

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - AUTUMN 2016

Sheila Cope

It is disappointing that our numbers have fallen to 456 but with the onset of our winter meetings we trust that numbers will again increase toward that elusive 500 which has for so long been the aim of our hard-working Chairman. Nevertheless, the fact that all those members have taken the trouble to pay their subscriptions is probably quite creditable for a town of our size.

We have been to the funerals of too many members lately, two of whom have worked hard for the Society. In the early years of Cowgate cemetery maintenance John

Mavin played an active part until ill-health forced him to retire from the work. He was particularly interested in shipping and photography. Bill Naylor succeeded Leo Wright as Secretary and served for many years until March 2013. He was also a member of the planning committee and being a long-time resident of Dover had no illusions about the uphill task facing us all.

In spite of the summer break we have recently welcomed: Mr M and Mrs J Kennedy, Mr G & Mrs M Margery, Mr R & Mrs E Meadows, Mrs W Stokes, Mr Luo, Mrs B J Skinner and Mrs P & Mr R Stroud.

River Dour Partnership

Jeremy Cope

Our work to improve the Dour continues and (a warning) unless you are prepared to take the long view you might as well not start. Funding projects now means that money comes not from the Government but from Lottery or other charitable funders. Getting the money requires the input and skills of volunteers. We are lucky with the commitment of our committee members and very positive support and help from Chris Gardner of South East Rivers Trust, the Environment Agency and Dover Big Local. As previously reported our major projects are to fund fish passes at Lorne Road and Halfords weirs but in addition to see what improvements can be made to the immediate environments. First we must fund the necessary investigation and surveys to confirm any project's soundness, that it is appropriate for the Dour and of benefit to our community. Armed with that information we can then

approach major funders for the significant funds required to implement the project.

Other projects involve fundraising for better signage, volunteers' equipment for the river clear-ups, working with Dover Tales on publicity for the river and progressing the idea of volunteer River Wardens.

Our thanks are due to Tower Hamlets Gardeners who donated the prize money from their local competition to help with our work. We very much appreciate such gestures of support. We also have money collected at the Regatta.

Again - well done the clean-up volunteers. They do a really grand job. If you would like to be involved in any of the above work do please contact me on 01304 211348 or Sue Bradford at White Cliffs Countryside Partnership 01304 241806