

It is hoped that orchids, cowslips, vetches, violets and other rare species will re-emerge as a result of the grazing of the chalk grasslands by Dexter cattle which are being introduced into the area. Already much clearance has taken place and the task of fencing and provision of steps and 'kissing-gates' is almost complete.

The laying out of pathways with access points on North Military Road provides both a close view of the Drop Redoubt (as yet closed to the public) and a magnificent panoramic view of Dover Castle, town and harbour.

Environmentally it is most pleasing to see the Western Heights grassland being efficiently managed and all around us substantial progress was to be seen, as we continued on our itinerary.

Restoration of the '64 Steps' alongside Cowgate Cemetery is nearing completion and hopefully will eventually give access to the ditch of the Drop Redoubt (English Heritage). Meanwhile it will serve as an important access to the grassland area direct from the town centre.

Intermittent orchid sightings were enthusiastically reported and recorded as the thin long line of searchers 'swept' the townside slopes of Western Heights. Their locations confirmed existing knowledge to be true, also for this particular area; namely that the area should be grazed. We also found meadow anthills, the odd lizard, blue (and white) butterflies but no Dexters as yet; probably next week. We shall certainly return and hope that the weather is again kind.

A most successful Environment Week event, our host, guide and organiser for the afternoon being Kirk Alexander, Manager White Cliffs Countryside Project.

John Owen - Projects Committee

PROGRAMME

June 30, Saturday, VISIT TO FAVERSHAM, Mt. EPHRAIM
GARDENS & CANTERBURY BOOK BY JUNE 6

This replaces the visit to DOVER CASTLE UNDERGROUND
WORKS. It may be possible to organise that later in the year.

September 29, Saturday, WATER & WINE Coach trip to Waterworks
& Vineyard. Priority for members. Details later.

October 15, Monday, PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
7.30 at St Mary's Parish Centre. OPEN MEETING

November 19, Monday, MEMBERS' MEETING
7.30 at St Mary's Parish Centre. MEMBERS ONLY

December (date to be arranged) CHRISTMAS FEAST
Dover College Refectory. MEMBERS & GUESTS

Look out for announcement of repeat of Walk around historic Dover in August.