

The Mourning Cloak butterfly and wasps are regular visitors, while wood ants march up and down willow trunks to collect aphid honeydew.

Willow branches are flexible:

- Used in wicker baskets.
- Some Welsh coracles had willow frameworks.
- The oldest known fishing net, found in Finland, dating to 8300BCE, was made from willow.

Intriguing Information:

- It is associated with fertility, mysticism and witchcraft
- Witches' brooms were said to be made from willow twigs
- Ancient healers made leaf and bark preparations as remedies for fever, pain and rheumatism
- The willow was associated with moon magic
- Celtic priests and priestesses sat in willow groves to gain inspiration or to prophesy, and ordinary folk made wishes by tying loose knots in the bendy willow shoots
- Native Americans used to eat its bark to cure headaches, and its flowers in a tea to cure toothache
- Claude Monet painted a series of Weeping Willow tree scenes to honour French soldiers who fell during WWI
- Willow is used for baseball and cricket bats; baskets; fish traps; fences; wattle and daub; three-dimensional sculptures; flutes; whistles; double base parts; paper; rope and wands
- Salicylic acid is extracted from the tree to make aspirin, an anti-inflammatory drug.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS **Ann Burke**

What a lovely summer we have had, lots of sun, too much at times! And good weather for most of the events in Dover at which we had stalls and a great recruitment team too. Even at the very wet Urban Fete, one person signed up before the team were completely washed away by the monsoon type rain. Our Newsletter is a great advert too, one couple read a copy they were given by a current member and liked it so much they joined and sent money for postage as they live quite a distance away. We have had quite a few join through the website too!

Well, quite a list of new members this time: Susan Brown, Dover. Mrs Veronica & Mr Nicholas Ward, Dover. Mr Ian & Mrs Mary

Herbert, Walton on Thames. Mr Adrian & Mrs Jacqui Evans, Dover. Mrs Williams, Dover. Mrs Judith Roberts, Market Harborough. Mrs Patricia Allan, Dover. Mr Michael Callow & Mrs Barbara Rickman-Callow, Guston. Mr Martyn Watson & Mrs Lynne-Marie Taylor, Martin Mill. Mrs Debbie Philpott, Temple Ewell. Mrs Jacqueline Axford, Whitfield. Mr Stuart McGowan & Ms Carol Cook, Dover. Mr Stephen & Mrs Suzie Evans, Dover and Mr Andrew Peal, Dover.

Sadly, we have heard of the passing away of Mr Barry Sheppard & Mrs V I Wratten, we send our condolences to their families and friends

We now number 503!