

Section 215 activity is as reported in the November Newsletter; however, one actual 215 Notice has been served on 1 Athol Terrace. The scaffolding has been removed from The Old Post Office/Labour Exchange in King Street as well as 7 Castle Street. When in Dover do walk past these buildings to see the restoration that has been undertaken in particular the façade of the King Street building. Congratulations to both owners. We hope that both DDC and DTC continue to support our joint activity with the use of Section 215 as a regeneration tool for Dover.

We are still concerned as to the former ABC Cinema in Castle Street and I have written personally to the Chairman of Wetherspoons who currently own the building and look forward to interesting dialogue that hopefully will see improvements forthcoming.

We have supported the DDC document *"Shop Fronts and Signage within Conservation Areas"* that will improve the visual aspect of properties in these designated areas. We will always remind the statutory authority of this document when deciding applications within Conservation Areas.

RIVER DOUR

Jeremy Cope

In October the Dour Steering Group held its half year meeting at which views, news and comment are exchanged. The wet weather was a major point of discussion, with the consequent flood risk a matter upon which the Environment Agency places greatest importance. It is clear from its representatives that the river's environment matters to them a great deal and within their limited resources they do all that is possible. A point of contention is Chris Arthur's concern about the heavy silting at the River Millpond. The Agency does not see this as a problem - as far as they are concerned the river does not flow through the pond and therefore does not pose a potential flood danger. Chris disagrees and cites examples of flood risk and no doubt will continue to press the point. To dredge the pond of silt would be a matter of substantial cost!

White Cliffs Countryside Project continues with its volunteer team in its work of litter clearance during the period April to November (the winter period is fish breeding and work in the river is forbidden). Volunteers collected the usual large haul of rubbish, a tribute to their efforts. However we face a potential problem in that the District Council will no longer specifically fund the Project in this work. Dover Town Council have indicated that they will not fund the Project directly either. We must try and find an answer that allows the volunteer team to continue but any scheme must, as now, have proper leadership with insurance and equipment able to keep the volunteers safe and effective. The river does not look dangerous to work in but there are threats, from quicksand patches and water borne disease as examples. We are now seeking a meeting of the Group and local councils to try and find a resolution.