

The Western Heights Preservation Society

report from Chris Tuft

THE WESTERN HEIGHTS PRESERVATION SOCIETY (WHPS) is, as ever, busy with plans for the coming months. With the spring and summer providing us with some of our best opportunities to continue our work we are now well under way with outlining our forthcoming activities.

We have also been taking advantage of the long cold nights to develop further some of the behind the scenes work that is undertaken by the group. We were also delighted to be able to offer a relaxed social event for our members to thank them for their support. Details of our work are summarised below, but there are lots more things in the pipeline so do contact the Society to find out more.

Social Events

The Western Heights Preservation Society hosted a New Year's social event for its members. Approximately 30 people joined members of the committee for drinks and light refreshments at Dover Museum on a Saturday evening where there was opportunity to discuss the plans of the Society and to ask questions of some of our expert members. It also provided a relaxed environment to meet with other members and discover common interests.

Further events are being considered for other times throughout the year, in addition to our annual lecture evening and attendance at the Western Heights Open Day.

Work Days

The last update in this journal advised of a forthcoming work day in the North Lines. This was undertaken

successfully and was followed up by a further day where more unwanted undergrowth was removed. While there is still a long way to go, the improvement to the Lines is marked. Advice was sought from the White Cliffs Countryside Project to ensure nothing was cut back that was either rare or providing essential habitats for the many species of wildlife on the Heights.

More work days are planned for February although possibly too late for this publication date. However, anyone interested in joining in what is always an enjoyable and productive day should contact the Honorary Secretary at the address below for more details.

Publicity and Promotions

The expanded version of the sub-committee for publicity and promotions is now firmly established.

Sub-committee members are making welcome contributions in terms of ideas and practical help on projects. A major one being planned at the moment by the team is the production of a Society leaflet that we can distribute to local Tourist Information Centres and hand out at events.

We are also working on preparing the publicity for the summer Open Day and lecture evening, and for other events that may develop over the coming weeks.

The team is always looking for more ideas and assistance with its projects and anyone wishing to help in any small way is encouraged to contact the Publicity Secretary, Chris Taft, via email to: chris-taft@excite.com or by post to: 8 Astor Avenue, Dover, Kent CT17 0AR.

Website

For sometime the Society website has

been in need of an update, which the treasurer, Paul Wells, is now carrying out. It is hoped that the new version will be available soon at:

www.doverwestern-heights.org.

Available on the new site will be a calendar of events, including social events, activities, trips and work days.

Membership

The Western Heights Preservation Society is not all about getting your hands dirty clearing trees: it is also about supporting and moving the Society forwards in promoting the Western Heights and help is needed at all levels.

For more information or to join please contact the Hon. Secretary, Mr Dave Mallinder at 66 Union Road, Deal Kent CT14 6AR or visit the website:

www.dover-western-heights.org

and please remember to say where you read about the WHPS.

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Cemetery Walks

In 2004 Martyn Webster will be leading two walks, with commentaries, around Dover's cemeteries and graveyards. Note these dates for your diary:

Saturday 12th June COPT HILL (St James', St Mary, Jewish Cemetery)
Meet at Charlton Cemetery Gates 2.00pm

Saturday 10th July COWGATE
An overview of the work to date on clearance and recording done by members of the Dover Society.
Meet at St Mary's Church Hall 2.00pm

WITH THANKS TO THE SPONSOR, WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT