

## VISIT TO CRABBLE CORN MILL

On Saturday March 10th almost one hundred members of the Society visited Crabble Corn Mill. We had no idea how many would be coming but this was quite a magnificent turnout.

The Society was impressed by the restoration work carried out and in recognition of this had asked to present the Crabble Corn Mill Trust with a framed certificate together with a cheque for Fifty Pounds. Mr Jack Woolford, Chairman of the Dover Society, paid tribute to the hard work that had clearly been put in and on behalf of the Society wished success to everybody concerned with the scheme.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Trust, Ian Kilberry thanked the Society and promised that the framed certificate would be displayed in a prominent position when the Mill was opened to the public this Spring.

This was the first weekend that the builders were working Saturday and the Royal Engineers were also swarming all over the place. In addition a large consignment of plasterboard had been delivered the day before but despite all these problems we still managed to welcome our guests, show them some slides followed by a rather claustrophobic tour of the building and to cap it all provide refreshments. Many thanks to our splendid ladies here.

Our Chairman, Mike Prout, said a few words about the fund-raising work of the Friends of Crabble Corn Mill in consequence of which our membership received a noticeable boost. The generosity of the Society members was also shown by individual donations totalling over One Hundred Pounds.

We hope to see the Dover Society again in the not too distant future when it should be possible to show you Crabble Corn Mill as a fully restored working mill museum in all its former glory. Thank you once again for your interest and support.

*Clive Taylor* Member of Committee

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## CHAIRMAN JACK WOOLFORD GETS 'WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRY GUIDED WALKS' OFF TO A GOOD START

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On Sunday 14 April at 2.0pm the Chairman of The Dover Society though claiming no absolute right to a Dover passport in spite of his forty one years' domiclity, ascended the Town Hall steps and addressed the ninety strong assembly.

The occasion was that of the first of thirteen walks to take place this summer in and about Dover and organised by Dover District Council. Who better to set the ball rolling than local historian Jack Woolford?

Dealing with the Maison Dieu and Connaught Hall he took us back through the centuries to its early history and the naval connections. Passing along Effingham Crescent (Lord Howard of Effingham perhaps?)

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the ancient beauty of Dover College on the site of Dover Priory, bereft of term time activity and remarkably protected from the bustle of Dover traffic, could not fail to impress. Our guide highlighted the historical and architectural features with particular reference to the college chapel and former refectory. The sheer tranquility of the occasion in the afternoon sunshine was a most pleasant experience only to be left behind as we emerged back on to the highway, rounded the much destroyed and re-built former Methodist church en route to the Chapel of St Edmund of Abingdon in Priory Road. From thence through to Biggin Street and Cannon Street to the market square, our guide pointing out the wealth of historically valuable architecture to be seen and enjoyed largely above eye-level on either side of the route.

A mention for the Dickens connection, the Roman quay and the part to be played by the former market hall facade in the Heritage Centre Development saw us proceeding down the revamping of Castle Street to a vantage point in Russell Street carpark from which to view St James' Church ruins and surroundings.

From thence via Maison Dieu Road and Dieu Stone Lane to Pencester and a further pause to take in the entire profile of the castle against an absolutely cloudless sky. A majestic view indeed!

The return route continued, searching out the Dour footpath from Pencester Road through the South Kent College gate along the bank of the river to Ladywell and the Town Hall carpark, where our host bade us farewell almost exactly on schedule after a most informative and enjoyable start to the series of guided walks.

Ann Owen

So successful was this walk that Jack has been asked to repeat it.

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## Orchid Hunting in Environment Week

Some of the coastland around Dover has been designated as Heritage Coast and the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty extends inland from the cliffs. The area contains nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest, ancient woodlands and fascinating geological and historical features. A partnership of public, voluntary and private organisations has been formed to help the White Cliffs Countryside Project to care for and manage the project area.

In support of the national Environment Week, a group of Dover Society members met on Sunday 29 April to be up-dated on the White Cliffs Project and help survey a section of Dover Western Heights by hunting orchids!