

PROJECTS : Update

JOHN OWEN, Chairman, Projects Sub-Committee



Esso National Tree Week

26 November – 7 December 1997

LANDMARK TREES 1997

As Autumn approached our thoughts turned once again to the tree-planting projects the Society has organised over the years, using member volunteers and local youth organisations, as recorded in past Newsletters. Our most recent tree-planting project was at St. Martin's Emmaus at Archcliffe Fort during March 1997, with the help of Dover Cadets and was named Operation Conservation 1997.

During National Tree Week, (26 November - 7 December 1997), Society volunteers followed up the March planting and found only a few failures in spite of the very dry summer. We renewed saplings as necessary and added extra in places, a total of twenty in all. As a feature adjacent to the hedge, we planted a forsythia bush which will hopefully give some colour this spring.

National Tree Week, which annually focuses our attention on our heritage of trees, this year had as its theme "Landmark Trees", loosely defined by the Tree Council as "any trees which are special or important to us".

We have special Society trees in and around Dover and, as we indeed rate them as important, they were duly visited by a group of members on Sunday 7 December. First, fortified by hot coffee, we inspected the two hundred trees planted in Lousyberry Wood in 1990 and noted that all were growing successfully.

Then, this being the last day of National Tree Week 1997, we went on to Lydden Pond where we viewed the weeping willow (*salix alba tristis*) planted by Chairman Jack Woolford in 1991, assisted by the children of Lydden County Primary School. The willow, thriving and still in leaf, presented a wonderful sight in the bright winter sunshine. We noted, with satisfaction, that the pond was full and the guardrail renewed.

When this Autumn comes, why not collect seed from your favourite tree, grow it into a seedling and plant it out, in garden or countryside, as a personal contribution for the millennium.

Some tips:- plant a variety of seeds (some germinate more easily than others); plant deep; or put in pots under cover as protection from hungry wildlife!



Dover Society Tree People at Ease.