

The only way to keep our Chalk grasslands for the future generations to enjoy and appreciate is for us to manage them correctly now for the future. Chalk grassland needs to be grazed by animals because that is how it formed in the first place in Britain and Europe. Without grazing it will revert to thorny scrub as can be seen happening at Plum Pudding Hill at Maxton for example. Thirty years ago this was open chalk grassland with a little scrub and trees at the perimeter. Now it is mainly covered in very thick, thorny scrub. The rare wildlife has been replaced by common, widespread species.

It is a matter of balance and yes, man is playing God with the habitats of Britain and the World. But we are in a situation where we can manage the rare habitats such as chalk grassland and ancient woodland to keep them special or we can leave them and the rare wildlife will be lost probably for ever.

Let's be proud of our chalk grasslands and the rare orchids, herbs, butterflies and moths, and other insects that utterly depend on them. Chalk grassland is part of Britain's natural heritage. It is part of Dover's and Folkestone's natural heritage. To maintain it and enhance it it must be grazed and the scrub growth controlled. That is why the

WCCP is fencing and grazing and removing scrub to keep the grassland for local people, visitors and the rare flora and fauna for the future. If you come across Dovorians who do not understand what and why we are doing the things we do on the hills around Dover maybe you would be kind enough to share your understanding for the need for chalk grassland management with them or encourage them to come along to one of our Guided Walks to find out more.

I for one am a Dovorian and a Person of Kent, proud of our special Chalk Grassland, wildlife, landscape and associated habitats and will do my utmost with the WCCP to maintain our precious, natural treasure of biodiversity for future generations to enjoy. If you would like to help us to care for the local countryside and wildlife then why not get involved in some way, such as becoming a volunteer, or a voluntary warden, or attending or leading a guided walk or bringing the children along to GREEN GANG events - family activities in the school holidays.

Please contact us at:

The White Cliffs Countryside Project,
6 Cambridge Terrace, Dover CT16 1JT
or telephone/fax 01304 241806.

SIXTY YEARS ON

A MEMORIAL FOR ADMIRAL BETRAM HOME RAMSAY KCB, KBE, MVO

Lt. Commander J. Owen Royal Navy

Many still remember the dark days of 'Dunkirk' and the remarkable withdrawal from the advancing enemy of so many British troops through the port of Dover in 1940.

Vice Admiral Bertram Home Ramsay, who had commanded HMS BROKE in the Dover Patrol (1914-1918), now flying his flag in Dover Castle, planned and commanded 'OPERATION DYNAMO' which brought about the evacuation. The famous 'little ships', manned by fishermen and amateur sailors, made an invaluable contribution alongside those of the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy. Recognition of the Admiral's success in very difficult circumstances brought him further distinguished service on his appointment as C-in-C Allied Naval Forces for 'OPERATION NEPTUNE' in support of the D Day Normandy landings in 1944. A portrait was commissioned showing him at work controlling naval operations on 'D' Day 1944, and was hung at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

Admiral Ramsay died tragically in an air accident in January 1945. Portsmouth Cathedral and St. Mary-in-Castro, Dover, both commemorate his service to the nation, but there is growing support for a prominent public memorial in Dover to him and all who served under him, during Britain's darkest hour in World War II.