

SOCIETY PROJECTS

COWGATE CEMETERY - CLEARANCE

♦ ♦ A report by Jeremy Cope ♦ ♦

Picture the scene - balmy summer days in Cowgate with the rustics sipping champagne in their break discussing the complications resulting from the recent European Union referenda. At our last Thursday meeting we toasted the health of our oldest member, Jack Woolford, on his 88th birthday. Not only do we offer good weather to Cowgate workers but longevity is fast becoming another bonus.

It is striking the amount of growth that occurs in May and June. The grass and vegetation have shot up giving the whole cemetery a lush and verdant aspect. Against this background we have continued with the work of mowing paths, controlling undesirable weeds and checking that undergrowth does not re-establish itself.

Our success is due to our enthusiastic team of volunteers who regularly turn out to either one or both of our monthly working sessions. New volunteers are always welcome, just phone 211348 for details.



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COWGATE CEMETERY - RECORDING

♦ ♦ A report by Lesley Gordon ♦ ♦

At the end of last year, the small cemetery recording team were able to report completion of their work. Information on all remaining legible headstones in the graveyard, not previously recorded by Miss Jane de Bourbel in the 1980s, had been captured and grave locations mapped where possible. The complete work was passed to the local branch of the Kent Family History Society for comment, prior to presentation to the Dover Museum and Dover District Council. As previously reported, they kindly offered to put the whole work on microfiche to ensure easier access by the general public. In addition, they suggested certain amendments to improve the presentation of the work and provide more background information about the project.

This work was completed in March this year and the two tomes of information were then handed over to their microfiche specialist in Ashford. This summer, the originals, once handed back, can be presented to the Museum and Council. In addition, microfiche copies will be available, not just to them, but, for a small fee, to any members of the general public desiring copies for their own use. It transpired that The Kent Family History Society already had Miss de Bourbel's gravestone recordings, neatly typed, on microfiche, but not in plot and then numerical grave order, although that can be ascertained from the index. The Dover Society's records do (thanks to sterling work by Ian Murton) include her work in, more or less, the right order, although the