

When Lillian was three months old, her family moved house to a quay by the Granville Dock, where coal and timber boats unloaded their cargoes. Later, in 1928, when part of Snargate Street was pulled down, they moved again, this time to Douro Place (See picture), the house which holds most memories for Lillian.

From this period she has a wealth of recollections; of summer on the beach; of tennis, bathing and bandstands; of trams; of breakwater swimming; of annual regattas; of regular concerts by the bands of one of the three resident Dover regiments and 'beating of the retreat' each Wednesday on the seafront; of roller-skating, dancing, community singing. Her memory of this part of her childhood is that "there was something on every day". Her audience, having relived the years with her, were reluctant to break for the interval.

After the break, Jon Iveson, talked about fortifications in Dover. He started with a reminder of Dover's earliest history and the importance of sea routes for traders and invaders. He described the coming of the Romans to Dover and their subsequent occupation and building of their three forts, which they occupied, abandoned, then returned and rebuilt, between 130 AD and 208 AD. A fort held 10 barracks of 64 men (the crew of a galley). The Roman Pharoses, or lighthouses, were built between 120 and 130 AD.

After the Romans left, about 400 AD, there was little to report in the Dark Ages which followed. At the time of the Norman Conquest, 1066, William first burned Dover and thereafter strengthened its fortifications.

It was not until 1185, that Henry II was responsible for the building of the Keep at Dover Castle, at a cost of £8000, the king's income for a year! From this time onwards there is plenty of historical detail on Dover's fortifications, with the changes and additions to the castle over the centuries and later the installation of various fortifications on the Western Heights from the mid-eighteenth century onwards. These included the Citadel, the Drop Redoubt and the Grand Shaft. Jon gave his audience a comprehensive introduction to all these features, but, as he pointed out, each of them merits a full address to do it justice.

Dover is so rich in history that a full discussion of its fortifications would fill volumes. However, we are fortunate to have Jon working at the museum and he has agreed to contribute a series of articles to the Newsletter, each one dealing with one aspect of Dover's fortifications. The first of these, on Fort Burgoyne, appears in this issue.

At the end of this information-packed evening, the Chairman thanked both speakers for their valuable contributions, pointing out that, as ever, the old Dovorians and the newcomers, like himself, had much to offer to the town.

Membership News

S. R. COPE
Membership Secretary

At the time of writing we have 427 members and 90% have paid their subscriptions which have been pursued more promptly this financial year. Subscriptions provide the backbone of our funding and now that we are faced with realistic newsletter costs it is even more crucial that money is gathered in on time to earn interest and to enable the treasurer to budget effectively. Fortunately we have some reserves and the committee is looking at new methods to maintain our sound finances without asking members for increased contributions. Several members outside the area voluntarily pay extra for postage and this is always appreciated.



We have welcomed to membership Mr D Lowe, Miss A Lingard, Mrs P Yeomans, Mr and Mrs E Thomas and record with much regret the deaths of Captain W Hoar, Mrs C Staveley and Mr K Lawson.