

THE RIVER DOUR

The River Dour Steering Group met in April after a long period of inactivity. During this time Dover District Council, The Environment Agency and White Cliffs Countryside Project had been working away on the river, but the Group was not there to help make the voice of other concerned organisations heard.

It was agreed that the Group should be seen as influencing the work of those carrying out the task of maintaining the river and of voicing local concerns.

Among reports given to the meeting was the Environment Agency's work on 10 projects last year with plans being drawn up for a further 6 this year. These projects are primarily for biodiversity purposes although it is hoped that they will improve the appearance of the river, particularly where the natural banks have been replaced by concrete walls. We also heard that the river is considered the best in Kent for brown trout (which just shows its potential)!

FRIENDS OF CONNAUGHT PARK

by Graham R. Wanstall

I am very concerned at the deterioration of Connaught Park in recent years. A new group is to be formed to try to rectify this and to attempt to improve the floral displays, tidiness, the pond and general layout of the park.

The White Cliffs Countryside Project has continued to inform the public about the river and is running clearance parties in the summer months outside of the trout-breeding season. It is open to the public to join the working parties, so the message is loud and clear, "DON'T MOAN ABOUT THE RUBBISH JOIN A VOLUNTEER PARTY AND HELP CLEAR IT". (phone 01304 241806)

The District Council continues to clear those areas of which it is the riparian owner and I think that their work coupled with that of volunteer working parties is showing positive results.

Dover Town Council has plans for a major Dour project and displays a continuing keen interest in the river's welfare.

However, one of the major concerns is the lack of funds, particularly to support the work of White Cliffs Countryside Project. Perhaps this is something for the Group to lobby for?

Anybody who shares these concerns and wishes to help in any way please telephone Mr Graham Wanstall on 01304 242493. Let us get together and improve the park for the people of Dover. This is a much neglected and underused asset.

