

SOCIETY PROJECTS

Report by Jeremy Cope

COWGATE CEMETERY

We continue to make good progress; I don't think we have ever been as up to date, with most of the cemetery mown ready before winter. This is thanks, not only to our volunteers, but also to Paul Willmott, of White Cliffs Countryside Partnership. His hard work last year, when he mowed the cemetery with a reciprocating mower, enabled us to get on top of things. This year we will not need his help. Our winter project is to start to dispose of the large heaps of green waste that have built up over the years. We will transport waste to the area next to the cemetery gates and DDC's contractor will load up the waste and taken for recycling. Removing the whole of the waste is likely to take a little while.

Members are most welcome to join us - come and give it a try.

The next two working party dates are Thursday 2nd December and Saturday 11th December both from 9 am to 12.30 pm.

Phone me on 01304 211348 and I will let you know times, dates and any further details.

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RIVER DOUR

The River Dour Steering Group held a meeting in October and you may be interested to hear that the river is doing very well biologically following the work done by the Environment Agency. I am always impressed by their interest and enthusiasm. Apart from the increased amount of river plants there is clear evidence of more fish in the river. At Pencester recently the stretch was checked for the numbers of trout and through the use of momentary stunning 100 odd fish were caught (and of course returned unharmed to the river) with the largest trout weighing about 1½ lbs. Really quite a wonderful result.

The real problem, that always upsets people, is of course the rubbish and litter caused by a small number of could-not-care-less individuals. White Cliffs Countryside Partnership continues to run its volunteer working groups who this year have so far collected over 300 bags of rubbish plus 19 road cones, 18 scooters, 4 bicycles, 3 shopping trolleys, 2 child's tricycles, 2 push chairs, 1 television, 1 ironing board and 1 garden pond. If you would like to do your bit and help with clearances the telephone number for the Partnership is 01304 241806.