

# PROJECTS

REPORTS by JOHN OWEN, Chairman of the Projects Committee

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## LOUSYBERRY WOOD SAPLINGS FIT and DOING WELL

At the time of writing the young beech, maple and cherry planted by the Society are thriving and holding their own amidst the surrounding growth.

Some Shelters have been removed where it seemed appropriate to avoid inhibiting growth. The few saplings which are still entirely encased have very tender leaves and where touching the plastic shelter tend to be burnt in the intense sunshine of late. To remove the shelter can mean too rapid a transition resulting in wind- or sun-burn, there being no possibility of a gradual hardening-off process. Hence careful judgment is needed when considering their removal during the growing season.

Most have grown way above their shelters and are prospering but it has been necessary again to clear invasive bramble where it has tended to dominate the young tree. Other surrounding growth has provided useful shade during the many periods of intense sunshine and heat.

## LYDDEN POND RESTORATION SUFFERS IN DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The changes in weather patterns in the South-East have again brought drought conditions. As a result the Society project of restoring the clay-lined Lydden village pond has not fulfilled early promise. After rain, water continues to be lost either because the clay has had insufficient time to weather down or there is a need for further treatment to the basin.

Following another dry winter and in spite of some heavy rain, the water-table remains low and the hot, dry summer continues. The hoped-for typical English summer (wet!) has not materialised at the time of writing. After our short 'set-aside' period we shall soon be considering our options for the coming autumn/winter season when we shall again welcome interested volunteers to our work sessions.

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