

# OBITUARY

## *Farewell to Budge*

*We would all like to pay our tributes to 'Budge' Adams. I have already made mine at his funeral service on January 4th. Here our Chairman, Jeremy Cope, and our two Vice-Chairmen, Derek Leach and Terry Sutton, make their contributions, Jeremy and Derek giving a personal view and Terry reporting on the funeral service. Editor.*

### *From our Chairman, Jeremy Cope*

You will, I am sure, have been saddened to hear of the death of Budge Adams at the age of 91 just before Christmas, on 19th December. Budge was known to most of us and a friend to very many. He was a Vice President, a member of your committee since its early days and was much valued by his fellows. He made a very substantial contribution to the Society, in particular to the Newsletter, through his talks, in his role in the moving of the Rolls Memorial Statue and his contribution to the installation of the Zeebrugge Mortuary Plaque.

Budge was to have presented a magic lantern show at our January 2001 meeting, clear evidence both of his continuing efforts for the Society and of the keen interest members showed in his talks on old Dover. Members who attend our meetings and readers of the Newsletter are only too aware of his deep and extensive knowledge of this town and its history.

Budge was a passionate man, keen to improve Dover, angry at neglect he found in his home town. His interests were wide ranging and included the intricacies and workings of the technical and mechanical, computers and the Internet, a love of the English language and of getting exact expression in his writing.

We will greatly miss Budge Adams, a good man with a deep and lasting love of Dover.

### *From Vice-Chairman, Derek Leach*

I joined the Dover Society in January 1993 and until then had no knowledge of Budge - not being a Dovorian and only having lived here since 1974. My first impression was of an elderly gent with a very active mind although in some physical difficulty. My knowledge increased when I joined the Society's Executive and found Budge to have a passion for Dover and its history - particularly the Dover of his youth - and, although he loved to look back, he was forward thinking. He had strong views on most subjects and was not afraid to express them.

With my own passion for the history of Dover, Budge's articles and presentations to the Dover Society were a delight to me. I well remember his verbal perambulations from Shakespeare Beach to Langdon Bay and from River to the seafront supported by numerous slides from his considerable collection. On such Society evenings we always finished very late and eager to hear and see a bit more despite the Chairman looking at his watch! His recall of shops, businesses and inhabitants was phenomenal.

During the last two years of his life, I am pleased to say that I became a friend rather than just an acquaintance and remember his ninetieth birthday celebrations surrounded by his family and friends. He was delighted with his best birthday present - the renewal of his driving licence for three more years. Other road users were not so pleased!

Meeting Budge and Merrill Lilley in Budge's home to prepare the book that took up so much of his time and energy in his last year gave me yet more insights into his character because our discussions ranged far wider than just the book! Despite poor eyesight that required him to

use a magnifying glass to read material on the computer screen, he set the type and the photographs for the book. That was his job, he said, the rest was down to us, but it was not quite like that!

His home was a treasure house of archive material and books with files of material he had prepared but never published. This included an autobiography that he had been working on over the years but he had only managed to get to 1940 and his wartime career in the RAF in which he took such pride.

Even at 91 and failing physically, he retained his sturdy independence - or was it stubbornness? He lived alone and looked after himself right to the end, although he was persuaded at the eleventh hour to have a cleaner in once a fortnight. He knew what he wanted - somebody that he could have a proper discussion with, somebody who would not try to push him around and somebody who wouldn't move any of his papers scattered around his office-cum-living room! He loved people to call on him, but not before 10.30am otherwise one might find him still in bed (he was a night bird)!

Visiting him during his last illness, I thought that he had met his Waterloo, but he rallied and only days before he died he was suggesting that the Dover Society should publish occasional papers on various topics - some contributed by himself!

Budge once said that he needed to live until he was 120 in order to do all that he wanted to do. Unfortunately, that was not to be, but, being Budge, he had a damned good try!

### ***Vice-Chairman Terry Sutton reports on the Memorial Service.***

Budge died at Buckland Hospital on December 19th, aged 91, and there was a strong attendance by members of The Dover Society among the packed congregation at St. Mary's Church for his funeral service. The standards of the Royal Air Force Association and the Royal

Observer Corps Association were carried into church where one of our members, the Reverend Dr Michael Hinton, officiated.

Budge's only son Robert, now managing director of the family printing company, was accompanied by his sisters, Marie and Linda, and many other members of the family. In his eulogy Robert told the congregation of his father's active life. Budge was born at 37 Castle Street in 1909, above the printing works established there in 1888. He played in the area that he called The Golden Triangle, about which he wrote and gave talks in later years. While still at St. Mary's School he began working for his father and, when only 18, was left to run the business after his father died.

He married May, from Preston in Lancashire, after meeting her in Granville Gardens. In the early thirties, Budge and May used to sail, cycle, camp, walk and swim together with friends, while Budge continued to put in many hours of hard work in the printing business.

After hearing stories about the rise of nationalism in Germany, Budge and two friends decided to cycle there and see for themselves and on their return all three joined the voluntary services, with Budge signing up in the special reserve of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, repairing aircraft at Manston. He was called up before the war began and served in Northern Ireland and the Shetlands before being posted to India.

After the war, with three children to support, Budge again built up the printing business while the family lived in a bungalow at Temple Ewell. He became a member of the Royal Observer Corps and remained so for 26 years until he was retired as a Group Officer.

"Budge was not a half-hearted man. It was all or nothing with him," said Robert and he had many interests. Budge was a member of the Temple Ewell Produce Association and of the Temple Ewell Players with whom he used to act. He became chairman of Dover Conservative Club. He

6 was captain of Kearsney Bowling Club and was appointed a county coach. He was chairman of St Mary's Old Boys Association, to name but a few.

He remained fiercely independent, carrying out all his own household tasks, cooking and making his own bread, beer and wine and at 90 he revealed he could still drive his sporty car at the same number of miles per hour as his age!

"He was a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great grandfather. A printer, a bowler, an historian, an airman, a collector, a boy scout, a businessman, an employer and a friend. Remember him as you will," said Robert.

Our Newsletter editor, Merril Lilley, also paid tribute to Budge, speaking as a friend and also as a representative of the Society. She recalled how her friendship with Budge was established as they worked together to produce the Newsletter. She spoke of his work for The Dover Society and how he was the prime mover in getting the Rolls statue back to its rightful place on the sea front. She was astonished at Budge's knowledge of computer technology, although he had not started to learn computer skills until he was in his sixties.

On her last visit to Budge in Buckland Hospital they were signing copies of the book of the memories he and she had just published. "His razor-sharp mind was already bored by the inactivity of sitting in the rehabilitation ward and he was talking of his autobiography he wanted to finish when he left hospital. The following morning he died. It is hard to accept that he has gone. We will all miss him very much," said Merril.

Budge's coffin was carried from the church to the organ music of *The White Cliffs of Dover*. Afterwards the immediate family attended the cremation at Barham and, until their return, members of the Dover Society acted as hosts at a reception at St. Mary's Parish Centre, where Budge often gave talks on Old Dover.

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# PLANNING

*Sub-Committee*

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

APOLOGY TO THE RCPYC for having misnamed the 'Royal Yachting Association' as 'The Royal Yacht Club'. We continue to await information from Dover Harbour Board on the location of the proposed Water Sports Centre.

Concerning the Port of Dover Project Plan (2001-15) we have informed the Harbour Board and District Council that whilst we support the proposed additional berths for ferries and seacats and the housing, hotel and marina proposals, we do not think that the High Speed Rail Link will be stretched to Dover Harbour and that road, not rail, transport will and should have priority. As to the extension westwards of the harbour, perhaps as far as Samphire Hoe, we will oppose further loss of Shakespeare Beach. We emphasise the need to separate port from local traffic. Since a tunnel under Townwall Street is inconceivable, we ask if the existing carriageways might be dualled and pedestrian access from town to seafront be improved by bridges.

We are pleased that the proposal for a superstore in the St James area does not reappear in the Council's address to developers, and whilst we support the Local Agenda 21 Plan aspirations to reconcile growth with conservation ('sustainable development') we note, as with all these projections, the conspicuous lack of new resources.

We continue our involvement with the 'Buckland Village' Project and are pleased that Dover Town Council will organise a spring meeting of 'interested parties' to create a local Association. We are, however, concerned that the problem is not Buckland or Cherry Tree Avenue but London Road, all