

GREEN FORUM



LEO WRIGHT

An inaugural meeting in June founded a Green Forum in Deal, of which many exist in other parts of the country. The Green Forum is a-political and aims to provide links between local environmental groups and would join forces to encourage desirable or discourage undesirable developments.

The Dover Society was represented at the first business meeting of the Forum on Tuesday 24 July. Some 25 people met, representing 14 organisations. Two subjects were discussed:

Sea pollution and long sea outfalls.

The management of small areas of woodland.

The subject of sea pollution and sewage disposal was authoratively presented by Martin Jackson who had made substantial contributions to the Commons Environment Select Committee, whose report was published on 25 July. The Forum needed no persuasion and plans were immediately put in hand for a public meeting to be held at the Quarterdeck, Deal, 7.45-10.00 on Wed. 5th September., which our Chairman has been invited to chair. Representatives from Southern Water, the National Rivers Authority and environmental organisations will be invited to attend. The penny-pinching plans to deal with sewage disposal at Ramsgate, Dover and Deal by simply lengthening the sea-outfalls, will be debated. It is encouraging that the Commons Select Committee is critical of the use of long outfall pipes to discharge raw sewage into the sea.

The second topic was presented by Susannah Peckham from "Trees in Kent" which was founded by the K.C.C. the day after the Great Storm of 1987. The advisory and management services and financial help which are available were explained, with ample literature. This was very encouraging for the Dover Society's long-term project for clearing and re-planting Lousyberry Wood, Temple Ewell. In that connection, Lydden and Temple Ewell are among the relatively few parish councils which have no tree warden. Volunteers please apply!

The Green Forum meeting was a rewarding occasion. It was most encouraging to hear of so much concern and action about the environment. A great many areas were touched upon and gave food for thought about future action.