

of land banking that the Government must implement penalties to developers who adopt this policy preventing the delivery of much needed housing stock.

Former St Mary's Residential Home

This Grade II listed building within the Dover Castle Conservation Area has just submitted a planning application to change use to a Bed and Breakfast establishment with 42/43 rooms with double occupancy. There have been over recent years a decline in B&B businesses due to the advent of Budget Hotels (Travelodge/Premier Inn). Our concern is this will not be used for overnight holiday residents but short-term use by London Borough tenants or if future UK border checks are returned to Dover will, as in the 1990's in Folkestone Road, be used as temporary immigrant facility.

As a residential facility the rooms were single occupancy. The rooms vary in size but on average are 16 to 18 sq. m. This is above the minimum size for B&B use but well below guidelines for property conversions where a Studio Flat is required to have a minimum of 30 sq. m, a one-bedroom flat 40 sq. m and a two-bed flat 50 sq. m.

We have suggested the property would be ideal for conversion to flats if there is no residential provider to continue existing use. Several objections have been made and as such will be decided at a future DDC Planning Committee meeting.

There is also a shortage of Residential Care facilities in Dover and many have expressed concern that the building should continue to be used for such a facility.

COWGATE CEMETERY

Jeremy Cope

I never ceased to be amazed at the speed with which grass and plants grow. It is almost as if the residents give orders about the rate of plant growth. Whilst it keeps us busy the cemetery does really look lovely with fine views across the town to the Castle. We welcomed Ted Elliott to the team. He fits in well with the humour at our tea breaks.

If anyone else would like to join our happy band do please phone me on 01304 211348 or email me on jeremycope@willersley.plus.com Working sessions are usually the first Thursday and second Saturday in the month 9.00 am to noon but dependent on weather and members social commitments. Dates for the month ahead will be on the website but it would be best for any new volunteers to contact me first.



Headstone of Stephen Booker Pain at Cowgate