

6 Historic Plaques... "the Latest"

===== Sheila R. Cope =====

"Latest" seems the most appropriate word to use about this topic since Terry Sutton first wrote about it in the April Newsletter. He mentioned an insurance minefield; for example not only does a plaque require insurance but its installer does as well. No mere DIY this! A voluntary society like ours cannot commit itself to long-term responsibility and must hand over a plaque to the owner of the building on which it is sited. Large financial organisations apparently have no recognised procedure for accepting such a gift so that delays seem inevitable. According to its location each plaque must conform to particular criteria before it may be erected. The Zeebrugge plaque for the old Market Hall, now the Museum, requires Listed Building consent, whereas for the Bronze Age boat plaque a method statement must satisfy the agents for the Ministry of Transport.

We were almost ready to order the first plaque at the end of July and I phoned the manufacturer, only to be told that they had ceased trading! We have found another firm, however, which is able to work to our original specification:- cast aluminium, oval shape, 15" by 12" across with white lettering on a mid-blue background. The cost to the Society for each plaque, including VAT and mounting, is likely to be about £225 and we are grateful to Dover Town Council who have already offered financial support. We also intend to apply to Dover District Council for funding under their Millennium Grants Scheme.

Of the plaques illustrated here, we hope to have two erected by the end of the year, but at the time of writing (mid

October) nothing is certain. Once there is an example to be seen we shall gain further co-operation. We are grateful to all those including Christine Waterman and staff at the Museum and officers of both Councils who have helped to steer us through bureaucracy but there is yet more to come.

Plaque 1 **Bronze Age Boat** is actually ordered and it is proposed that this be fixed on the Bench Street side of the underpass portal to the left of the central notice "To the sea front and shops", subject to cover meter survey. Official unveiling should take place soon after the opening of the new gallery in the Museum on 22 November.

Plaque 2 **Enemy Shell** to be placed on the TSB Bank, Castle Street, the position agreed, but final permission not yet given. Application was first made in October 1998 and we have 11 letters on file and, in addition, have made several phone calls. The situation is similar with respect to our attempt to place a plaque on Barclays Bank in the Market Square.

Plaque 3 **Old Market Hall** is awaiting Listed Building consent.

Plaque 4 **1st Aerial Bomb** awaits permission from the members of Taswell Close Management Co. Ltd. Research undertaken by our vice-president Peter Johnson and the late George Youden in 1989 indicates that the location was the garden of No.1.

As with the relocation of the statue of Rolls we hope to succeed eventually, but such projects require enthusiastic persistence.

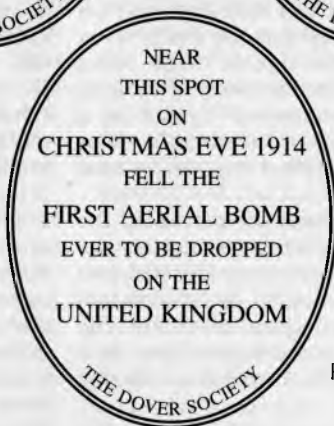
Plaque 1



Plaque 3



Plaque 2



Plaque 4

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

DECEMBER 1999

Now that all subscriptions have been paid for the current year we find that numbers have declined to 388. Our presence at the Film Festival and the Pageant introduced us to a few people but personal introduction remains the most effective means of extending our membership. The Newsletter is an excellent ambassador and is, I know, read by many who do not pay a subscription. If you are a passive friend of the Society, we would welcome your active support both at meetings and financially.

There have been two weddings within the society recently. In June our former social secretary, Lyn Clackett, married Julian Chambers and in July Mrs. Mary Stevens and Mr. David Popman were married. We offer congratulations and best wishes to these four members.

A reminder about prizes for raffles, from which the proceeds contribute to the hall hire for meetings - There are several attractive 2 for the price of 1 offers available in shops at the moment. Please think of us if one item is sufficient for your needs and give the other one as a raffle prize!

Since July we have welcomed:- Mr. R.Taylor, Mrs. M. Baker and Mrs. A. Thompson.

SHEILA R. COPE, Membership Secretary