

Other members of the Committee

Ken Berry, Phyllis Dobbins (Dover Action Group), Jeremy Cope, Michael Foad (Advisory Member), Adrian Galley, Peter Johnson, Terry Khambatta, Vera Liggett, Mike McFarnall (Advisory Member), Jim Truelove, Leo Wright.

Letters to the Editor

The Other Tunnel ?

April 22, 1988

Dear Madam,

It is a great pity that your society was not formed sooner. As an ex-Dovorian I have watched, via the "Dover Express", the destruction of Dover's heritage. The five water-mills in the town went to the developers. Try to save the working part of Buckland Paper Mill. At the back of Connaught Barracks is a moat that could be a tourist attraction. I used to go blackberrying in it. No one else realised it existed as it was on war Office ground and had notices about trespassers. It was worth the risk for the blackberries. Ferguson used to rent the land for his cattle. There was also a Dummy Fort on the North Foreland Meadow, another of my playgrounds. In the earthworks at Dover Castle there are rooms and tunnels; I went in them before the war.

There is also in existence a tunnel from the Castle to the Market Square built during the Napoleonic Wars by prisoners of war. Very few Dover people know about it but it was uncovered by a bomb in Castle Street and hastily covered up. It's worth investigating. It is brick-built and its exit was in one of the basements of a shop in the Market Square. One of my brothers was an Air Raid Warden. He got buried by bomb debris in Castle St and, he told me, saw the tunnel but was told not to tell anyone. It was obviously secret because it was a direct route into the Castle, the centre of operations for the Western Approaches. But there is no need for it to be secret now and it could hold artefacts put there for safety and forgotten. The Dover Museum has discounted its existence. Hammonds, the coal merchants, is now swallowed up by a supermarket and restaurant, the River Dour almost obscured, Crundall's and Tolputt's timber mills are gone and Chitty's Flour Mill was replaced by Dover Engineering Works. Only Barton Brook remains as it was in my schooldays, but a bit shallower, of course, and used as a rubbish dump. I am 68 years old now but cannot forget Dover as it was, nor do I want to for that matter.

Yours Faithfully,

Ron. F. Warren
London SW1.

Arts Centre

Dear Editor,

I'm sure it hasn't escaped the notice of fellow members of The Dover Society that our town is culturally bereft - no theatre, no cinema, no concert hall and no art gallery.