

# making the most of English Heritage



MERRIL LILLEY

IN THE SIX YEARS we have lived in Dover membership of English Heritage has become an economic necessity. We soon discovered that, in a year, if only three lots of visiting friends chose to view one of our local English heritage sites our annual subscription was justified. At any time visitors arrive and wish to be escorted to one of the castles: Dover, Deal, Walmer or Richborough or to the Grand Shaft, and, strangely enough, we never get tired of accompanying them. There is always something new to see and learn, something one missed on a previous visit or something to buy in the souvenir shop.

In August this year we greeted some friends who had not visited Dover for some time, with the usual question, "Now, where would you like to go?"

"Well, we've never been to Dover Castle".

Dutifully we did the guided tour, the church of St. Mary-in-Castro, the Pharos, we climbed to the top of the Keep, saw the current exhibition called "Live and Let's Spy" (very interesting!) and ended with twenty minutes in the souvenir shop, where I bought a Christmas present and some cards at a reasonable price.

All well and good, until three days later another couple arrived and wanted to visit – yes, you guessed right – Dover Castle on the Sunday. Our first reaction was dismay: not Dover Castle again!

We had no need to worry. It was Bank Holiday weekend and time for a great EVENT at the Castle, **SOLDIERS THROUGH THE AGES**. The sun shone and from noon there was plenty to see, including static displays of various historical periods, the medieval being particularly fascinating. Then, from one o'clock, on the lawn before the Keep, displays, in turn, by Roman soldiers, Medieval soldiers, 1770's Redcoats, the

Napoleonic Association and World War II soldiers. The highlight of the afternoon was a mock battle, lasting forty-five minutes, between English and French troops of Napoleonic times. After many realistic skirmishes with units advancing, fighting, retreating, tending to their wounded and then re-forming, with much applause from the spectators, the battle ended with the French storming, and taking, the Keep. All in the interests of Entente Cordiale!

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The pictures illustrating this article show the mock battle between French and English forces in Napoleonic times.

Having provided ourselves with a picnic lunch and a travel rug, we viewed most of the proceedings from a vantage point under the walls of the Keep; a very different day at the castle than the one we had spent earlier in the same week. As we left the grounds, we noticed that the following weekend featured a Longbow Tournament.

**NOTE:** If you join English Heritage, you get free or reduced price admission to most events and free admission to all properties. A Members' Pack includes a guide, a map and an annual events diary and there are four magazines each year.

## *Sconebrook, Attertune and Copt Hill*

BUDGE ADAMS

These three terms are names of areas in Dover in the 13th, 14th and early 15th centuries and, as one much interested in local history, they intrigue me greatly.

Could "Sconebrook" have any affinity with the present day "Stembrook"? Sconebrook and Attertune are mentioned in a document dated December 1257 as a site or sites that were in the ownership of the "Master and Brethren of the Hospital of the blessed Mary in Dover". "Copt Hill" in my childhood was the name for the hillside forming St. James's Cemetery but there is evidence that some land in the same area, (Castledane) was known as "Cophill" in 1400. If anyone has the slightest crumb of information on these places I would be most grateful to hear from him/her on Dover 208008 or by note to 24 Castle Avenue. CT16 1EZ