

# Refurbishment Committee

Jeremy Cope

To take part in our work requires a sense of optimism – we see so much potential, so much that can readily be done to make the best of our town - but slow progress. But here's something to cheer us up. With particular support of Mike Weston, Society members and Thanet and Dover Rights of Way Group I put my name to an application to have a recently fenced off pathway declared a right of way. The pathway runs from Godwyne Path to Connaught Road providing ready access to Connaught Park. Kent Country Council have now designated the pathway a right of way, the fencing has been removed and the path cleared so that the public may once again have full use of it. Our special thanks are due to solicitor Peter Sherred who, on a pro bono basis, advised and prepared the legal documentation. His professional input ensured that our case was best presented. But of course with so many advances there is an ongoing cost and my Cowgate report mentioned new tasks for the project team. But this leads on to the pathway linking the Castle to Langdon Cliffs via the Bleriot Memorial. Yes, we do need a dose of optimism in our make-ups.

We have had a meeting with the District Council to discuss our various concerns. The appointment in September of officers to specifically tackle litter and dog refuse offending is much welcomed. It is too early to see results but we shall be monitoring over the coming months. Again a note of optimism – Alan Sencicle who collects litter has noted an improvement but the



*Right of Way from Connaught*

pressure needs to be kept up. Alan and others have noted the disappearance of recycling bins in the town and this is something to take up with DDC. This loss does not help in the job of engaging people to recycle.

Jenny Olpin and Joan Liggett will be taking up anti social behaviour matters with, amongst others, the local police and representing members concerns.

Sylvie Parsons keeps us up to date on the good work and future plans of Brighter Dover. Sylvie and her group have achieved a very great deal in the middle of the town. The "boat" plantings in the Market Square are a highlight and with the Group's other schemes make a real improvement to the street scene.

To conclude this update a final note of optimism – the District Council has finally completed the repairs to Connaught Park Pond and a thank you to Pam Brivio who not only finds time to prepare our minutes but also to make a positive input into our work.