

dresses and coats to hang on the model, and we much enjoyed sticking coloured scraps on a large screen which was put around us at bath-time – in a metal ‘hip bath’ – in front of the dining room fire to keep the draughts off.

In 1935 I married into the well-known Prescott family – seven sisters-in-law, all of whom attended the Grammar School.

We enjoyed many happy years of camping with the East Kent District Association of the Camping Club, and abroad with the Bradley family from Canterbury, so when we both lost our partners Eric and I decided to join forces and had twenty-two very happy years together, until last spring when, almost ninety-six and full of energy, Eric died.

E. A. J. BRADLEY

Eric Alfred James Bradley, who recently died in Dover, was always proud of the fact that in 1914 he “defended the shores of England against invasion” at Sandwich Bay as a member of the Kent Cyclist Battalion. He was later transferred to the Signal Corps and served in India from 1915 to 1919, during which time he wrote regularly to his parents in Canterbury. His mother kept these letters which gave a good idea of the life of a young soldier of that time and will be preserved at the National Army Museum at Chelsea in London.

Eric was born in Grimsby in 1896, his family coming from a small village, Scamblesby, where they had farmed

for over 400 years. Eric’s father left school at the age of ten and has left a beautifully written story of his life, the various jobs he worked at, riding a “boneshaker” and being coachman to a well-to-do dentist, Mr Husbands, who took him on a trip to Maderia where he met a Mr Allen Pollock Morris, a Scot, who asked him to accompany him on a world trip to Japan, India, Australia and New Zealand as his “gentleman’s gentleman”. Mr Husbands later started a dental practice in Canterbury with Eric’s father as assistant.

The family moved to Canterbury in 1899 and there Eric attended the Simon Langton School. After the war he trained as a dentist and was later joined by two of his three sons in practice in the lovely old St. Peter’s House. In his retirement he took up amateur radio work and joined the local Radio Society, passing the examinations required at the age of eighty-seven, granting him his licence as G4 VNP. His interest in communications probably started while he was a keen member of the



2nd Canterbury Scout Troop. He was the oldest member of the E.K. Royal Signals Association and attended his last Kent Cyclist Re-union in October 1991, being the only member able to be present and proudly sitting next to the President, Sir Peter Imbert. He was a member of a number of clubs and societies, a good hockey player and he played a game of tennis on his ninetieth birthday. His ashes are scattered at his favourite

camping site at Graffham, near Petworth in Sussex. He was a Veteran Member of the Camping and Caravanning Club of G. B. & I. and past Chairman of the East Kent District Association. When he married Dorothy, his first wife, who died in 1969, they spent their honeymoon in one of the early caravans in 1925. His great-grandson, Timothy Christopher, will carry on the name of Bradley to further generations.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Comment from the new Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee

LAWRENCE GAGE

I AM flattered and honoured to be asked to chair the Planning Committee of the Society, particularly as I a relative newcomer to Dover. As an architect I hope I will be able to use my expertise to benefit the aims of the Society. I have noted with delight how active and lively the Dover Society is and I am particularly impressed with the quality of the Newsletter. It is not only highly informative, but it also most attractively produced and a pleasure to read – a model for other Societies.

For me, Dover is a great town. Its setting is stunning and there are many good quality buildings, particularly those of the nineteenth century. One would have to go a long way to find a street like Castle Street, where my office is, that has such wonderful prospects at both ends. Dover's castle and harbour must be amongst the finest examples anywhere in Europe.

I know that Dover has its problems, which are not helped by the current economic recession, but I consider the town has enormous potential for the future. There is good reason for optimism – the new roads, the plans of the Harbour Board for the Western docks area and the sea front, the coming of IMPACT with the possible injection of E.C. funds, the lifting of trade barriers, the success of the White Cliffs Experience, the positive attitudes of the Council, – these are all reasons to suggest that Dover is about to 'take off' into the twenty-first century. Even the tunnel now looks to be less of a threat to the town than it once did. It is important, however, that whatever happens, it is done