

One of the most difficult things to do in a wheelchair is to open a door, especially outwards. It would be greatly appreciated if this problem could be considered when buildings are designed.

This leads me to a personal bug-bear - the Health Centre. On one occasion I was asked to attend a doctor's surgery but, as the doorway was not wide enough for a standard-issue wheelchair, I had to be physically assisted into the room.

If only more were done to encourage the disabled to take part in ordinary life! If you would like to know more about how to do it why don't you come and ask us?

## April Nye

Arthritis Care is an organisation with branches all over the country. In the South-East a list of places to visit has been compiled. It does not include Dover as only the seafront is suitable, being flat and having toilets for the disabled.

Dover Town Hall is the place for the Operatic and Choral Societies' performances, for exhibitions and dinners as well as other activities. It is barred to the disabled unless they are prepared to be carried up the steps in their wheelchairs.

The Library, the Citizens' Advice Bureau, the Police Station, the Bus Station Office, the Gas Showroom and other places are impossible or difficult to enter.

At Charlton Centre there is a lift to the upper floor but then a few steps. The ramp is outside and the parking space for the disabled is also not under cover.

Any improvements made for the disabled in wheelchairs would also benefit those with prams, pushchairs and in battery cars.

*Ellen Fraser. Secretary of Arthritis Care - Dover Branch*



## THE DOVER SOCIETY in the 18th CENTURY

No, our Society is not a revival. On 28 January 1756 John Wesley made his first recorded visit to the town and established the Dover Society. He wrote in his journal:

'I preached at noon at Dover to a serious, but small, congregation. We afterwards walked to the Castle, on the top of a mountain. It is an amazingly fine situation. From here we had a clear view of that vast piece of the cliff which a few days ago divided from the rest and fell down upon the beach'.

On 3 December 1760 when he was again in Dover for his annual visit he wrote:

'I rode to Dover [from Canterbury]. Who would have expected to find here some of the best singers in England? I found, likewise, what was better still, a serious, earnest people. There was a remarkable blessing among them, both in the evening and the morning, so that I did not regret having been wet to the skin on my way to them'.

In 1765, on 3 December, he had occasion to rebuke members of his congregation who were engaged in the popular local trade of smuggling.

'While several of them continued to rob the king, we seemed to be ploughing upon the sand...'

On 23 November 1767 he wrote 'I have not found so much life here for years'.



With difficulty he climbed to the top of Shakespeare Cliff on 5 December 1770:

'It is exceedingly high, and commands a vast prospect both by sea and land; but it is nothing so terrible in itself as it is in [Shakespeare's] description. I preached to a very serious congregation in the evening as well as in the morning'.

'On Tuesday December 17th, I preached at Dover; Wednesday about eleven at poor, dry, dead Sandwich, but I now found more hope for the poor people'.

December 15 1789 John Wesley made his last visit to Dover. He travelled from Canterbury:

'It pleased God to give me uncommon liberty of spirit, as also at Dover the next evening, where the New House, large as it is, was far too small, so that many could not get in'.

This sermon was preached when he opened the new chapel in Elizabeth Square in the Pier District. A pulpit used by the Founder of Methodism was formerly in what is now the Menzies Hall, as Peter Johnson mentions in his article.

When John Wesley died, a very old man in 1791, his followers numbered 100,000

The Dover District Council has recently added an attractive sheet on John Wesley to its 'Discover Dover' series. It can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre.

*Philomena Kennedy*

---

---

## NEWS FROM OTHER DOVER SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

*We are pleased to print brief items - reports or dates.*

WOMEN'S GAS FEDERATION & YOUNG HOME MAKERS - Dates:

JULY 11 More Naval Reminiscences - Talk by Lt. Cmdr. N. L. Smith.  
AUG 8 Social Evening. SEPT. 12 The Wildlife of Kent. Illustrated Talk by Brian Hawkes. OCT. 10 A Taste of Italy - Cookery Demonstration by British Gas. NOV. 14 Royal Family Special - Illustrated Talk by Mr R. Fullagar. DEC 12 Annual Dinner. Contact Mrs Jean Cosham for details: Dover 211043.

---

---

## Dover Tourism Initiative

The Dover Society was invited to participate in the Brainstorming Syndicates organised by consultants Peat Marwick McClintock (with American assistance) on behalf of Dover District Council, KCC, Eurotunnel and others involved in finding alternative employment for Dover when the Channel Tunnel is completed. Tourism is one obvious expedient.

The preliminary findings are that despite the world-wide growth of tourism and the world-famous assets of Dover, Dover is seen only as a transit town and its touristic image is bad. Compared with its competitors, like Canterbury or Tunbridge Wells (not to mention Glasgow and Bradford), the town is tatty, with poor shopping, catering and accommodation facilities and poor marketing and entertainment attitudes.

Consequently Dover Castle should be improved (!), there should be a Heritage Centre and a Maritime Quarter, a White Cliffs Country Park including a golf course, a White Cliffs Viewing Area and a caravan park with appropriate coach and car parking facilities and improved signage. The Military Tattoo and Cricket Week should be reinstated and there should be public transport linking, for example, the Maison Dieu, St Mary's, the Painted House the Castle and the Harbour. There must be fun elements like Sea Festivals and firework displays for children as well as adults and cooperative ventures with other towns on both sides of the Channel, with English Heritage, British Rail and the ferry companies.