

Cowgate Cemetery

Deborah Gasking

Wow! What a difference having help with the care and maintenance of our wonderful piece of nature and history. I am speaking of and praising the efforts of a White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (WCCP) staff member, Jason, with a few of his volunteers.

Not only is it the physical help, but their presence has lifted our spirits. I, for one, was becoming quite despondent with our dwindling numbers. The whole wildness of nature was increasingly becoming the winner. We could barely keep the original pathways and pruning up to acceptable levels.

But now! Here we are. Swathes of the area are now trimmed ready for Spring growth. But, get this, with the extra help a far greater wild section of ivy has been extracted from the entrance pillars and revealed reasonably ornate finials. The brickwork is in great need of repointing, and Jason has put in a request for Dover District Council's maintenance department to repoint, but this can only happen after all the ivy has been removed – all on our to-do list. Furthermore, once these

pillars are tidied up, we have plans to repaint these lovely gates. So, the whole 'entrance experience' will be splendid. And hope that our beautiful cemetery will be respected by everyone, including the party-goers.

And the love doesn't stop there – we are going to strip the ivy off the walls, with particular attention to the lower (north) wall and shifting the soil that has been dumped over the years from, probably, local gardeners, which has raised the levels around the entrance despoiling the original vista. With particular attention to this tidying of the entrance, we are hoping that garden refuse dumping will cease or at least lessen.

And there's more . . . I've asked Jason if we could have a couple of log benches in the open area in the Northeast corner. These will offer resting only pews, hoping they won't encourage loitering, and, hence littering. We'll see how it goes, and if results are good, I have earmarked another spacious area.

Signing off, optimistically . . . Deborah

Lady Arbuthnot

Peter Sherrad

On 25th November 2023, both *The Times* and *The Telegraph* reported the death, on 13th November 2023, of Jean Arbuthnot (Lady Arbuthnot) at the age of 104. A mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she was the widow of Sir John Arbuthnot, First Baronet of Kittybrewster and former Member of Parliament for the Dover constituency until defeated in the General Election of 1964. Society members will have had the

benefit of an article in Newsletter number 96 of November 2019 (page 37) which paid tribute to Lady Arbuthnot for all her activities locally, when she ably supported her husband, Sir John Arbuthnot, with his political responsibilities.

Four of her five children survive her, together with ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.