

## LOCAL ISSUES UPDATE

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# WATER – SEA BATHING – SEWAGE

Where has the water come from?

Well before Folkestone District Water Company applied for their 1992 drought order the Kearsney Manor lake was still full *and*, wonder of wonders, the ornamental lake at Bushy Ruff filled.

Then this little mention appeared in the local press :

### Temple Ewell

Millions of gallons of water are to be pumped into the Temple Ewell stream north of Dover from the underground chalk. A special drought order consent was granted by the Department of the Environment for the scheme.

(Dover Express 19 June '92)

*Adscene*, even more optimistic, added : "Special drought order consent has been granted by the Department of the Environment. Engineers will pump water from boreholes near the stream's sources." (This should have read : 'A special drought order has been applied for...')

In due course we all heard and saw Lord Crickhowell, Head of the National Rivers Authority, on radio and T.V., saying quite strongly, that the water companies must cease causing rivers to dry up. True, he took the Darent as his example, which tends to be in stockbroker country, but perhaps there has also been a strong circular letter, even unto F.D.W.C. in Gath and Ascalon.

It would seem to have been so. A spokesman for F.D.W.C., (the Engineering Manager, Mr G. A. Cross, who came to the Inquiry in Temple Ewell last year) gallantly refused all thanks and congratulations for the present happy situation. It was, he said, entirely the work of nature: the relatively high rainfall in March. If all went well later it would be due to the proposed special drought order and our thanks would be due to the N.R.A. in the first place and to F.D.W.C. in the second.

Last year there was no visible "compensatory" water for our streams and lakes, so where will any "compensatory" water come from?

The terms of the 1992 special drought order will be as follows:

There will be no change in the extraction from Stonehall and Holmestone but increased extraction from Kingsdown and the Rakeshole Valley. Now, Kingsdown *was* supplying Eurotunnel whose requirements are greatly reduced.

The conditions linking pumping at Stonehall and Holmestone to the flow of the Dour have been relaxed, to our possible disadvantage.