

told me once he had a writ in his pocket to serve on me. It was a joke). Few people in Dover, especially councillors, had the guts to stand up against Jimmy. But when they did, he respected them. One of the bequests he left to Dover was the centre in Maison Dieu Gardens, now Age Concern, a venture led by Jimmy and one-time mayor John Husk."

Terry also reported in 1969, "Those who knew Mr Johnson well remembered him as a very strong character. But he was also a man who, quietly, could be very kind and helpful."

James Alexander Johnson died on 23rd October 1997 aged 89 years at a nursing home in Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset. His will included, to his great credit, a number of very generous, kind bequests to a wide range of friends, but principally to his surviving sister, Florrie, otherwise Cecile, who survived him by four years. That same will

stated in clause 2: "I wish my body to be cremated privately with no flowers or mourning and no preceding service at any church nor any memorial service and my ashes to be scattered in Upper Wharfedale, Yorkshire."

What became of the second of the three Cinque Ports' Silver Oars is anyone's guess.

As to James A's successor as the last of Dover's Town Clerks, Ian George Gill,(1968-1974) my biographical account for him has already appeared in his obituary, published in *The Dover Society Newsletter* no.93 (November 2018), following his death in late 2017.

Thus, then, concludes my series on Dover's incredible Town Clerks 1860 - 1974. They are all truly unique both to our ancient town, port and Cinque Port of Dover and our country as a whole.

# River Dour Partnership

Deborah Gasking

The Dour was lucky this year in terms of benefitting from a wet winter, although water consumption went up in Dover, which is not ideal. The extremely wet month before summer prevented the lower stretches drying up or being reduced to a small stream. The river is flowing remarkably well for this time of year so, hopefully, this winter we will get the right kind of rain again (preferably at night)!

Kingfishers have successfully bred on the Dour and will be establishing their territories soon, so look out for a flash of blue along the whole length. Of course the tree colours are changing and the Dour will see more egrets and herons looking for an easy feed too. October is the last month

we are allowed to go in the Dour (unless with a permit) as the trout will start spawning November/December time.

Weekly tasks this year, have been done by smaller-sized groups of 3-5 volunteers to respect the Covid 19 guidelines. We have removed 64 bags of rubbish since August. Some of this rubbish has been in the river for well over a decade, which shows that, although we don't do a huge stretch at one time, we are getting just as much, if not more done. So a really massive achievement for those who care for our beloved river.

Well done to us volunteers!