

The Memorial to Sir Clifford Jarratt

John Gerrard

Sir Clifford was renowned for his delightful smile and had he witnessed the fun and games that the Society's committee enjoyed in getting the memorial project off the ground he would have smiled greatly.

The idea of establishing the memorial originated from Lady Jarratt who indicated that her family and friends would be happy to fund the provision of a suitable memorial to one of Dover's most talented sons. The committee then took on the onerous task of deciding on the design of the memorial and as important, where it should be located. Ideas ranged from fountains, sculptures, a commemorative garden and various other options and a key element in our consideration of these proposals was the likely ongoing cost of maintenance and resistance to vandalism.

In the end we all agreed that the provision of a brass geographer plaque located on the Prince of Wales Pier showing the directions of local features would be a fitting tribute. The actual design of this was a team effort. John Gerrard arranged for the DHB drawing office to use their computer aided design systems to produce a general layout which the committee gradually refined by changing the format and adding four pictorial views drawn by local artist Karl Pitwon.

Meanwhile, thanks to the specialist advice received from the DHB experts the medium was changed from brass to bronze, following which our old friend Budge Adams stepped in and had a special waxed version of the drawing produced for the acid etching process.

Quotations were then invited from local sign manufacturers and the plaque was ordered from the Dover Sign Company. Meanwhile the DHB staff were busy building the large concrete base out on the pier, the cost of which was kindly donated by the Board.

Eventually, after many months of consideration and joint effort all was ready and on the 26th of April 1998, Lady Jarratt performed the informal opening ceremony.

It is entirely appropriate that by some strange chance the large plinth is so angled that as one reads the inscription to Sir Clifford, the viewer is looking directly to the centre of the town of which he was so proud.

