

Project Review

Report from Lesley Gordon

A sure sign that an undertaking is proving rewarding and successful is when the participants voluntarily extend their field of endeavour. So it has been with the Cowgate cemetery clearance project, aimed at removing years of all enveloping growth so as to make the pathways and gravestones accessible once again to visitors. Praise for the efforts of the Society's two clearance teams flooded in over the summer after they extended their operations to four of the eight large plots. The two original plots (6 & 7) have had damaging tree growth removed, as has plot 5 (bottom left, seaward corner), which was badly damaged by bombing during the war. The groups will finish mowing these three plots over the winter months and will then return to tree clearing on plot 1 (above plot 5). The other 4 plots are being tackled from time to time by the White Cliffs Countryside Project's own team, and by pupils from Dover College. Do go and take

a look. One or two of you may be moved to swell the ranks of the Saturday morning team (which meets once a month), in which case contact Jeremy Cope on 01304 211348.

One benefit of the new work at Cowgate, is that yet more gravestones are becoming accessible and being recorded. This is a continuing process and will eventually enable families and civic authorities alike to locate burials in the cemetery and have available all inscriptions that remain legible to date.

Of further interest to Society members in September was the opening to the public of the Unitarian Church, one weekend, as part of the Civic Trust Heritage Open Days. The article in August's Newsletter brought forth a number of visitors and the Society was instrumental in securing press coverage in the Dover Express. A letter of thanks has been received from the organizers at the church.



Tree felling at Cowgate Cemetery.

Photographs: Jack Woolford

