

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 34

April 1999



Mote's Bulwark, East Cliff

This print was published in 1772 and shows the Bulwark before the building of Guildford Battery.
The semi-circular bastion built at the foot of the cliff around 1735 dominates the beach.

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THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

Registered with the Civic trust, Affiliated to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies
Registered Charity No. 299954

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A. F. Adams, Jennifer Gerrard, Derek Leach,
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The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archæology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- and commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton, Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All members receive three Newsletters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events - talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

Editorial

Our next meeting, on 19th April, is the Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Dover Society. The speaker will be Jonathan Sloggett, Managing Director of Dover Harbour Board. The agenda is enclosed with this Newsletter. As you will see there will be a few changes to the Committee. Sadly, we are losing John and Jennifer Gerrard. Jennifer held the post of Treasurer for several years. She retired from this post last year but remained a committee member. John has held the post of Vice-Chairman since the Society was formed in 1988. He has contributed a great deal to the Society in many ways, too numerous to list, and will be greatly missed. His place will be taken by existing committee members and we hope to welcome three new members, as listed on the agenda.

We hope for a good attendance at this meeting. Sheila Cope, our membership secretary, will be there to collect subscriptions and welcome new members. There will be the usual refreshments and raffle in the interval.

In May we embark upon our summer programme. As usual all the details of the outings are listed on the inside back cover of the Newsletter. Please note changes from the outings proposed in Newsletter 33. Some dates have been changed, some outings replaced by others and some new trips arranged. Application forms for the cruise on the Medway (May 22) and the trip to Dungeness (July 14) are enclosed with this Newsletter. For all the other trips in June and July members will need to telephone Joan Liggett.

For several years now, our Social Secretary, Joan Liggett, has organised some small group outings and established members will be familiar with the arrangements for these. Normally these outings are for 20 members so ,if you are interested, it is necessary to book early. Once the places are all taken Joan keeps a waiting list and, if there is sufficient demand, she tries to organise a second visit to that location. Because of the small numbers there are no application forms for these visits and members are asked to telephone Joan to reserve a place.

The two such outings in June this Year are to Dover cemeteries and to the Citadel to look at the fortifications. Martyn Webster, a Dovorian

now living in Brighton, is to lead a guided cemetery tour on 5th June. Originally Martyn offered the tour to the DDC which felt unable to include it as part of the Dover Festival. We are very pleased to have it in our programme, agreeing with our Chairman that cemeteries are comments on local history, written on stone rather than paper. For this visit members are advised to wear walking shoes and the trip is not recommended for those who have any difficulty in walking, as there is some distance between sites and some steep slopes to negotiate.

Details of the August and September outings will appear in Newsletter 35, due out on 1st August.

Our winter programme has been very successful this year, with some excellent speakers and very good attendance by members. The November and January meetings, each with two speakers, are reported here, as is the Christmas Feast. The report of the March meeting will be too late for this issue. The February Wine and Wisdom, hosted, as usual by Clive Taylor, was as riveting as ever with twelve tables competing for the coveted Dover Society engraved glasses. This is always a very popular event.

We seem to be developing several regular

historical series. In this issue we have the third article by Jon Iveson of Dover Museum, this time on the Mote's Bulwark. There is another article by Ivan Green, *Dover After 1066*.

There is also another article from Peter Burville, who is researching the history of his family name and, incidentally, of East Cliff, where various members of his family lived. Peter's first article for the Newsletter appeared in 1992, *Embarking on a One-name Study*. His second, more-recent article, *Some Troglodytes of East Kent*, appeared in Newsletter 32, August 1998. Since then his research has included the history of the building of a tunnel at East Cliff in 1870 and this is the subject of his latest article.

Once again, we have a "Sneak Preview" of this year's Dover Festival from Lisa Webb, Arts Development Officer at Dover District Council. The full festival programme will be available from 19 April at all local outlets, including libraries and tourist information centres. As usual, please write to the Editor with reports of any festival events which you attend. They will be very welcome.

With thanks to all our contributors and to our advertisers for their continued support. If other members have ideas and wish to contribute to the work of the Society, all that is required is telephone call to the appropriate committee member.

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 35 will be Monday 14th June 1999

The Editor welcomes contributions and interesting drawings or photographs. "Paper copy" should be typed at double spacing. Handwritten copy should be clear with wide line spacing. Accurate fully proof-read copy on computer discs is acceptable; please ring 01304 205254 to discuss details.

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The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

We very much regret the prospective retirement of ViceChairman John Gerrard from our committee. His manifold services have been invaluable. We welcome Tony Holman to membership, in general because he is a dedicated young Dovorian and in particular because of his deep involvement in the (de-)pollution of the Dour.

During consultation with Dover Society members and after much debate we are considering that the Zeebrugge Bell should stay where it is, but that we should sponsor a plaque at pedestrian level beneath it to inform passers-by about it.

Our suggestion that London Road above Cherry Tree Avenue should be refurbished, happily coincided with English Heritage's revived offer of finance and, with Civic Trust support, we dare to hope that the Conservation Area's boundary may be

extended across the road. The necessary matching grants by Dover District and Town Councils shows them at their best. We also applaud the prospective Millennium Bandstand in Pencester Gardens, look forward to the siting of the Basketball Goal we are sponsoring, applaud the refusal of permission to MFI to move to Whitfield, and the changes to the redesign of the Churchill

Hotel. We are also pleased to have influenced decisions on the various proposed radio antennae at River, the Citadel and Crabble, and support a new bye law against drinking in specified public places.

We are, however, deeply dismayed by the demolition of the GPO facade in Priory Street contrary to the given planning permission and argue that it may create a most undesirable precedent. We also await more action on the disgusting problem of ubiquitous dog excrement. Where are the poop-scoops?

We are pleased to have persuaded the Coop to mend the fence on the B&Q footpath by the river and Connex to clear litter from the tracks of Dover Priory in sackfuls. We hope it will continue. We do not expect to see windmills generating electricity on the Goodwin Sands and continue to await progress on the proposed Public Art statue(s) in Connaught Park.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SPRING 1999

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE! • SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE! • SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE!

Please pay promptly and help maintain, or if possible increase, our present membership of 410. The subscription amount is unchanged at £6 single and £10 double membership. To minimise costs cheques are only acknowledged on receipt of a s.a.e. I have standing order forms awaiting any members who would appreciate the convenience of paying by this method. Many already do. Standing orders, unlike direct debits, are entirely under a payer's control and can be cancelled at any time. Whatever method you prefer, I look forward to receiving your money soon!

The family of the late Mrs F M Littlehales, one of our founder members who died in November, has given us her collection of Bygone Kent magazines dating from 1979 to 1995. There are familiar names among the contributors and articles of local interest in these booklets, which are now available for members to borrow. They add to our collection of books listed in a previous Newsletter which had belonged to the late Sir Clifford Jarrett and were kindly donated to us by Lady Mary.

Another death we sadly record is that of Mr L. R. Wood.

Our welcome new members are: Mrs J. Gosby, Mrs A. Thorn, Mr P. Frost, Mr C. O'Brien, Mr A. Holman.

SHEILA R. COPE
Membership Secretary

SERPLAN

A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE SOUTH EAST

Jack Woolford

This summarises the Society's third response to the proposed changes in Local Government

1. Local government has twice been reorganised in the last thirty years and a third reorganisation is now taking place. The rationale for this is the stimulation of democracy. Turnout at local elections is low, hence the proposals for annual elections, supermarket polling booths, elected mayors or cabinets, rolling registers, referenda, etc, etc. This process is time-consuming, disruptive and expensive, including legislation. As compared with, for example, health, education and transport it is of low electoral concern.

2. Turnout at general elections is high because power and resources are at stake. Political parties offer genuine change. Turnout at local elections was formerly much larger because local authorities had control of their own tax resources and because they were deeply involved in local transport, health and education, etc. Centralisation, rate-capping and displacement of responsibility to quangos have reduced them to relative impotence. Compared with issues like abortion, animal rights, armaments and road building, etc, for which thousands petition and demonstrate, local government is regarded as trivial and boring. The self-evident remedy is to restore powers and make resources available to county and district councils etc.

3. This is not what Serplan proposes. So-called "regions" which have existed for thirty years as consultative bodies are now promoted to the key position in policy making and enforcement. They are located in government offices like Guilford and their Regional Development Agencies, etc, are quangos or qualgos. The small number of county councillors on them is nominated, not elected. The cooption of businessmen, etc, is also not democratic. How independent of Whitehall the regional offices will be is highly questionable. Moreover, the SE. Region which stretches from Bedford in the north to Southampton in the south and from Oxford in the west to Dover in the east, excluding London, makes no kind of geographical, economic or historic sense as compared, for instance with a Wealden Region of Surrey, the Sussexes and Kent.

4. Regionalisation is part of a larger scheme.

5. According to the Labour election manifesto, the devolution of power to Welsh and Scottish Assemblies is to be paralleled by the creation of Regional Assemblies to strengthen their regional identities and claims for resources. A National Assembly for England might have been more proportionately appropriate. Eight regions plus Wales and Scotland (and Northern Ireland) competing for limited resources sounds precisely like "divide and rule". It is hard to believe that Whitehall or the Treasury would grant them the independent tax-raising powers necessary for the coordination and control of sustainable education, planning, transport, etc.,

5. It is also known that the present government proposes that only Single-tier Unitary Authorities will be permitted to survive into regionalisation which means that County Councils, so strenuously supported in the recent struggle must disappear. This will obviously not be unopposed and we may confidently anticipate another long, strong and expensive struggle, and a messy compromise (eg the Medway Towns Unitary Authority within the County of Kent) to resolve the matter.

6. If there are to be elected Regional Assemblies with only unitary authorities beneath them, county councils must disappear and it will be difficult to maintain and justify District Councils at more than Parish Council level. As Lesley Cumberland argued at our meeting in October, unitary authorities could not be less than half-a-county in size - eg East Kent centred on Canterbury - and that for the necessary quality of representative, there should be no more than 12-15 councillors to represent the area, and that they should be paid, in comparison with the current situation, in which the smaller the area (parish, district and county councils), the larger the number of councillors and the smaller the power and resources to be expended.

7. Existing local authorities are already overburdened with continuously updating Structure Plans, Local Plans and Local Traffic Plans, all of which happen to include the environmental safeguards for which societies like ours have campaigned for years. (They also, however, invariably include sanctioned exceptions.) In this Serplan document they are now required to liaise and coordinate with even more bodies and to furnish more and more returns and undertake even more monitoring. Are their resources to be correspondingly enhanced so that they can continue to provide adequate essential services? We look forward to hearing what Dover District Council thinks about it.

8. The Serplan publication is unnecessarily repetitive and glossy and, consequently, more expensive. Committee members have variously described it as "Pie in the Sky", "the Road to Hell", and "totally impractical", "big on promises, short on action".

REPORTS ON MEETINGS

NOVEMBER Roads & Rogues

Reported by Merrill Lilley

The meeting held on 16th November, at St. Mary's Parish Centre, hosted two speakers, on very different subjects.

Richard Church, the Chairman of the Weald of Kent Preservation Society, talked about transport in Kent. He launched into his subject with a breath-taking anecdote from 'Toad of Toad Hall, conjuring up a vision of new roads, eating up the open countryside. Are we, he asked, building too many roads in the wrong places? He observed that we could go on building new roads forever, so we would have to decide how best to utilise the roads we had and this meant using them less frequently. How could we do this.

Our speaker had many suggestions. He discussed public transport, pointing out that, in this country, public transport costs 40% more than in other European countries, where it is heavily subsidised. He thought we should invest more in public transport and make it cheaper to use. He talked of the idea of using tags or bar code methods of taxing motorists. He discussed the probability that, in the future, more people would work from home for part of each week and thus reduce the amount of traffic on the roads. He suggested that using fleets of school buses would also reduce traffic at peak hours.

It was evident that local and county authorities recognised the need for change but, said the speaker, we all had to understand the problems.

The talk led to some lively discussion from the floor, about the state of local transport in the towns and in the country villages and the time needed to implement new ideas. More money was being spent on improving rural bus services, rather than building new roads. But could we all use our cars less than we were doing now? And could we use local shops more often?

Ken Wraight thanked the speaker, praising his boundless enthusiasm for his subject and his clarity of expression.

After the interval, with its customary raffle

and refreshments, the second speaker of the evening was Christine Down, from Dover's Young Offenders Institution, speaking on "Young Offenders and the Community". With a background of social work in both Australia and in the North of England, Christine Down is now part of the management team in Dover, dealing with social welfare and links with the community.

Housed in buildings dating from the time of the Napoleonic Wars, the Young Offenders Institution holds, in a secure environment, 316 young men aged from 17 to 21 years. From 1999 the age group will start at 18 years. The occupants are accommodated in five houses with six-bed dormitories, which, the speaker said, are not really suitable for the type of prisoners held there.

She gave her audience a detailed insight into the life of the young offenders. Each of them has a file which is kept up to date and reviewed regularly. There are six-monthly assessments. There are incentive schemes and earned privileges but also demotions for bad behaviour.

Many difficulties arise. There are often interpersonal difficulties between individual prisoners and between groups of prisoners. Victimisation can be a problem, as can bullying. There are also suicide risks. She demonstrated how a rope can be painstakingly manufactured out of toilet paper. She also showed how prisoners contrive to make weapons of various kinds; knuckle dusters, a needle in a toothpaste tube, a razor in a biro, with exhibits for us to handle.

She went on to talk about the length of sentences and the types of crime committed by young offenders. Sentences could be anything from six months to four years or more. Sometimes a prisoner was in the Dover institution for such a short time it was difficult to embark on any programme of support. For those with long sentences there were many avenues of assistance. Young offenders have to learn to obey rules and live within certain parameters of social behaviour. They are assessed for educational skills on entry. While some have low literacy and numeracy skills, others are able to embark on training courses in subjects like bricklaying,

motor mechanics, plumbing, electricians and physical education and can progress to taking City and Guilds examinations.

Offenders in the Dover institution have a background of a wide variety of crime; burglary, theft, robbery, reckless driving, breach of community service, wounding, wounding with intent, grievous bodily harm and rape. Many of the youths have records which show evidence of drug or alcohol abuse; many have been in local authority care; some have a history of suicide attempts. 40% of the young offenders had a background of family breakdown, foster homes or homelessness.

The number of young offenders in prison is growing fast. The sentenced young offender population reached a high of over 10,000 in 1985. It then dropped to just over 5,000 in 1993. Since then it has risen by half and currently stands at over 7,500. An additional 3,000 young offenders are held on remand. Half the crimes in the United Kingdom are committed by young males aged between 10 and 25 years and 60% of the victims of crime are young males aged between 16 and 25 years.

The members of the audience seemed temporarily stunned with the unexpected mass of information they had received about an institution on their doorstep, which they had not previously considered in detail. However, as soon as they recovered the speaker was swamped with a rush of questions which she answered to the best of her ability in the time remaining. She talked of help with allotments, with repairs and with disabled adults. She described community links and work with the Y.M.C.A. and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. She mentioned courses in gymnastics, in swimming, in life-saving and in first aid with St. John's Ambulance. She mentioned career advice and the possibilities which arose for temporary employment with local firms.

Lilian Kay thanked the speaker for her fascinating and informative talk on a subject which had never been tackled previously at a Society meeting. It had given the audience much to think about and an insight into the numerous problems faced by those who worked with young offenders

DECEMBER

The Christmas Feast

Report by E. Merrill Johns

On the 19th of December, 1998, some 93 members and friends of The Dover Society were, once more, for their Christmas Feast, the guests of Dover College. As always, we were welcomed with a sherry, though I suspect we did not need it to loosen our tongues as we exchanged greetings with friends, acquaintances and table companions.

We had honoured guests to welcome more formally. The Town Mayor, Paul Sheldrake, was announced, escorted to his seat and welcomed. Our Chairman, Jeremy Cope, presided over the proceedings and included in the welcome Mrs Gillian Sheldrake, our M.P. Gwyn Prosser and his daughter. I am sure the political guests were greatly cheered to know they had no responsibilities for the evening, except to enjoy themselves. We also welcomed ten guests from our sister organisation in Calais, led by their secretary Mme. Fabienne Tomas.

It was a pleasure to see our local historian Ivan Green, one of our Vice-Presidents, though we were sorry to learn that his wife Margaret had been admitted to hospital. The hope was expressed that she would soon be home and well. Sadly, there were four other members who had booked but were too ill to join us. Miss Kay, also a Vice-President, was absent for the first time. We missed her.

It was a first opportunity for some of us to see Howard Blackett, the new Head of Dover College, while for all of us it was welcome news that he had agreed to become one of our Society's Vice-presidents.

After Mr. Blackett had responded to his welcome into the Society, we were ready to line up for the splendid buffet. This is always an introduction to a real feast with wonderful food, magnificently presented and served with good-humoured efficiency.

During the serving of coffee we were encouraged to buy raffle tickets and I, for one, was disappointed not to win the bottle of claret from the House of Commons.

Following the meal, the Dover College music teacher, Roderick Spencer, conducted members of the school choir in a delightful selection of music, beautifully executed.

The evening concluded with a chance for us all to sing carols. It is always good to share

8 in audience participation and this occasion was no exception.

The success of such an evening does not happen by accident. Our thanks were extended to our Social Secretary, Joan Liggett and her husband Richard, to Mike Weston, who organised the wine, to the raffle team and to the catering staff, who gave us such a superb meal.

JANUARY

A Coroner's Tale and a Researcher's Report

EDITOR'S NOTE

At the meeting on January 25th there were two speakers. The first was Dover's coroner, Richard Sturt, and the second Derek Leach, who gave a talk on Prospect House.

Derek stepped in at fairly short notice, in place of the scheduled speaker from Neptune Radio, who was unable to attend. Derek agreed to write an account of his talk for the Newsletter and Terry Sutton agreed to cover the first half of the evening. However, on the night, Terry was unable to attend the meeting. Nevertheless, he has been kind enough to write the account of the first talk of the evening, taken from a tape made by Jack Woolford. So altogether we have to thank several members for the resulting reports.

John Owen proposed a vote of thanks to Richard Sturt for his interesting talk, commenting on two stories in particular. He said that the details of the Herne Bay murder and the post mortem discovery of a heavy duty needle in a prison inmate, was stirring stuff.

Dorothy Smith proposed the vote of thanks to Derek Leach. As the speaker pointed out, this was an opportune time to research the history of Prospect House, with the imminent reopening of the premises by the YMCA.

By all accounts the meeting was a great success and members who were unable to attend, including Terry and myself, missed two excellent talks.

A CORONER'S REPORT

A report by Terry Sutton of Richard Sturt's talk (taken from a taped recording).

Richard Sturt, HM Coroner for Dover and Canterbury and senior partner in the law firm of Mowl and Mowl, topped the bill with a talk on his duties.

He told the meeting how the appointment

of coroners was set up by statute in 1194. In those days, 800 years ago, coroners were also responsible for the collection of taxes, dealing with wrecks, forfeiture of property belonging to a felon and were also magistrates. They were selected from the "knightly class", wealthy enough not to stoop to financial corruption.

Our speaker then described a number of his cases, providing an insight into the death of dramatist and poet Christopher Marlowe, in an affray at Deptford Strond in 1593, by reading the coroner's inquisition. The verdict was lawful killing as the killer was considered to be acting in self-defence.

Apparently there was a theory that Marlowe was a government spy, was not killed in the disturbance (another body was used at the inquest) and was spirited out of the country to settle in Padua where he wrote many of the works now attributed to Shakespeare! A trust was set up, administered by King's School, Canterbury, of which Mr Sturt is a governor, to investigate this theory.

Mr Sturt also told of the Bride in the Bath murder at Herne Bay when the inquest was conducted by Rutley Mowl, Mr Sturt's predecessor but one. The publicity gained by that and other inquests led to the arrest of a man who had "married" several wives who all drowned in their baths.

But the inquest that proved the most difficult, and controversial, for Mr Sturt was that on the people who died in the Herald of Free Enterprise tragedy. In that case the jury returned verdicts of unlawful killing on 187 of the victims and an open verdict on a 26 year old woman who died in a British hospital six weeks after the sinking.

One comment made by Mr Sturt was that none of those who died were over the legal drink-drive limit and, as many of those on board were on a newspaper promotion trip, he wondered if any of those who survived were over the limit.

Another interesting inquest was that on a prisoner at Canterbury who died after a mailbag needle was found in his body.

Yet another inquest he had to conduct was following the IRA bombing of Deal Barracks when 11 bands men died. He revealed that part of the clock mechanism, controlling the bomb, was found in the body of one of the blown up victims.

It was a fascinating talk in which the coroner was able to give the audience details that jury members would not be allowed to divulge because they are sworn to secrecy.

PROSPECT HOUSE

DEREK LEACH

Prospect House or, as many will remember it, the (former) Prince of Wales Sea Training School is on the western side of York Street standing back between the Battle of Britain and York House blocks of flats. The property is bounded on three sides by Princes Street, Cowgate Hill and

The building

For some time during its life and until at least 1938 there were three front doors facing Princes St. At some date these three houses plus adjoining cottages on Durham Hill became one internally. The joins are quite obvious with different floor levels



Durham Hill. The recent purchase, refurbishment and imminent reopening by the YMCA of these derelict premises, known to many as the (former) Prince of Wales Sea Training School, seemed an opportune time to research its history.

both across the building and from front to back. Some of the front bedrooms have steps down to their floor level as soon as you enter the bedrooms from the landing - most unusual. The roof line of the Durham Hill cottages is still distinctive. The

10 property includes the large hall at the rear fronting on to Durham Hill.

The cellars have thick chalk walls and possibly the start of a tunnel heading down the hill in the direction of The Cause is Altered - possibly used by smugglers and possibly predating Mr Hartley's mansion - unless he was in on the smuggling too! To date I have found no documentary evidence of a tunnel from or under this building.

A good idea of the extent of the building can be gained from the estate agent's literature when the premises were put on the market in 1994 viz. Ground floor:- reception area and office, common room, kitchen, utility room, private sitting room, lobby, staff flat (sitting room, conservatory, bedroom, hall, kitchen and bathroom), laundry room, linen room, toilet, store room, cellar (boiler room); first floor:- flat (entrance hall, dining room, sitting room, 2 bedrooms, cloak-room with toilet, kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom and hall), 7 bedrooms, bathroom; first floor annexe:- rear hall, gymnasium/hall (6 pillars, vaulted ceiling and woodblock floor) plus 2 storage rooms, showers and toilets, 3 bedrooms; second floor:- 14 bedrooms, bathroom and toilet, communal bathroom with 3 toilets and 4 wash hand basins, landing; outside:- internal courtyard, front drive, car park and garden with double wrought iron gates.

The occupants

According to Bavington Jones, John Hartley was a Freeman of Dover and owned property in 1794 which was known as Hartley's Meadow and around 1800 he built his mansion surrounded by meadows. In this building he started a school for young gentlemen. John Hartley was a schoolmaster and so was his son John. In 1838 Henry Crow, a schoolmaster who ran a boys school in St James's St. took over the premises from Mr Hartley. Prospect House School or Academy was the oldest established secondary school in

the Dover district and remained virtually in this same family until it closed in 1905. The 1851 census tells us that Henry Crow was running the Prospect Academy with 23 scholars from various parts of the country. In addition to his school teaching he occasionally gave lectures to the Dover Philosophical Society. His son another Henry Crow took over the school when his father died in 1864 and was followed in 1866 by his son-in-law Mr Hutchinson. Mr Hutchinson apparently kept 'fully abreast of advanced and progressive requirements of modern times'. Special provision was made for the comfort and education of foreign pupils and boys whose parents lived in India or elsewhere at a distance. Special arrangements were made for these boys to stay at school during vacations.

An unnamed article in the Library dating from the turn of the century describes the school:

'Prospect House occupies a healthy site on elevated ground commanding fine views of Dover town and castle within a few minutes walk of the sea, promenades, piers, public gardens and parks. Buildings are well constructed and perfect sanitary arrangements exist throughout - in the past 30 years only 2 cases of infectious illnesses were known at the school and those were slight attacks which were immediately isolated. Classrooms are well ventilated and dormitory accommodation is exceptionally good. Any boy desiring it can have a private bedroom on payment of a small additional fee. Domestic arrangements were under the special direction of Mrs Hutchinson'. There was a 'sound comprehensive modern English education with preparation for various public examinations and instruction in music, drawing, commercial education, modern languages, shorthand etc'. In 1896 Master Walter Hutchinson carried off high honours for writing Pitmans Shorthand by winning the Lord

Warden's silver challenge for all boys at schools in East Kent. The Marquis of Salisbury was Lord Warden at this time. The school was attracting increasing numbers of pupils from all parts. There were 'exceptional facilities for cricket, football and all other outdoor sports recreation with sea bathing and swimming regularly in the summer. Mr Hutchinson is a most excellent swimmer'.

It would appear that Prospect House School only occupied part of John Hartley's original building : Prospect House, 11 Princes St. According to the 1889 Dover Directory Alexander Smith, a Dover builder, was living next door at 12 Princes St (which was that part of the original mansion on the corner of Princes St and Cowgate Hill) and he also owned the adjacent cottage at 1A Cowgate Hill. Both he and his wife died in 1891 leaving the properties to their son and daughter. Henry Hutchinson purchased both these properties but apparently not to extend the school premises because the 1905 Dover Directory reveals Thomas Davidson living at 12 Princes St (then called Matlock House) and Henry Hutchinson living at number 11 (Prospect House).

The school continued until at least 1905 then, when presumably Henry Hutchinson retired, the school closed and the fascinating era of Mrs Beresford Baker and the Day Star Mission began.

Mrs Baker was a wealthy woman and a colourful character who via a marriage settlement trust purchased all the premises in 1907 founding and running the Day Star Mission from at least 1908, when it is first mentioned in the Dover Directory, until her death in October 1938. My research has uncovered an intriguing history of Mrs Baker over these thirty years which will need to be the subject of a separate article in a future issue of the Newsletter.

A Captain Geary had been appointed a trustee for the Baker properties in 1923

and was one of Mrs Baker's executors. Her husband died in 1933 and on her death, according to Mrs Morris who knew her well, she left virtually everything to Captain Geary on condition that he allowed the ladies who had lived with her to continue living in the house for the rest of their lives. However, Captain Geary made life so unbearable for them that they all left and he sold everything. 'He was a rotter!' - according to Mrs Morris.

Captain Geary and his wife then opened the premises as the Day Star Mission Guest House. A small brochure described it as 'a Christian Holiday Home and Guest House, comfortably furnished, gas fires in the bedrooms and bathrooms on each floor with hot and cold water. About 5 minutes walk from the sea and within easy access of station and of buses which run to the beautiful country and places of interest around Dover. Terms from 35/- per week according to room and season. Reductions made for permanent guests. Every care is taken to ensure comfort of guests. Family prayers daily. Services on Sunday and meetings during the week are held in the adjoining Mission Hall'.

Despite Mrs Morris's assertions about Captain Geary it appears that the Mission Hall activities continued for a while after Mrs Bakers death. Eric James another valuable source of information told me that Captain Geary was between 40 and 50 when he took over but he did not last a year because he did not have enough money to run the place. Attendances at the Mission dropped off - perhaps because all the perks for the needy stopped.

To date I have discovered little about the War years that followed. Both Eric James and another contact say that the premises were taken over by the WRNS. In 1946 Stanley Geary and Leslie Philips (another of Mrs Baker's Trustees from 1923 and presumably another beneficiary in her will) sold the premises to The British Sailors' Society. I do know that Lillian Kay and her Sea Rangers used to meet in one of

12 the rooms from 1946 to 1952. Ken Wraight and others recall going to dances there at about the same time - apparently up market dances compared with those at the Co-op Hall! Hopefully, I shall find out more about this period in due course from old Dovorians, from any surviving WRNS, The British and International Sailors' Society and from Naval Records.

On Tuesday 18 January 1949 the premises were officially opened by Admiral Lord Mountevans as the new Residential Club for Seamen. This was the result of the British Sailors' Society, Dover National Sailors' Home and the Dover Patrol Memorial Fund pooling their resources into one club administered by the British Sailors' Society. The premises were completely transformed and turned into a home from home for seamen putting into Dover, who were able to entertain guests for social functions. It was also a refuge for shipwrecked crews. Facilities included a private chapel, lounges, reading and writing rooms, shops, restaurant, concert hall for 200 people and comfortable sleeping accommodation with the manager sleeping on the premises. This club had a short life because in 1953 the premises became the Prince of Wales Sea Training School that most of us remember.

The Prince of Wales Sea Training School was opened in Lincolnshire in 1920 - the only one of its kind in the country - and came to Dover in 1953 when Prospect House was taken over by the British Sailors Society who ran the school. About 120 boys a year, aged 15 to 17 years, 40 at a time, underwent a 16 week course training for life at sea both in the classroom and practical work on the water in three whalers. Around one third of the boys came from Kent and the remainder from the rest of the UK, Rhodesia, New Zealand and elsewhere. The fare to Dover had to be found plus (in 1963) a £100 fee. This was sometimes paid by charities and there were some scholarships for Rhodesian

students. The boys wore uniform and were inspected by the Captain at morning parade. The mast in the grounds was used for visual signalling and every boy had to scale it. Elementary ships construction, use of the compass and lifeboat drill was taught. Wire and rope splicing, rope bends and hitches were some of the skills learned. The boys were also taught to do their own washing, mending and darning and to take a pride in their appearance. For two and a half days each week the boys attended an engineering course at South Kent College. After two years at sea the boys returned to Dover for a twelve week course at the College to qualify as marine mechanics.

A report in the Kent Messenger dated 13 January 1961 stated that the school had had a busy year with 110 boys trained for the deck department of the Merchant Navy during 1960. Forty five were placed with the P&O and Orient Line (with twelve joining the new ship Oriana on her maiden voyage) and 30 boys with Port Line. Whilst they joined as deck boys there was no bar to further advancement - they were encouraged to study for Second Mate Certificate by correspondence course. Several apprenticeships for outstanding boys had been obtained. Commander J S Hough DSC was Captain Superintendent at this time.

Two hundred guests including many parents attended an open day on 12 June 1963. The guest of honour was the Marchioness of Zetland who presented prizes to the winners of various sporting events. There was a display on the Recreation Ground behind the school including a parade, bends and hitches demonstration, deck hockey, races, tug of war, PT display and a simulated rescue from a stranded ship using breeches buoy. Tea was followed by a conducted tour of the buildings including the new Seamanship Room to be equipped with models and the Mess Room with its new tubular steel furniture. The event closed with a march

past.

In 1964 Commander Hough moved to become Deputy General Secretary of the British Sailors Society. His wife had taught at Barton Road Primary School. He was succeeded by Captain Colin Vine.

The school closed in December 1975, killed by inflation. It was costing £35,000 per year to run and was put up for sale with offers invited around £105,000 for the freehold. The old ship's mast and windlass that used to stand in the grounds was donated to Dover Transport Museum and still exists. It may soon be returned to its old home.

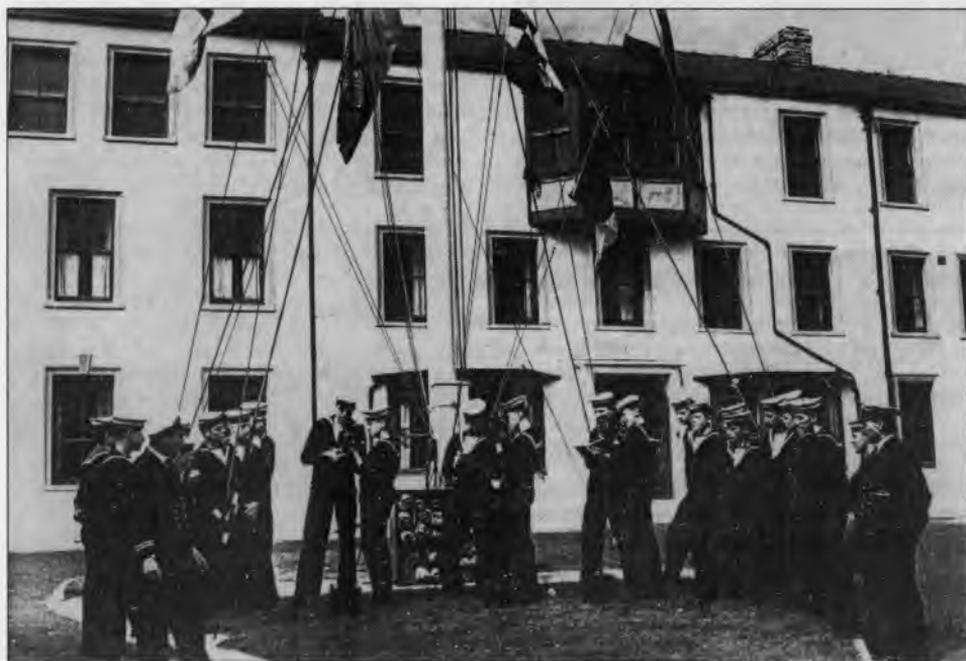
From 1975 the buildings were then used by Dover College as a school boarding house for girls. They leased the premises from The British Sailors Society initially but purchased them in 1988 for £102,038. The premises became surplus to requirements in 1994 and were put on the market.

The YMCA purchased the premises in 1996 and commenced renovation work to bring the large derelict building back into use. Dover YMCA was launched in 1856 and has served Dover ever since. It operates

informal youth clubs both in Dover and four villages. At their Leyburne Road premises they accommodate up to eight residents with short to medium term needs, plus up to twenty-five backpackers at any one time, offering budget overnight accommodation. In addition an emergency service is offered to local and transient folk needing safe supportive short term accommodation. Having raised the funds to purchase Prince of Wales House, fund raising continues in order to renovate the premises. Although renovation is not complete the project has already developed relationships and partnerships with various agencies such as the Probation Service and the local Young Offenders Institute. This means that support, advice and referrals to training and employment opportunities are already available. Upon completion of the project this will be expanded to include supported housing and an introduction into more permanent accommodation.

Hopefully this old building with such an interesting history will serve the town well for many more years.

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HISTORIC PLAQUES

SOCIETY'S MILLENNIUM PROJECT

By Terry Sutton

In February last year I suggested to the committee of The Dover Society that we should mark the Millennium with a number of plaques on properties in the town that have played their part in history. I was delighted when the suggestion was adopted.

Little did we realise what an insurance minefield we were about to enter!

Those property owners we have approached have been most cooperative but, so far, have declined to take on the insurance risk of the plaques falling down on passers by.

So we got on to our insurance advisers at the Civic Trust. No, said our insurers, such insurance risks are normally carried by the owner of the property on which the plaques are placed.

And, at the time of writing, the talks go on.

My thanks to Chairman Jeremy and his wife Sheila (who chairs our "plaques" sub-committee) for trying to find a way out of this legal minefield.

Your executive committee has decided, when the insurance problem is sorted out, to erect plaques in the Market Square area as a first step. We have permission, in principle, from the TSB in Castle Street to put up a plaque where the last enemy shell to land in England crashed down in September 1944,

and from Barclays Bank for a plaque indicating where the town's instruments of punishment once stood.

The next stage is to mark the sites where the Bronze Age Boat was excavated (in the Townwall Street underpass) and, partly at the request of Budge Adams, to recall that those killed in the Zeebrugge Raid on St. George's Day 1918 were rested, before burial, in what is now the museum.

Other suggestions I have put forward include: The spot where the first aerial bomb ever dropped on the UK (1914-Taswell Street area); where Charles Dickens wrote part of Bleak House in 1852 (Camden Crescent), where the exiled Napoleon III was re-united with his wife Eugenie in 1871 (Southern House-Lord Warden), the home of William Elgar, father of the composer (Charlton Centre area), birthplace of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke who instituted the calling of Banns of Marriage (Snargate Street), and where Dover's gallows stood, the last hanging in 1823 (bottom of Tower Hamlets—High Street).

Your committee is anxious that members, with knowledge of other interesting links with local history, should put forward ideas where other plaques could be erected in the years ahead, possibly after the Millennium.



Society Badges

The wearing of a Society Badge reminds the general public (who really do have eyes to see) that the Society is a viable and energetic non-political voice for Dover. The beautiful little enamelled Lapel or Brooch Badges are to Philomena Kennedy's original design, in black on a white ground, surrounded by a gold line defining the shape of the badge and are available from the Treasurer, in either type, for £2 post free.

Just contact the Treasurer, Jennifer Gerrard, at 77 Castle Avenue, or phone her on 206579 (with a cheque or P.O. if possible) and she will very quickly ensure that a badge is in your hands.

PROJECTS *Update*

JOHN OWEN, Chairman, Projects Sub-Committee



NATIONAL TREE WEEK

In 1998 the week ran from 25 November to 6 December with the theme 'Favourite Trees'. We visited our 'Favourite Trees' on Sunday 6 December to view our beech, field maple and wild cherry plantings of 1990.

The two hundred trees are thriving and are already re-creating a predominately beech wood presence in the sky-lined gap, caused by the hurricane of 1987.

1998 being the Society's tenth anniversary year, our Chairman Jeremy Cope, planted a three year old oak sapling to mark the occasion. The weeping willow planted by former Chairman Jack Woolford at Lydden Pond in 1991 is now quite a mature tree and is an impressive feature close to the Dover Society bench, presented to Lydden Parish Council in 1993. This was the 24th National Tree Week organised by The Tree Council and the fourth sponsored by Esso, during which thousands of tree plantings and management events took place across the country.

*(New) Chairman Jeremy Cope planting
(a 3 yr old) Sapling Oak during Society's 10th
anniversary year*

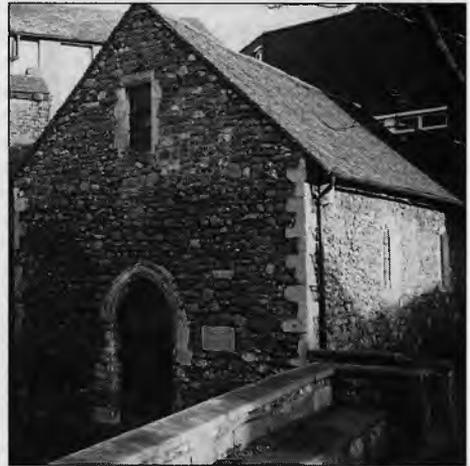


*Ken Wright - Jeremy Cope - Leo Wright
National Tree Week*

ST EDMUND CHAPEL PRIORY ROAD DOVER

The property is owned by the St Edmund of Abingdon Trust and was consecrated

as a chapel by St Richard of Chichester on 30 March 1253. It is the first and only chapel ever dedicated by an English saint and the first building dedicated to St Edmund of Abingdon Archbishop of Canterbury 1234 - 1240. On 30 March 1253 St Richard preached his last sermon and said his last mass in the



*St. Edmunds Chapel
(Abingdon Trust) Priory Road, Dover*

chapel. He died in the Maison Dieu Dover on 3 April 1253.

The chapel was in the charge of the Maison Dieu which ministered to pilgrims and was under the control of the Master appointed by St Martin's priory then the most important institution in medieval Dover after the castle. Probably it served as a chapel of rest for the 'cemetery of the poor' outside the priory. After the Reformation in 1534 the priory, Maison Dieu and St Edmund chapel were forced to close. Over the years new buildings concealed the old chapel and its sacred status was forgotten. It had many uses including, in late Victorian times, use as a blacksmith's forge. In 1943 German shells demolished two nearby shops revealing the chapel buildings for the first time in four

16 hundred years. In 1965 Father Tanner arranged a private purchase of the chapel and its restoration using medieval materials. At least 75% of the building however is original. The chapel was re-consecrated in 1968 and is now owned by the charitable trust which maintains it solely from gifts placed in the wall boxes. Mass is celebrated on Saturdays at 10.00 and the chapel is available for use by all denominations.

SOCIETY RESPONDS TO A REQUEST FOR HELP.

The Abingdon Memorial Trust's cry for help saw a small group of members assembled on the morning of Saturday 29 September at St Edmund chapel; a Dover ancient monument in Priory Road. We were dressed in working clothes and carrying an assortment of necessary tools. The morning was dull and grey with rain threatening.

We started on the stroke of ten which coincided with the start of the regular Saturday morning service at the chapel but were able to find quiet tasks to do until completion of the service at 10.30.

The north facing guttering was completely clogged with years of vegetative growth of one sort or another. This Jeremy Cope quickly removed at the same time performing hair-raising gymnastics between ladders and over and under obstructions in the three flanking properties. Leo Wright took on the soak-aways which likewise were long overdue for attention. Paul Sheldrake along with Terry Sutton wire-brushed the gutters and downpipes in readiness for painting.

Serious rain returned at this point which curtailed operations for the day.



We planned to deal with the painting phase of the project on 17 October but very severe weather meant we had to cancel. As anyone out and about on that day will testify, a particularly bad morning seemed to herald the onset of winter and it was decided to postpone completion of the project until the spring.

We had, however, achieved the main objective before the winter. A routine inspection of the chapel by the Trust's surveyor had revealed the problem and the need for early action to avoid dampness setting in.

DOVER BRONZE AGE BOAT:

Latest Update

From CHRISTINE WATERMAN

The most frequent question posed to myself and the staff of the museum these days is "what's happening to the boat?"

Well, those of you who have visited the new Bronze Age Boat gallery since August last year will have a pretty good idea, and I'm pleased to say that by the time this article goes to print we should be entering the final stage of a project which began over six years ago when the boat was discovered at the end of Bench Street in September 1992, and which has since involved about 100 people on different tasks.



REASSEMBLY AND PUBLIC VIEWING

Since late August, when the pieces of boat were returned after preservation treatment at the Mary Rose Trust, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (under English Heritage and Mary Rose staff supervision) have had the unenviable task of putting back together a very large jigsaw of over 30 boat timbers and fixings.

As with many of the activities associated with the project, this reassembly has been ground breaking stuff with the added frisson for the reassembly team, led by Peter Clarke, Deputy Director of Canterbury Archaeological Trust, of being carried out in full public view.



If you haven't been into the museum recently you may not know that you can come and see how work is progressing in the boat gallery through glass viewing panels cut into the temporary working area structure, and also view a small exhibition on the boat and the new gallery.

This part of the work is due to finish in mid-April when public access will finish for a few months to let us build the displays, so please ring if you are making a special visit to ensure there is something to see.



FINDING OUT WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW

Public reaction to the gallery has been recorded in a visitors' book and through surveys. Many thousands have seen the boat since August and most have been very positive about it and say they will return to see the finished gallery.

Comments include:

"Keep it simple, factual, informative. It is a stunning, exciting discovery it speaks for itself."

"Make it educational and fun for kids."

"We in the States have only 200 years of history to admire. People here should be grateful!"

The Bronze Age is a difficult subject for most people. In 1996 a survey of our visitors showed that only 8.5% knew when the Bronze Age was and 38% frankly admitted they had no idea when or what it was. We have used such research to plan our displays whilst still trying to bear

18 in mind that some visitors will want more than the basics. We will achieve this through a mix of touch screen computers, information panels, models and real objects.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: THE BOAT EXHIBITION

Running alongside the reassembly and exhibition work is a separate research project funded by English Heritage and also led by Peter Clarke. The team is made up of over a dozen specialists in the Bronze Age, maritime archaeology, wood technology and archaeological sciences. Their research papers will ultimately be published as an academic report and they will underpin all the exhibition texts whether on panels, computer or video.

On the exhibition team we have a museum designer, an interactive computer company, a number of model makers, a graphic designer, a figure maker, a prehistoric hut specialist, a scriptwriter, a wood technologist, a hands-on interactive model maker and a video company. My main role, with our project manager who has overall responsibility for the whole project, is to co-ordinate this team's day to day work and make sure we end up with the quality exhibition we expect, on time and to budget.



WHEN WILL IT BE OPENED?

All the main funding, amounting to over £1.5 million, from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation has now been raised by the Dover Bronze Age Boat Trust who own the boat. Dover District Council has agreed to run the gallery and fund its operational costs for the next twenty five years.

It is hoped to open fully in September this year. This might be delayed if the timber reassembly takes longer than anticipated but at the time of writing (February), all is on schedule.

We look forward to welcoming the Dover Society to an early viewing!



Festival of Dover 1999

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SNEAK PREVIEW

LISA WEBB, ARTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 1999

The town's annual arts celebration, the Festival of Dover, is coming up shortly, and promises a packed programme of entertaining events and activities. The Festival, coordinated by Dover District Council, runs from the 29 May through to the 6 June, to coincide with the late May Bank Holiday, and the week of half term holidays. While the programme is therefore tailored to meeting the needs of local families and children looking for something to do, it also aims to add interest for those visiting the area.

The week will be launched on Saturday 29 May with a day of high quality European street theatre in Market Square, including comedy cabaret, visual theatre and street entertainment from the Grand Theatre of Lemmings and the Invisible Men, along with local professional entertainers and a European street theatre event as part of the Music et Ramparts programme.

The following day, the annual Teddy Bear's Fairytale Picnic will take place at Kearsney Abbey - a classic children's event encompassing many family arts-based activities. Storytelling sessions, live music, dance and movement workshops, puppetry and drama from Pumpernickel Puppet Company, along with many other children's activities combine to provide a full day of free entertainment. Also on Sunday 30 May there will be "An Evening with Noel Coward and George Gershwin", an evening of light entertainment at The Churchill Hotel provided by leading soprano Marie Kelly and West End singer Freddie Williams and a supporting cast. Marking the centenary celebrations of Noel Coward and George Gershwin, the show will include songs, sketches and revue numbers.

On Bank Holiday Monday, a day of classic seaside street theatre is programmed for Dover seafront, including performances by the musical deep sea diving Jelly Rollers and pirate and mermaid walkabout duo Circo Rum Ba Ba. Support is provided by jazz bands, children's entertainers, puppetry and face painting. Meanwhile, at De Bradelei Wharf a special reunion event will take place for those evacuated during World War II. "Evacuees Reunion" will include a wartime tea party, with various artists providing music and songs of the era, and an opportunity for all participants to swap stories, photos and memorabilia.

In conjunction with the county wide Kent Dance Festival, Dover will host a two day event employing professional dancers and companies to provide a varied package of dance masterclasses, workshops and performance based work. This event will take place on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 June, with the project culminating in a professional showcase of work, featuring the professional dancers and local participants alike on the evening of Sunday 6 June.

Music will be explored in Music Lab'99, a three day music residency project to be staged once again during the Festival, enabling young people to work alongside a

20 professional team of musicians and performers at the White Cliffs Theatre. The tutors will hold masterclasses and workshops, lead rehearsals and help form bands who will perform in a finale concert alongside various named acts. Music forms will include rock, pop, jazz, folk and all forms of modern music, and participants will take away with them a compact disc and video recording of their achievements. This event takes place between Thursday 3 and Saturday 5 June.

Another project will be "The Dreaming Sea", the second part of the trilogy project, Millennium Voyage, and the result of a community based residency project led by Strange Cargo Arts Company. Participants will be devising and producing a multimedia open air show to be staged at the prestigious location of Dover Castle on Friday 4 June, as part of a three year programme of visual theatre for the Festival. Dover Town Council will be coordinating a 60's night at Dover Town Hall, including performances by The Maroon Dogs and personalities of the era. Throughout the week, local organisations and individuals will be presenting exhibitions at venues including Crabble Corn Mill, John Angell the Jewellers, White Cliffs Experience and Dover Museum.

De Bradelei Wharf is once again the principal sponsor of the Festival, having provided a major investment over a three year period and enabling over 90% of the activities in the Festival to be provided free of charge. Other major sponsors include Tesco Stores, who are supporting all of the audience development projects, along with Pfizer, George Hammond and Dover Eurochange to name but a few.

A full festival programme will be available from 19 April at all local outlets, including libraries and Tourist Information Centres. However if you would like to register for your advance copy of the programme, please call the Festival Hotline on (01304)375192.



Windmills on the Goodwins

From Terry Sutton

Electricity-generating windmills on the Goodwin Sands in the English Channel? Forget the idea, say members of the Dover Society's planning committee. Completely impracticable, says the committee's chairman, Jack Woolford. The general opinion of our committee was that any structures would just sink.

The idea of the offshore windfarm, presented to Dover District Council, came from Glasgow-based Natural Power Company which revealed it is looking at about ten offshore sites around the UK coast for possible use for windfarms to create electricity.

Natural Power's Alan Macintyre believes the offshore windmills could be creating power in five years time. But that depends on winning the necessary consents from national and local authorities.

One possible site for a windfarm, put forward by the company, was the Goodwin Sands and the idea was welcomed by members of our of Dover District Council's planning committee.

Support for the whirling offshore windmills came from Councillor Simon Bannister who wamed that the world's supply of fossil fuels was fast running out and who claimed that a shortage of fuel to create electricity could lead to world wars.

Mr McIntyre said it was encouraging to know at least one local authority supported the project when there were so often planning objections to windfarms.

MOTE'S BULWARK

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JON IVESON



Photo: circa 1974

Mote's Bulwark was one of three artillery fortifications begun in March 1539. It is situated part way up the cliff below the west ditch of the castle. Because of its position it is often referred to as Moats Bulwark. The early documents refer to it as "the turf bulwark under Dover Castle" or "The Bulwerck under the Castell dyke" but it becomes Mote's Bulwark because of its second captain Stephen Mote.

The early structure appears on plans at the British Museum. The earliest of these (BM Cott MS Aug I ii 84) is described by the History of the King's Works as dating from 1541 and shows a planked rectangular bulwark on a chalk platform. This bulwark appears to be earth, revetted on its inner side with timber. Piercing this earth and timber structure are six gun loops with guns mounted. Behind the bulwark is what is described by the

"History of the Kings Works" as "a long timber building almost completely decayed". It seems unlikely that in the year or so since its completion it could have decayed to such an extent, and this interpretation is probably incorrect. The drawing probably shows the structure under construction. What is shown is an arcaded lean-to building against the cliff, with the left hand arch outside the bulwark and the remaining eight within.

Another drawing in the British Museum (BM Cott Aug I I 26) is firmly dated to 1541. This is the plan of proposed work on the harbour by Richard Cavendish, John Bartlett, John a Borough and Anthony Auchar. On this drawing Mote's Bulwark is shown as an elaborate building on a chalk platform and with two semi-circular bastions to the seaward side. There is a further semi-circular enclosure

on the western side of the bulwark which may be a bastion looking towards the town. The walls of these bastions are pierced by gun loops and a timber structure is sited behind, probably against the cliff. This timber structure is probably that which appears on BM Cott MS Aug I ii 84 discussed above. It seems likely that this bastioned fort was intended to be additional to the timber building but to replace the earth and timber gun positions with a permanent stone or brick structure. Whether these proposed new fortifications were ever built is unknown but unlikely. In 1568 the storehouse was in need of repair.

Between 1624 and 1625 a sum of £1,048.17s.0d. was spent on repairs to Dover Castle, Moat's Bulwark and Archcliffe Bulwarks.

In 1652 a Dutch fleet anchored off Dover and the guns of the castle and Moat's Bulwark fired on it but lacked sufficient range to reach the fleet.

In 1661 the garrison of Moat's Bulwark is listed as being, a Captain, a Lieutenant, a Master-Gunner and twelve gunners. This was apparently a reduction in the complement as the Mayor and citizens of Dover signed a petition against reductions in the garrison of the castle, from which the gunners at Moat's Bulwark were drawn.

The pay lists for 1682 show that a complement of "A captain, lieutenant, four gunners and porters" were paid a total of £72.16.3d (although the gross is listed as £79.1.8d) and that £1.10s was allowed for coal.

An undated plan of the bulwark in the Historic Plans Room at English Heritage shows a new battery. This structure appears for the first time on the 1737 map of Dover. The plan is stamped with the Board of Ordnance mark and shows a series of terraces into the cliff with a paved area to the left and slightly in advance of these. This paved area is marked "Old Platform" but bears no resemblance to the early drawings discussed above. Behind

the platform is a structure marked "Master Gunner's House" and on the left is another structure marked "Guard Room and Storehouse". In advance of the guardhouse is an enclosure with what appear to be four steps down to a gate guarded by an embrasure overlooking the path up to the battery. The new battery is set below and west of the old. It is semi-circular in form and has eight embrasures for guns. A zig-zag of steps links the two and what seems to be a magazine is built on the new battery against the buttress of the old. In 1740 the Board of Ordnance considered that the new magazine should hold five and a half barrels of gunpowder.

In 1780 Lt. Page produced an abstract of estimates relating to the defence of the town. Included in these estimates was £1,200 for "Repair of Moat's Bulwark, as arranged by Master-General." It is possible that at least some of the money went towards the construction of Guilford battery below and to the east of Moat's Bulwark as this new battery appears on the 1784 "Survey of the Environs of Dover" (PRO MR 1345) marked as "Moat's Bulwark". North's Townshend's and Amherst's batteries which appear marked on the same map were accounted for separately in 1779 and together cost £2,100. The title Guilford's Battery may well have been given to this new work when Lord North, then Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, became the second Earl of Guilford in 1790.

In January 1793 an inspection of Dover's defences was carried out. With the outbreak of the Napoleonic Wars imminent, repairs to the Castle, Moat's Bulwark and Archcliffe Fort were recommended. These repairs were carried out in February 1793.

Guilford Shaft was built to link Moat's Bulwark with the Castle on the cliffs above. It was begun in 1793 and in February 1795 was still under construction, as a report from Lieutenant Bruyeres describes the arrangements for

sinking a third shaft between the castle and Moat's Bulwark. This is because the Shaft is in fact four shafts linked by inclined tunnels. The Reverend John Lyon writing in 1813 states that;

"Near the edge of the cliff, and not far from the end of the wall, a shaft has been sunk, one hundred and ninety feet deep, to form a communication with Moat's Bulwark, which was built at the foot of the cliff, by Henry the Eighth. In this shaft there are circular stairs; and when the Prince of Wales visited the Castle, in the year 1798 he was conducted down it, as the nearest way to the town."

In 1847 a report on the defences of Dover written by Colonel Tylden lists three 18 pounder guns mounted in Moat's Bulwark but notes that its' fire was masked by some houses which had recently been built in front of it. A further report in 1851

lists its armament as being three 32 pounders mounted en barbette, with three more mounted on traversing carriages in Guilford Battery.

The Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers Works Committee report on the revision of the armaments at Dover in May 1886 makes no mention of Moat's Bulwark and recommends that the six 8 inch (65 cwt.) smooth bore guns of Guilford Battery be removed, although these were still listed as being mounted in 1892 with the remark that these are for ornament only.

In 1907 both Guilford Battery and Moats Bulwark are shown on the Ordnance Survey map as disused.

During the second World War the connecting passages of Guilford Passage were lined with corrugated steel and were probably extended.

THE DOVER PAGEANT

2.30pm on 29 & 30 August

SUPPORT THE SOCIETY IN THIS MILLENNIUM PAGEANT

JOIN THE PARADE OR HELP IN THE SOCIETY TENT

Since the inception of the Society we have fully supported this local event with sponsorship and participation in the pageant parade. In 1992 we appeared as druids and in 1994 as medieval bankers and their ladies.

We have previously had a Society tent as a focal point with home made light refreshments being served. Given sufficient member volunteers, we hope to repeat this in 1999. We have been asked to provide 6 to 12 members (or more!) to parade as the Duke of Wellington's entourage. Costumes will be supplied, there will be no lines to be learned and rehearsals will be kept to a minimum. Each tableau lasts but a few minutes, thus allowing plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the afternoon's attractions.

All that's required is to dress up and parade in style! We already have a volunteer who will make an excellent Duke of Wellington.

Please volunteer in any capacity you feel able and help make it another successful occasion.

(Contact John Owen on: 01304 202 207)

DOVER AFTER 1066

IVAN GREEN. B.A. FCCed.

When considering the state of Dover from 1066 onwards we have three principal sources, the Domesday Book, the Domesday Monachorum, and the buildings and ruins which still survive or of which we have records or illustrations.

The years immediately following the Conquest were in many ways chaotic. Enormous areas of the country were handed out to some of William's men, many of them unprincipled rogues and, it seems, all of them intent on securing holdings in the conquered country by hook or by crook. Even small villages were in part claimed by several different men, of which there are many examples.

Poor old Archbishop Stigand, the Saxon archbishop, worked very hard to maintain some degree of order, but his efforts were nullified by the appointment of his successor, Archbishop Lanfranc in 1070, two years before Stigand's death in 1072. Lanfranc was no lover of Saxon England.

Dover itself, a royal borough governed by its own burgesses sitting in its own guildhall, with its charter of sea service from the king, and the privilege that 'whoever lived permanently in the town and paid customary dues to the king was exempt of toll throughout the whole of England' was relatively safe, but not completely so. The town fell into the hands of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, no true churchman, but an unreliable and unprincipled rogue who was William's half brother. They had different fathers but the same mother of unrecorded status.

Odo did in fact seize lands and properties from the canons of St Martin and the Domesday Book records that 'At the entrance to Dover harbour is a mill,

which wrecks almost all ships, through its great disturbance of the sea; it does great harm to the king and his men; it was not there before 1066. Of this, Herbert's nephew says that the Bishop of Bayeux gave permission for it to be made by his uncle, Herbert son of Ivo' That Odo should have given permission for the installation of this mill at the entrance to William's principal harbour which was his link with his continental lands, and to the hazard of the ships of one of his Cinque Port towns, is amazing, yet only three years after the Conquest Dover's sailors were obviously operating successfully, since they were included in the English fleet which destroyed their enemies in the great sea battle in the Channel.

Nineteen years after the Conquest, the writers of Domesday Book, whose compilation was ordered by William himself, sought to discover who held which properties, and to list all the assets of his new kingdom.

In 'Domesday Book' published by Phillimore of Chichester in 1983, it is recorded that 'THE KING HAD DEEP SPEECH WITH HIS COUNSELLORS - AND SENT MEN ALL OVER ENGLAND TO EACH SHIRE -- TO FIND OUT -- WHAT OR HOW MUCH EACH LANDOWNER HELD - - IN LAND AND LIVESTOCK, AND WHAT IT WAS WORTH'

The information was sent to Winchester, edited and made into a single work in 1085 as DOMESDAY BOOK VOLUME 1. It is a unique and wonderful work, giving us in tremendous detail the state of the country at that time.

The Domesday Monachorum, often called the Domesday Book of the Monks is

kept in the library of Canterbury Cathedral, and provides a similar survey of the holdings of the Canterbury Estates. Its exact date is not certain, but it is thought to be 1086 or soon after.

As regards permanent survivals of the time, the buildings and ruins of the period

abound. Details of these are beyond the scope of this article.

Much of the detail of the town of Dover itself in Domesday Book has already been quoted in a previous article, but if we combine it with records in Domesday Monachorum and other information we

can obtain a great deal of knowledge about the town.

On the west side of the town stood the property of the secular canons and much of its ruins survived into the 20th century. They were recorded by several Dover photographers, and one of them produced some fine whole plate glass prints which the late Mr Farrington, their owner at the time, permitted me to copy. I do



Part of an ancient map, which shows
'THE RUINES OF ST MARTINS CHURCHE'

which still exist are relatively few, but their evidence is important.

Domesday Book describes the state of the country at three periods: the holders of lands at the time of King Edward the Confessor before the Conquest; to whom they were granted by William I after the Conquest; and who held them when the survey was taken in 1085 and their value.

The Dover entry in of CHENTH, the name of Kent, occupies the beginning of the Kent section. It describes in some detail the state of the town and of the canons of St Martin's of Dover who occupied the area at the west end of the town. It also describes their many holdings in local village communities and further

not know where they are now. They showed that their most impressive building was St Martin le Grande, some remains of which were found in the rebuilding of the National Westminster Bank. The photographs reveal that much of the work was composed of axe hewn stone, which puts it very soon after 1066 or more probably of Saxon origin. Indeed, some of the stone work, especially the semi-circular arches, is strikingly similar to that in the Saxon church of St Mary in Castro. The remains of some work in Caen stone were probably from later building, enlargement or repairs.

The canons held their own holdings and, being secular canons, they lived with their families, and sons inherited their

26 father's holdings. The group, with their families, must have been an important part of the social and business life of Dover.

There were three important churches in the town, St. Mary in Castro, St. Peter's and the canons' own church, which later housed the altars of several parishes, those of St. Martin, St. Nicholas and St. John. It was a cruciform building with a tower at the crossing and a chancel with aspidal chapels. How much of this building was

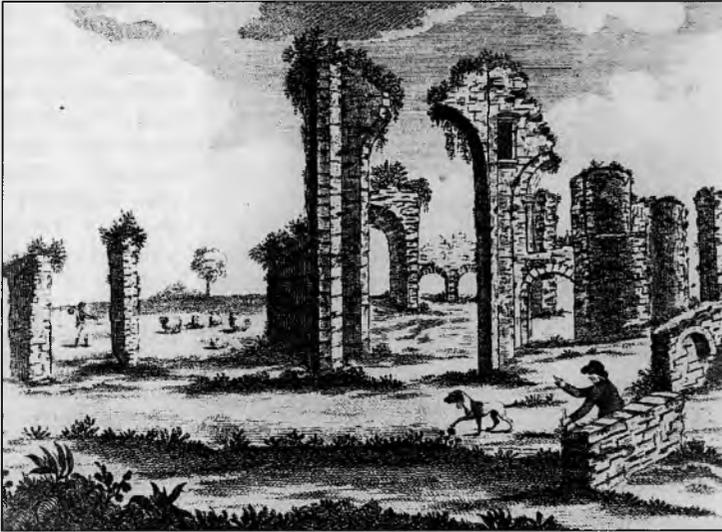
chancel and a west tower on which was a flag mast. For many years it was the church of the Corporation, but it became ruinous and was destroyed in Elizabethan times. St. Mary's in Castro which survived was even then an important church.

In the Domesday Monachorum there is a list of 87 churches in a document entitled 'These are the customs (consuetudines) of the Archbishop (received) at Easter from Priests and Churches'. The Dover churches contributed the largest figure of the 87 which were listed, no less than 55 shillings, a considerable sum in those days.

In Saxon times the Dover churches, St. Martin, St. Mary in Castro and St. Peter, contributed their share of the payments due every year from St. Augustine to Christ Church. The entry was entitled 'This is the ancient arrangement before the coming of Lord Lanfranc (i.e. before 1070). From Doforis a sester of honey and 30 loaves, and 2

wethers and 7d and 600d'. As already noted, Lanfranc became archbishop in 1070.

There was, however, one important change in Dover's favour; the fact that both sides of the Channel were held by the same ruler made the Channel an Anglo-Norman sea. Dover's seamen, working the passage, prospered. The transporting of great officers of church and state, and of men and goods, went on apace. This was interrupted from time to time by calls to perform their official maritime service to the crown and their less official



An 18th century drawing of the remains of old St Martin's Church. As will be seen, to the left of centre, part of the grounds was then used for grazing sheep

Saxon and whether it was destroyed by William's lawless soldiery and then rebuilt after the conquest, we cannot know. St. Mary the Virgin did not then exist as such. I recently published a detailed account of its early years, *The Story of St. Mary's*, in parts, in the parish paper of St. Mary the Virgin.

St. Peter's was a Saxon foundation which stood on the north side of the Market Square, on the site now occupied by Lloyds Bank. From small drawings of it, it appeared to consist of a nave and a

engagements with piratical seaborne groups, mostly from Northern Europe.

There were times of disaster, such as the loss of the fleet, including Dover's ships and men, in the violent storm during the King's expedition to Scotland in 1091. The men were, of course, irreplaceable, but new little ships would have been built quickly on the open beaches. Ship building was a communal activity and the skills required, many of them fairly simple, were passed down from generation to generation among various families, not all of whom were sea-going members of the community.

In addition to increasing trade with the continent and legitimate ventures further afield, it must be admitted that seamen also indulged in less desirable activities,

such as piracy and wrecking.

The fishing industry began to prosper enormously and Dover, with its considerable number of ships, which included 21 contracted to the King under the terms of their charter, was well placed to profit from it. The little ships followed the shoals of herring into the North Sea and up the coast to Yarmouth, which then consisted of only a few huts. There they set up their famous herring fair, to which buyers came in great numbers from all over the East Midlands and from continental countries. The herring, which were later gutted, dried and salted, provided a staple item of food for many, including increasing numbers in the proliferating religious institutions. But more of that later.

DOVER VISITORS, THE UNEMPLOYED POOR AND A TUNNEL

by Peter Burville

Dover had a serious problem. A *Common Hall* meeting, chaired by the Mayor of Dover, was held on Friday 25th of February 1870, at the Town Hall "... for the purpose of considering the best mode of alleviating the great distress now prevailing amongst the labouring population of the Borough, in consequence of the weather, and of adopting such Resolutions thereon as might be expedient". The MP, S. M. Latham Esq J.P., proposed that a subscription fund should be raised. A fortnight later *The Dover Express* recorded that some 240 individuals and firms had contributed sums ranging from £5 = by the Mayor and others, to a more modest 2/6d (12.5 p).

One of the major works chosen was the excavation of a tunnel through the cliff from East Cliff up to the cliff top. Unfortunately, in less than a month it was reported in *The Dover Express* that this project had run out of funds. However the Council's General Purposes Committee confirmed "... the desirability of completing the new road, in course of formation, from East Cliff to the North Foreland Meadow", inspiring the Mayor to offer another donation, this time of two sovereigns.

At the beginning of April *The Committee for the Relief of the Unemployed* reported that work was continuing on the path rising from Athol Terrace, East Cliff, up to Northfall

28 Meadow, and that more funds were being actively sought as the path was expected to be a considerable attraction to visitors.

One potential source for this funding, an amount of £40 or £50, was the residue of an 1861 collection made to provide relief for those thrown out of employment by the frost. The Rev. Canon Puckle, who was the custodian of this fund, eventually handed over the money.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, 12th of April, Borough Surveyor John Hanvey, with the help of some Royal Engineers, carried out blasting operations, at East Cliff, to dislodge an estimated 2,590 tons of chalk which was impeding progress on the tunnel construction. Reports suggest that the two or three thousand spectators who had gathered at East Cliff, Athol Terrace, on the jetty and cliff top, had not witnessed a pyrotechnical display but a properly controlled use of 400 lbs of gunpowder. In the first East Cliff photograph the cliff-top scar created by the explosion can be seen just below the white notice board. It is likely that this photograph was taken soon after the cliff-sculpturing. Evidence to support this is the lack of fencing that was erected at the bottom entrance on completion of the tunnel. At this stage more money was still needed to complete the work, the hope being that it would be finished in time for the coming visitors' season.



The possibility of a path up to Northfall Meadow had been considered over a period of some thirty years. The Duke of Wellington, as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports (1829-1852), had been against it, as had the War Office, but now a more cooperative attitude was being encountered so that it was felt the opportunity should not be lost. Consequently

another employment project, on a road leading past Copt Hill, was abandoned in favour of the tunnel. During April the *Chamber of Commerce* was invited to engage in the tunnel project, recognising the shift in emphasis from employment of the poor to providing a facility for visitors to Dover. This change in objective was reflected in the proposal to carry out more cliff-blasting, rather than using navvies, to remove chalk, and to put the work out to contract. Perhaps unemployment in the town had become less of a problem.

There then seems to have been a lull in the building of the pathway, while the Royal Engineer Department and the War Office considered the detailed plans but by mid-July Mr Hanvey reported that work on the pathway was progressing and that the 138 feet tunnel would be provided with ventilation and natural lighting. However, the collection of the funds was not going as well as hoped, one problem being that at least one member of the committee, Councillor Ayers, did not relish being a collector of contributions.

With the work progressing satisfactorily - the tunnel had been cut through to the cliff-top and a gallery was being made to the cliff-face - concern was expressed, in mid-August, about "... boys rushing in at the top of the tunnel and howling at the top of their voices while wayfarers were ascending". To counter this it was proposed to build a two-roomed cottage at the bottom. Councillor Ayers undertook "... to find a respectable man who would find suitable materials and build the cottage, and for a mere nominal sum, say half-a-crown (12.5p) a week, would undertake to keep the path swept and prevent the likelihood of disorderly proceedings."

It rather looks as though the whole construction was carried out by public subscription. Certainly the tunnel was much appreciated by visitor and resident alike. Various late 19th century Dover guide books ¹ referred to the tunnel, as did the German Baedeker Guide ², so the facility was obviously considered of potential interest to visitors. In 1894 Deputy Surgeon-General C. T. Paske ³ stated that "The Promenade has of late years been very considerably lengthened to the eastward; and although to any one observing it from the harbour or Admiralty Pier it appears to terminate in the East Jetty, there is in reality a prolongation close under the cliff, which leads to a short cut, through a tunnel, up to the back of the Castle and the grassy downs. The conception of this outlet, which I cannot remember having seen during either of my earlier visits, was a happy idea and its execution a great boon, shortening as it does the road to Deal via St. Margaret's over the downs." Paske's two earlier visits were probably in 1844 and 1854.

A one-time East Cliff resident, Stephen Burville, stated ⁴ "The tunnel, as I have previously mentioned, was the eastern outlet from the sea front to the cliff-top. This was blasted away during



30 the building of the National Harbour. But a hole to give light was made half way along the tunnel and I well remember, as a child, being lifted up to see the ships through the hole in the tunnel." This light-hole was doubtless the gallery that was made from the tunnel to the cliff-face. Perhaps this window-on-the-sea is the dark oblong shape that can be seen in the first photograph, just below the fencing that projects over the cliff-edge under the notice board.

A Dover Library photograph, of 1891, shows a well-worn cliff-top path going inland from the tunnel. This path appears to be heading towards the convict prison, built on Langdon Cliff in 1884. The local work-force would have found the tunnel a most helpful route to the prison which was in use until the mid 1890s.

At the beginning of September the Mayor reported a new problem. Following the construction the tunnel from Athol Terrace to Northfall Meadow, the landowner, the Earl of Guilford, placed a notice prohibiting the use of the footpath along the margin of the cliff. This rather defeated the objective of the tunnel project. The notice board and associated white fencing can be seen in the first photograph. At a Dover Local Board committee meeting there was much discussion about rights-of-way, with Councillor Robinson saying "... he had known it used as a public footway for sixty years." In a Dover Museum photograph of the area, attributed with a date of 1850, there is a path clearly visible along the cliff-edge. An interesting question is, how did those people using the path gain access to Dover? Was it through the castle, all the way round the castle or down the cliff-face, perhaps by means of a ladder? The diary of Mrs Maria Kingsford Wood (nee



Loud)⁵, sister-in-law of a William Burville, both of St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, records that on 11th March 1828 she walked to Dover with Mrs James Wood and Miss A N Pilcher. Unfortunately the route taken is not recorded. According to her diary, the lady's normal mode of travel was by horse so one imagines that in walking she took a scenic route rather than a dusty track, and hence used the well-worn track along the cliff.

Whilst in mid-September the problems with the Earl of Guilford continued, fittings, such as seats, fencing and gates, were being provided for the tunnel although further funds were still needed. The fencing on the cliff-top and exit to Athol Terrace, can be seen in the second photograph dated 1893. The cliff-top entrance to the tunnel can be seen going down into a cutting, with the fenced lower platform, leading out from the tunnel, clearly visible at the base of the cliff. A man named Oliver had been appointed to take charge of the path at an allowance of 2/6d (12.5p) a week. He was expected to supplement his income by the sale of ginger-beer and fruit in the summer time. (It seems likely that this is the same Oliver who inhabited one of the East Cliff caves reported in an earlier article in Newsletter 32).

In mid-October *The Dover Express* reported that the tunnel project had been successfully completed. The news-paper also recorded that Oliver had been carrying out his duties remarkably well and it was hoped to make him a special constable in order to increase his authority.

The Dover Chamber of Commerce clearly felt the tunnel project had been successfully completed when they made a presentation to Mr. Hanvey of "... a handsome gold pencil-case, in morrocoo case", for his efforts "... in bringing this attractive work to as successful termination". No mention was made of the original objective of the project, which was to provide relief to the unemployed poor of Dover.

In these present days of planning authorities, it is interesting to contemplate the attitude of the Dover Chamber of Commerce and the Borough Surveyor in embarking on the building of a tunnel through land owned by others - indeed, the land was not even in Dover but extended into the parish of Guston! This bullish approach reflected the spirit of the Victorian age in which the surveyor exercised a form of one-man planning authority in the town, as can be seen from the contemporary Dover Local Board reports.

By the end of 1870 an agreement had been reached with the Earl of Guilford, (through his trustees as he was still in his minority), with the help of a Major A. G. Dickson. It was agreed that the Earl would insert a gate in the fence to allow access to the cliff-top path but there was to be no trespassing on his adjacent lands. The Earl's notice board can still be seen in photographs taken many years later. At that time it doubtless discouraged people from leaving the path along the cliff rather than prohibiting them from using it.

One aspect of the interest of the War Department, in the tunnel, is recorded in *The Dover Express* where it states that the gate at the top of the tunnel was "... locked during the time of firing at the Government ranges". The rifle range is shown on the *Plan of the Volunteer Review at Dover on March 29th 1869*⁶ as being in Broadlees Bottom. The gate remaining locked after the military firing had ceased was of concern to would-be users of the tunnel.

In 1871, the year following the tunnel's construction, there were new problems. Cliff-falls, inclement weather and vandalism caused inconvenience to tunnel users. The dangers involved in walking on cliff paths were recorded in June, when Widow Ann Claw fell some 65 feet to her death on the beach from an unfenced path leading to the cave, east of the tunnel, where she had lived for 12 years. In falling she collided with a lad named Brewer who sustained a fractured leg. Her son Andrew was walking along with her at the time, carrying crabs and a bucket of water, but he was unable to prevent her falling once she had slipped where "... a small piece of the road had given way".

The tunnel, the path leading to it and many caves were destroyed when the Admiralty Harbour was built at the turn of the century. Much of the cliff-face east of East Cliff was removed to reduce the chance of cliff-falls and to provide material for land reclamation. The military control over the right-of-way through the tunnel passed on to the path which replaced it. Oral tradition records the path being closed by the military for 24 hours annually.

Whilst the tunnel had a life of less than thirty years, it was clearly quite a feature in the lives of Dover's residents and visitors and, despite this limited existence, it does appear on Ordnance Survey maps of the period⁷. Some fifty years later, in 1924, East Cliff was the subject of another suggested project to help the unemployed but the proposed road from East Cliff to St Margaret's was not built.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the staff of the Centre for Kentish Studies, Dover Library and Dover Museum for their help and support in researching the archives for this article, and the Dover Library for permission to reproduce the two photographs.

References

All the reports mentioned in the article are to be found in copies of the *Dover Express* between March 1870 and June 1871. Any reader wanting specific information on these should contact the author.

1. The Dover Guide and Appendix 1876, page 9 (Dover Museum)
2. Great Britain Handbook for Travellers, K. Baedeker, 1890
3. *Sunny Dover, Then & Now*, C. T. Paske, pub C. Goulden & others, 1894, page 27
4. Stephen James George Burville, unpublished manuscript *Looking Back*.
5. A transcript of the diary is held by St Margaret's History Society
6. Copy at Dover Museum
7. Ordnance Survey 1st Edition surveyed 1871, LXVIII/10, 25 inch.



NEW HOMES AT OLD PARK BARRACKS

From Terry Sutton

The first of 133 homes, once housing army families, at Old Park, Whitfield have been handed over to tenants nominated by Dover District Council.

The handover has been made possible through the cooperation of the District Council, the Ministry of Defence, Dover Harbour Board, and the new owners of the homes, High Weald Housing Association.

When Dover Harbour Board bought the former barracks at Old Park, the port authority had no use for the 133 houses and flats there. So a deal was

worked out that on the day Dover Harbour Board purchased the many acres, High Weald immediately bought the homes from the port authority on the agreement that Dover District Council would have first option to nominate those families on its housing waiting list.

Since High Weald came into the ownership of the houses and flats, which had been empty for years, extensive repairs and upgrading of the properties has been carried out before the tenants began moving in.

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RESULTS AND PRESENTATION OF PRIZES:

Result in December Newsletter.

Winning essay in December Newsletter.

Presentation of prizes at the school in December by the
President of the Dover Society, Brigadier Atherton.

HANDS OFF OUR BELL

LETTER 1 FROM (MRS.) DOROTHY BUSHELL (A PROUD IF ANCIENT DOVORIAN)

I am distressed by the suggestion that our Zeebrugge Bell should be re-sited where it may be more easily seen.

May I remind all critics who have the arrogance to suggest it is in the wrong place, that the people who chose the site were more immediately concerned with its rightful setting and significance than people today. Bells are intended to be

heard! Who will hear it from the end of the Prince of Wales Pier? Apart from gulls?

I had the privilege, in 1961, of being the first Lady Mayor of Dover to ring it. The real significance of it is the commemoration service which took place in St. James Cemetery afterwards. Let us not forget our heroes in their resting place.

LETTER 2 FROM M. E. BODIAM (MEMBER)

It is certainly true that the present site of the Zeebrugge Bell, being so high above eye level, means the bell is hardly noticed and easily missed.

The objective, then, should be to ensure its location is more obvious. Relocation, as suggested, will raise many problems, not least of which is vandalism, mentioned by Derek Leach, and, try as I may, I cannot think of any site which makes the bell easily visible without making it vulnerable, unless large expenditure was made.

So, returning to its present site, which, if nothing else, is very safe, we must do something to make visitors and locals alike glance upwards to the bell and be made aware of its location, the small plaque which explains the reason for the bell is beyond reach and sight and this is where the main problem lies.

A new plaque (rather than moving the old one with possible damage to the wall) and sited at eye level beneath the bell, would, I am sure, satisfy everyone who wants the bell to be appreciated.

Newsletter Binders

With the co-operation of Members we will be able to supply "Cordex" Binders for the *Newsletter*. The burgundy coloured binders have a capacity for 13 copies and are lettered on the spine "The Dover Society Newsletter" in gilt foil.

The minimum order we can place is 100 and a list is being compiled of those who would like to have one. (At the moment we have fifteen names). When the list has, say, eighty names the binders will be placed on order. The cost, (likely to be a few pence more than last time's figure of £3.00) does not include postage for out-of-town members.

To add your name to the list write a note to the Secretary, Leo Wright, at "Beechwood", Green Lane, Dover CT16 3AR.

This and That

DOVER CHAT

Apparently the last Newsletter gave members plenty to chat about. The discussion on whether or not the Zeebrugge Bell should be moved, created something of a furore, with some members strongly opposed to the suggestion and others eager to put forward suggestions. David Atwood (December Newsletter) believes that the present position of the bell does not do justice to the heroic event that it commemorates and suggested a location at the end of the Prince of Wales Pier. The Society sees one of its roles as providing a forum for ideas on the betterment of the town, even if they may be controversial, and thanks David for his letter.

"Budge" Adams favoured the idea of moving the bell just a short distance, to the top of the low building adjoining the Maison Dieu and overlooking the War Memorial and the library. This notion was also put forward by Joe Harman, who had the ingenious idea of superimposing a photograph of the bell on to a photograph of the building. It looked quite at home there! Both felt that there would be ample space for the public to view the bell at closer quarters than at present without causing any inconvenience to passers-by.

However, it soon became apparent that there were countless, if not insurmountable, difficulties to be faced. Jack Woolford, in his planning report, mentions the long discussions held by the committee. The Maison Dieu is a listed building. The siting of the bell is steeped in history and tradition. Some Doverians, like Mrs. Dorothy Bushell (see her letter in this issue), were strongly against any move. We have not abandoned the issue. It is still not sure whether the bell will rest, and ring, in its present location or whether, in the future, it may find a more

suitable one.

Our secretary, Leo Wright, has received a letter from a film company called BROOK LAPPING, which has recently started production on *FINEST HOUR*, a four part series about the events of 1940. The film is to include "vivid and dramatic stories of personal experiences told through interviews, diaries and other contemporary sources". One of the stories was about the American journalists who stayed at the Grand Hotel during 1940 and wrote about a "red hair barmaid called Josephine who showed great spirit". The film makers wanted to track down Josephine and also to talk to anyone who had stayed in the caves in the cliffs which served as air raid shelters. I understand their appeal has had some success and that several of our members have been helping them with their inquiries.

Jon Iveson's latest article is about the Mote's Bulwark at East Cliff. Last year I acquired a very pleasing oil painting of the Mote's Bulwark from one of our advertisers, Alan Fordham, of Fordham Antiques in Deal. Alan had found the painting in a house clearance. The painting was obviously old, jagged at the edges and wrapped in newspaper. We took it to be framed at another of our advertisers, Deborah Colam, of Castle Fine Arts in Castle Street, Dover. Deborah thought the painting should be dated in the first decades of the last century and speculated it could have been done by a gifted amateur, perhaps an officer stationed at the site. A lucky find for us and thanks to Alan and Deborah.

I was hoping for more ideas from members about the Society's plans for the Millennium. It is not too late if you have any suggestions to make.

Editor

A. Simmonds

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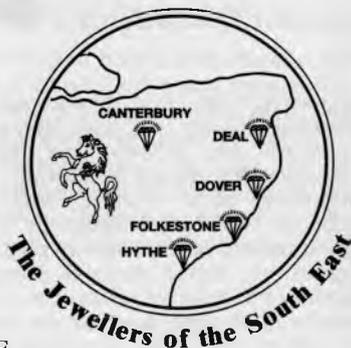
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APPLICATION for MEMBERSHIP

Date / /

If Renewal, MEMBERSHIP No. please NEW RENEWAL FULL JOINT

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Please tick as appropriate

ADDRESS

2nd NAME if Joint Membership

POSTCODE PHONE No

I/We agree to abide by the Constitution of the Dover Society.

Signed (1) (2)

(A copy of the Constitution may be read in the Reference Department of the Dover Public Library.
It is based on the model constitution published by the Civic Trust)

MEMBERSHIP: Individually – £6 annually. Joint Membership – £10 annually.

Please make cheques payable to the Dover Society and forward the cheque or cash to the Membership Secretary; Mrs Sheila Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD.

It would help us in our planning if you would please complete this section.

I/We could sometimes give practical help with the following. (please tick boxes)

SOCIAL EVENTS

WRITING REPORTS

PROJECTS

REVIEWS

CLEARANCE WORK

ARTICLES

PHOTOGRAPHY

SURVEY WORK

*SPECIAL INTERESTS

*PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

** Please give details on a separate sheet of paper*

If you have changed your address since your last subscription payment please tick this box and please tick the next box if you are willing to assist, occasionally, with the distribution of the *Newsletter*.

PROGRAMME

Members and guests are welcome at all meetings except the Annual General Meeting which is for members only.

- APRIL 19
Monday 7.30
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Speaker: Jonathan Sloggett, Managing Director of Dover Harbour Board.
- MAY 22
Saturday
8.45 Pencester
usual pick-up points
Enjoy a day's cruise on the River Medway on a coal-fired paddle steamer, KINGSWEAR CASTLE, £25
Watch the Thames Sailing Barges race down the Medway.
- JUNE 5
Saturday 2pm
A GUIDED TOUR OF DOVER CEMETERIES, £4 ,
led by Martyn Webster. Maximum number 20
Please ring Joan Liggett 01304 214886 if interested.
- JUNE 19
Saturday
VISIT TO THE CITADEL to look at fortifications.
Maximum number 20. Please ring Joan Liggett.
- JULY 14
Wednesday
Pencester 10am
Usual pick-up points
VISIT DUNGENESS POWER STATION AND VISITORS CENTRE, £10
Tour of site, hard hats and ear protection provided, sensible shoes a must.
- JULY 30
Friday
3pm Pencester
Last chance to see ROYAL TOURNAMENT AT EARLS COURT
The end of a 120 year tradition
£15 to include coach and entrance. Please ring Joan.
- SEPTEMBER 11
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS in Tonbridge and Malling
Details in August Newsletter
- OCTOBER 25
Monday 7.30
Two Speakers
DAVID FAIRWIG, Managing Director, Radio Kent
"LOCAL RADIO AND THE COMMUNITY"
BOB RADCLIFFE, President, City of Rochester Society
"THE DEVELOPMENT OF CROSS-CHANNEL FERRIES"
- NOVEMBER 22
Monday 7.30
JOHN MOIR, Chief Executive, Dover District Council.
" MILLENNIUM DOVER AND AFTER".
LILLIAN KAY : " CHRISTMASSES REMEMBERED".
- DECEMBER 18
Saturday 7.30
CHRISTMAS FEAST
Dover College Refectory

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A0 PLANS/DRAWINGS

DAYGLO POSTERS TO DOUBLE CROWN

LAMINATING UP TO A1