

PROJECTS

Summer 2004

♦ ♦ Report by Jeremy Cope ♦ ♦

Cowgate Cemetery Clearance

In my last report I noted how nature or the spirits of Cowgate had blessed us with dry weather on our working days, both Thursdays and Saturdays. I should have kept silent - we were rained off for a third time on our June Thursday. Have we angered the gods? Perhaps at our next bonfire we should offer up a burnt sacrifice to appease them. It would have to be a bought biscuit from the mid-morning break supplies; certainly not one of Peter Hargrave's delicious home made pieces of cake.

Weather apart we continue to make good progress although we still have bramble control work to do on the furthest plots. This time of year the cemetery is at its best, with the long grass and other plants providing a pleasing and gentle aspect particularly in the areas nearest the gates. I recommend a visit to one of the most peaceful spots within the town boundaries.

We have also received a very generous donation of £250 to the Projects Fund for which we are very grateful. This help enables us to get the best tools for the job and is invaluable.

The River Dour

At the time of writing this report we are awaiting the Babbie report prepared within Environment Agency guidelines. The first draft is due any day now. It is anticipated that the report will form the basis for a sustainable long term plan for the river. I hope to provide a summary in the next newsletter together with the initial reaction and plans of the River Dour Steering Committee.

Cowgate Plaque Unveiled

from Terry Sutton

There was praise and thanks for members of The Dover Society when the then town mayor, Councillor George Allt, unveiled an interpretative signboard at Cowgate cemetery explaining the history of the site. Mr Allt said the Society had helped to turn the churchyard into an 'oasis of peace.'

After the unveiling ceremony the mayor and others were taken on a tour of the cemetery where they saw the results of the hard efforts of the Society's working party in clearing overgrown grass and undergrowth yet leaving it a haven for wildlife. In fact the working party had knocked off from their labours only a few minutes before the civic party arrived.

The Dover Society, along with others, had contributed towards the design and construction of the panel which details Cowgate's history, tells of some of the interesting people buried there and describes the flora and fauna that thrives among the tombs and gravestones on the foothills of the Western Heights.

As well as the Society's clearance working party, we were represented by our chairman Derek Leach.