

198 For the next tour we walked a little bit more and she gave us three colours:- pink, green, blue. And we had to try and match the colours with the plants and flowers. I completed the task. We saw some of the following plants:- salad burnet, hawthorn, blackthorn, sloes, gorse, rockrose, dog rose and milk wort. the milk wort is a medicinal plant used for people in the olden days.

GERALDINE



WESTERN HEIGHTS

Today we walked up from school to the Western Heights. First we went to the Grand Shaft. This is a shaft that was made during 1806 and 1809, to allow a quick response by the troops stationed on the Heights to an attack on the harbour. With Napoleon's successful armies threatening to attack at any time this gave quick access which was very important.

Next we went to St. Martin's Battery which is situated on high ground overlooking the Grand Shaft. It was not only used in Napoleonic times but also in World Wars One and Two.

Thirdly we went to the North Entrance where we completed a work sheet and finally we went to the Caponiers area, which was referred to as a killing ground. I enjoyed my trip to the Western Heights very much.

RACHEL

COWGATE CEMETERY *THE GRAVEYARD*

As we climbed up the towering hill, there came an opening in the trees. We stepped over the brambles that were like sharp-toothed grass snakes and into a clearing, a dense patch of dead grass rather like a piece of disused carpet on top of a skip.



The grave stones were barely readable and you could only just see the inscriptions carved elaborately onto the stone or marble, whichever it was.

It read:

James Smith

Aged 2 years old

Born 18th of September 1845

Died 27th of December 1847

LISA

THE FOUR LEOPARDS' FACES

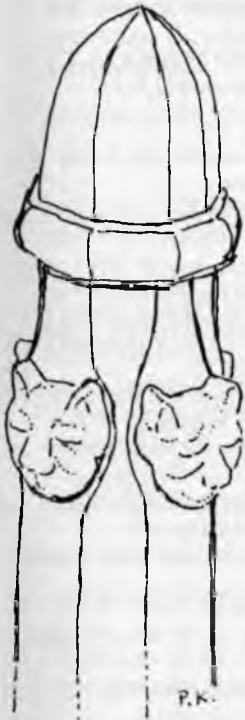


J. G. HARMAN

Have you ever been stopped in your tracks by the leopards? I am sure some of us made contact with them during the black-out, as these are the bollards placed on footpaths to prevent vehicles taking short cuts. You may have seen the recently re-furbished one at the corner of Castle Street and Eastbrook Place.

Recent discussions about a Dover Coat of Arms led me to do some research. I knew that the Dover Badge or Device appeared in the 1860's, just after the appointment of a new Town Clerk. I started to decipher some of the correspondence in the Town Clerk's Letter Book regarding the Arms of Dover. It was at about this period that the Stone Hall, as we know it, was being restored, partly by public subscription. It was decided to put shields of the Lords Warden around the walls. I have been able to see what appears to be the original design of these shields in a frame supplied by a Mr Edward Sclater who was in business in the 1860's. Amongst the shields was one with the four leopards' faces which had been covered over, and was claimed by "The Free Barons of the Town and Port of Dover", otherwise the Freemen including my ancestors.

We must now go back to St. Martin's Priory (now the site of Dover College). The Prior had his own Coat of Arms which was the four leopards' faces, and this has now been included in the Dover College grant of Arms. The Priory was dissolved in 1535, and that should have meant the disappearance of these Arms but somehow they survived. The Dover Corporation bought the Maison Dieu in 1834 and converted part of it into a prison. A wall was built between our present library and the Maison Dieu, and this provided an exercise yard for the prisoners. At the point where we now have the three cannons there was a doorway which had a shield over it showing the four leopards' faces and this survived until about 1894. We know that up to 1860 the Town Clerk had been using a lever seal with the leopards' faces.



Bollard at west junction
of Castle St. & Eastbrook
Place.