

SOCIETY PROJECTS

Report by Jeremy Cope

COWGATE CEMETERY

They say that no news is good news, and that for the moment describes our project of maintaining the cemetery. The weather has been its usual self, kind to us. We have been working away strimming the paths and keeping the worst of the hogweed and brambles in check. It's becoming more of a routine but as any gardener knows you can be quickly overwhelmed, so that we are not complacent.

Have you read the editorial? If so you may have noticed a photograph of our group cheering young Jack Woolford and celebrating his 89th birthday with a glass of champagne. Jack rakes up the mowings for a couple of hours and is a most regular attendee. Could working at Cowgate be something of an "elixir of life"?

Remember that if you are nearby with a few minutes to spare do take a walk around the cemetery.

THE RIVER DOUR

My report is brief this time but there has been action. Along with society members Peter Hargraves, John Mavin and Sue Mills, I have joined the White Cliffs Countryside Project's rubbish clearance working parties, held once a month. The working parties are well organised by Julie Thompsett and properly equipped. What a delight to get on with working on the river rather than talking. We have worked on various stretches including the B&Q lake and Pencester Gardens. The lake in particular looks very much better helped by the Environment Agency's work to direct the river flow. The rushes and other vegetation look remarkably well

and confirm my firm belief that what is of prime importance is to keep the river clear of litter, a task that will always need doing.

The Agency is to spend some £60,000 on ten projects to enhance the river. The latest news on the timing is that work will start at the end of July once bird nesting is over. I shall be most interested to see the results. I am not expecting large changes, rather a gentling of the river to make it softer and more natural (as far as one can in an urban environment). If the B&Q lake is anything to go by then this will be a very positive step forward.

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Report by

JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

Dover Museum concedes that the façade of the old Labour Exchange at 10 Union Street does indeed display Green Men, but Dover District Council says that to preserve it the whole building would have to be listed Grade II, a long, debatable, expensive and chancy affair. Watch this space (again!) for our decision.

As to Dover Harbour Board's 30 Year Plan which is based on the assumption that freight will double again in the next 30 years, as it has done in the last 30 - we have pointed out the many imponderables involved and have put down some