

PROJECTS : Update

JOHN OWEN, Chairman, Projects sub-Committee

National Tree Week's 50th Anniversary

TREE PLANTING IN THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The Defence Land Service (MOD) and the Duke of York's Royal Military School, joined forces in a tree-planting partnership on Wednesday, 22 November: it was, appropriately, the first day of National Tree Week 1995.

The Dover Society's initiative was enthusiastically received by the school, the DLS and farmer Mr Simon Phillips.

A DLS landscaping project at Broadlees Farm provided the opportunity and with National Tree Week imminent, Defence Land Agent Mr Nigel Fisher suggested the pupils of the Duke of York's School might like to assist with their tree planting programme.

Mr John Davey provided a volunteer party of boys and girls from the school who gave an afternoons hard work planting oak, beech and ash. A total of fifty bare root trees were put in, expertly supervised by staff of the Defence Land Service who provided the trees, shelters and stakes along with the necessary tools for the job.

It was something of a happy coincidence that we had a project involving the planting of fifty trees, fifty years after the ending of the second world war, by pupils with strong service connections working with the Defence Land Service and the Dover Society to enhance the environment in close proximity to the white cliffs of Dover.

TV viewers will recall the first-class local contribution by the Duke of York's choir in the presence of Her Majesty the

Queen at the Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance from which they had recently returned.

On completion of the tree-planting task a Dover Society framed certificate to mark the occasion was presented by the Chairman of the Projects Sub-Committee to Andrew Breach who received it on behalf of the school.

Before we dispersed events were completely upstaged at the farm by 'Pinky' and 'Perky', two newly acquired pigs who demanded and received the full attention of the young 'Dukies'. Never have backs been scratched so much nor such joyous grunts expressed!

PLANTING TREES AT BROADLEES FARM, DOVER





DUKE OF YORK'S R.M. SCHOOL, DOVER with DOVER SOCIETY CERTIFICATE HELD BY ANDREW BREACH

A WOODLAND OUTING

National Tree Week also saw a small group of members taking coffee in Louseyberry Woods and enjoying a viewing stroll up and down public footpath ER182 in fine weather on Saturday morning 2 December. The recent winds had stripped most of the leaves but the trusty beech with leaves intact enabled us to readily identify the Society's plantings of some five years ago.

It will be remembered that our aim was to ensure its continuation as a beech wood after the decimation of the beech in the hurricane of

"WELL ESTABLISHED AND THRIVING"
(THE BEECH, THAT IS!)



1987. Left to its own devices the wood, of course, regenerates naturally but with a predominance of ash and other species.

The invasive bramble now protects the young trees which are well established and thriving. With maturity they will provide a canopy which in turn will inhibit the bramble and produce the characteristic clear beech woodland 'floor'; but that will not be for some time yet.

We rounded off our visit with the planting of a fine young three year-old horse-chestnut which we had brought on from seed.

COWGATE INTERLUDE

COWGATE CEMETERY, Dover, a Georgian/Victorian burial ground much overgrown in recent years and needing seasonal care and maintenance, the White Cliffs Countryside Project has taken it under its wing and has organised regular clean-up and tidying sessions within its volunteer programme.

It was one of these sessions which the Dover Society Support Group joined on Friday 10 November. We matched its volunteers one for one with our team comprising 50% of the work force.

Apprehension owing to the overnight rainfall soon disappeared for the skies cleared, rain kept away and the sun came out.

A briefing from WCCP officer Phillip Green set us to work cutting back year-old ash, sycamore and much bramble. Meanwhile regular WCCP volunteer Tom wielded his motor mower and made short work of the grass pathways.

Mounds of cuttings, the result of extensive use of the provided sickles, saws and loppers, were put to good use in producing a magnificent bonfire worthy of the occasion. The all-important kettle was put on and tea was soon made available to the thirsty workers.

The management of the cemetery is largely seen as one of containment, preserving its assumed status as an important local wildlife habitat. The graveyard is of considerable historical interest but addi-

tionally it attracts a great deal of attention for its flora and fauna and perhaps especially for its birds and butterflies.

We set about culling some of nature's more extravagant excesses, which are rampant if not controlled. Bramble and rose proved quite vicious at times as if protesting at the intrusion.

Joe had to leave early for the gasman was calling. Margaret was late arriving having wisely done her shopping first. Jack, who refused a sugared coffee (Ann made it), stayed the course but had to leave for his regular lunchtime appointment.

Noisy hovercraft apparent throughout, though good for the localeconomy, were enough to waken the dead. The work went on and that done by the Society team was much appreciated by the WCCP. It is some time since a Society group as such has turned up to help; hopefully it will not be so long before we are able to do so again. All in all it was a most enjoyable and friendly occasion with a little hard work thrown in.



Three members of the Support Group:
JOE HARMAN, ANN OWEN and
JACK WOOLFORD..

Two more: MARGARET ROBSON and JOHN OWEN hard at work!

