

RIVER DOUR

Jeremy Cope

Affairs at the Dour Steering Group change. Until now the Group has been a forum for exchange of ideas and to inform Environment Agency of local concerns. The Group is changing direction to increase its role to include lobbying to ensure that volunteer working parties that are responsible for litter clearance continues and to investigate funding to enable improvements to the river. The change comes about due to pressure from Local Government who sees the Group as the appropriate body to deal with the river. Because funding obviously involves handling money The Society has agreed to incorporate the group as a sub group as to be able to manage their finances. The Society's charitable status also helps with funding bids.

I am pleased that Society members Ray Newsam and Pam Taylor have joined the

group and are already making a positive contribution. Ray raised £200 and Temple Ewell gave £100 for which we are very grateful. If any other members would like to become active with the group you will be most welcome. My contact details are 01304 211348 or email jeremycope@willersley.pls.com

The District Council's Draft Parks and Amenity Open Space Strategy is open for consultation – The Group is to join with the Society in a response. We hope to persuade the Council to include the concept of a Dour River Park from the sea to sources with a riverside walk. The walk is not a new idea but needs to be fully realised. Some of us are involved with Dover Big Local Lottery funding with its aim to improve our Town and the group and the Big Local's aims to my mind match well.

COWGATE CEMETERY

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The cemetery is finally picking up after the late spring but with one unpleasant exception. During our May Saturday working party we were approached by some people who dog walk Cowgate and warned us of drug takers' needles. A search revealed a needle and other evidence. The Police were informed but the use continued. The District Council cleared up very promptly after each incident but this is dealing with the symptom not the cause. There is a real need to deal with the

drugs and excessive drinking that so debase Dover. A letter has been sent to the Police, the Police Commissioner, District Council and our MP and the response is awaited with interest. Despite this I hope volunteers are not put off. If you would like to help or have anything to report then contact:

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Working sessions are 9.00 am to noon with dates for 2013 as follows:-

Thursdays	04 Jul	01 Aug	05 Sep	03 Oct	07 Nov 1	05 Dec
Saturdays	13 Jul	10 Aug	14 Sep	12 Oct	16 Nov	14 Dec