be on the ground working 10.00-12.00 pm Saturday and Sunday 3 & 4 December so will look out for you. ◇