

and we were amazed by the number and diversity in that street-of-many-names and in the residential areas. All the well-known grocery chains had a branch there. There were butchers and bakers galore, each with his own special line - a large Woolworths, still expanding, about 20 chemists, 5 largish furnisiers, china shops, excellent ironmongers and electricians, 4 good drapers, Hattons being the largest (anything unobtainable there could be done without). There were Coop branches, selling nearly everything, all over the town and its suburbs. In fact one did not need to go elsewhere to buy any necessity. Dover was perhaps short of teashops but had a large number of public houses, many of which have now vanished.

York Street and the Lanes were shabby but still in use. The Western Docks, the Marine Station and the Pier District were undergoing changes but were very busy, though local families were moving to the Aycliff Estate. The huge gasworks were fully in use and Dover was very "gas-minded".

The town as a whole looked clean and the streets were swept regularly. Public gardens were kept trim and bright. There were enough well-kept "conveniences", most with an attendant, and every scrap of metal on their doors was polished till it glittered. There was a lot of traffic, especially army vehicles and car transporters; it kept moving and there was much less parking than today. The flocks of roof-nesting seagulls spoiled the tidy picture but supplied a regular topic for the local press. On a wet day a downpour always caused cascades from shop roofs on to pavements and puddles everywhere - a problem still not solved.

We missed some country things - there were few large trees before the River area but the chalkland flowers were a joy - many vetches, valerian, vipers bugloss, scabious and lots of "Alecs". There was much to be explored on the beach and shells, fossils, flints and seaweeds to be collected. No wonder geology was a popular subject in schools!

To newcomers there seemed to be plenty of leisure activities - 4 cinemas, several recreation grounds, miniature golf courses, cricket and football pitches and active organisations such as Scouts, Guides, church clubs and very good dramatic and music societies. There were many evening classes with low fees. Churches of most denominations were active: a number have gone now.

Dover was - and still is - a family-based town. And the real Dovorians? Polite, yes, but very wary of newcomers.

E.M. Littlehales

'WALK AROUND DOVER' As a result of my request in Newsletter no 3 the following errors have come to light:

p.6 St Edmund of Abingdon died in 1240 at Soisy and was buried in Pontigny.
It was St Richard of Chichester who died in the Maison Dieu in 1253.

p.23 'The Field of the Cloth of Gold' should be 'The Field of Cloth of Gold'!

p.20 Capt. Webb is the first man known to have swum the Channel; it is possible that one or more Napoleonic prisoners took this route home.

'WALK AROUND DOVER' is £1.85 at local bookshops etc. P.R.M.K.