

Harman, had tackled plot 2. It had proved a daunting task, but had now been completed and typed up, though there was much re-checking and map plotting to be done (the District Council have full burial records, but no plan of where individual graves are within the large plots).

Fortunately, over 400 graves in the cemetery had already been recorded by Mrs Jane De Bourbel in the 1980's and a valuable record lodged in the museum and library. As a result, it was hoped that outstanding, unrecorded gravestones and tombs could be dealt with quite speedily, though final presentation of all available data would take some time.

The gravestones are of great historical interest, recording shipwrecks and travellers dying in Dover on their way elsewhere. Of great poignancy are the large numbers of children dying in various epidemics in the mid 19th century - often three or four of the same family would die in a matter of weeks. Rather oddly, plot 2 has two separate occupants who are shown on the gravestone as one sex (e.g. Emily Jones) and in the register, as another (e.g. John Arthur Jones). Perhaps more investigation will explain the error!! Some names are not in the register at all - perhaps the stone commemorates someone who died and is buried away from home, or perhaps a later memorial shows the wrong date of death, thus frustrating a search in the register. Much remains to be done, but the Society can pride itself on a worthwhile undertaking, started in the nick of time.

DOVER'S INDUSTRIAL PAST

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Reported by Derek Leach

Mark Frost began by pointing out the impossibility of covering Dover's industrial past in the time available since the town had been so industrialised and because of the massive amount of information available. Quite apart from the many individual

craftsmen, such as clockmakers and shoemakers, there are records of 150 shipbuilders and 50 breweries. Mark concentrated on the industry using, or sited on, the River Dour, which for its short length was just as industrialised as the Thames or Mersey from its source to the sea.

Beginning at Temple Ewell we heard of the Domesday corn mill owned by St John Commandery in 1535, which was rebuilt in 1790 and bought by the Pilchers in 1798. From the 1780s the Pilcher family owned, or leased, most of Dover's corn mills. They had to borrow money from John Minet Fector, the banker, to finance their schemes but went bankrupt in 1842 leaving John Minet Fector owning most of the mills. Temple Ewell also had a steam driven mill from 1870, which closed in 1967 and is now the Dover Operatic and Dramatic Society's base.

William Knocker built both white and brown paper mills at Bushy Ruff in the 1790s (as well as Bushy Ruff House). The mills were demolished in 1870 when Joseph Churchward bought the estate. The drying rooms and stable still exist albeit converted into dwellings.

There was also an ancient manorial mill at Kearsney Manor (then called Kearsney Court) to which tenants brought their grain. This was leased to the Pilchers by 1786, rebuilt in 1811, bought by the Stanleys from John Minet Fector around 1856, closed in 1902 and demolished in 1953. The foundations are still visible in Kearsney Manor gardens.

In 1812 John Minet Fector bought the old 1587 Town Mill and apparently rebuilt it in 1821 at his new home, Kearsney Abbey, to pump water to his house, which it did until 1924. He also bought rubble from old town houses and Dover's town walls to build follies in the Abbey grounds.

River Mill (at the bottom of Minnis Lane) is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a corn mill but by 1689 it was a paper mill. It was leased by William Phipps in 1765, who also leased Lower Buckland paper mill. River Mill

16 closed in 1907 and was gradually demolished after the First World War. The remains still provide several waterfalls for the Dour.

Phipps built a 'state of the art' paper mill at Crabble in 1790. The production of continuous paper (rather than separate sheets) was introduced there in 1807. William Phipps' sons, Christopher and John, invented the dandy roll (to make the watermark) and installed it at Crabble in 1825. Their nephew, Filmer Phipps, lost the whole business in 1888. Crabble was sold, with Buckland Paper Mill, to Wiggins Teape who turned it into a rag house for Buckland Mill employing 250 women and 11 men. Crabble burnt down in 1906 and was rebuilt as a paper store, staying in use until 1989. Now its buildings are being converted into apartments.

Crabble Corn Mill was mentioned in the Domesday Book and may have existed in Saxon times. In medieval times it was a monastic mill owned from 1227 by St Radigund's Abbey. It was yet another mill leased by the Pilchers (in 1784) who bought it in 1804 and rebuilt it in 1812 - the present building - to meet the demands of the armies fighting Napoleon. Like many other mills it came into the hands of John Minet Fector who sold it to John and Willsher Mannering in 1845. It was mothballed in 1893 with its machinery intact when Mannering concentrated his milling at Buckland Corn Mill. Fred Cleary saved it from demolition and restored it in 1972, passing it to Dover District Council who in turn passed it to the present charitable trust to operate.

Buckland Paper Mill was originally a corn mill but by 1638 had converted to paper. Thomas Horne took it over in 1746 and, until 1814, it resembled a farm rather than a paper mill. It was then rebuilt following a fire. George Dickinson leased it in 1822 and enlarged it, installing a steam engine, but he was a hopeless manager and went bankrupt in 1837. Ashdown and

Hobday took over in 1849 and the mill prospered. It was rebuilt again following yet another fire in 1887. In 1888 Wiggins Teape, London stationers, wanted a special new paper. Hobday made it successfully and it was called Conqueror. Wiggins Teape then bought the mill. From then, until the mill closed in 2000, Conqueror paper was only made in Dover but was sold worldwide.

Lower Buckland Corn Mill, which was on the east bank of the Dour, is mentioned in the Domesday Book and was owned by Dover Priory at the Dissolution 1535. In the 18th century a paper mill was built alongside. Both mills were bought by Kingsford & Canterbury millers, producing both paper and flour. William Kingsford went bankrupt in 1833 and it was later converted into a brewery, called Harding's, and then the Wellington Brewery which closed in 1890. It was finally demolished in 1962 to make way for a new Gheysens factory and is now a P&O training centre.

Kingsford built a new mansion, Lundy House, and a new corn mill on the opposite bank of the river in 1815 (the weather boarded part of the present building in London Road), just as the Napoleonic Wars ended and the military flour market collapsed. The Pilchers leased it from 1833 and it was bought by Willsher Mannering in 1865. Mannering built a brick steam roller mill alongside it in 1876. This killed off the



Charlton Flour Mill from Beaconsfield Road c. 1900

water-driven mills and their grindstones. The Mannerings closed their other mills and milled at Lower Buckland until 1957.

Buckland, or Windmill, Brewery opposite the Lower Buckland Corn Mill was started by Alfred Kingsford in 1821 and sold to the George Beer brewery business in 1887, which promptly closed it and sold it to Palmer's Coachworks who produced cars from the 1920s until the 1970s. The site is now a block of retirement flats, Kingsford Court.

Charlton Corn Mill was on the present Halfords site. Mentioned in the Domesday Book and owned by Dover Priory at the Dissolution, it was used by Thomas Horne from 1746, who built a massive seed-crushing mill adjacent to it in 1803. Both mills were purchased in 1814 by members of the Kingsford family. But by 1856 both mills were disused. The corn mill was demolished and the oil mill converted to a large flour mill. In 1865 it was bought by George Chitty who installed a roller plant in 1877, one of the first in Britain. Largely rebuilt in 1906, the mill was shelled in 1944 and never reopened. It was demolished in 1989.

Dover Engineering Works, on the river at Charlton (present B&Q and Pioneer stores), was started by A L Thomas, an iron founder, in 1835. The firm expanded in the 1920s when it introduced the gas proof watertight manhole cover called GATIC. It soon became the company's only product and was exported throughout the world. In 1988 the company transferred operations to Scotland.

Charlton Paper Mill was built by George Dickinson in 1825 (on the present site of Charlton Centre Car Park) and, when he went bankrupt in 1837, John Minet Fector became the owner who sold it to William Crundall in 1856 for use as a sawmill, which survived until the 1960s.



Dover also had a leather tannery at Stembrook. The earliest record of it is 1420 and it lasted until 1922. William Mummery greatly enlarged and improved the business in the 19th century.

Stembrook Mill was built by the Royal Navy in 1792, rebuilt in 1799 and again in 1813 to help feed the expanding navy. After the Napoleonic Wars it was operated by the Pilchers and, from the 1840s, by the Mannerings until George Brace took it over in 1871 for use as a store and oil-crushing mill. It became derelict in 1918 and was demolished.

The Phoenix Brewery dates from at least 1696, owned by the Bean family and then by the Walkers from 1764 until 1859 when Leney & Everden took possession. It soon became Alfred Leney only. The company expanded greatly with hundreds of tied houses and other breweries in Kent. When Leney amalgamated with Fremilns in 1926 the Dover brewery became just a bottling plant. The barrel yard was sold to Bernstein who built his first Granada cinema on the site in 1926. The bottling plant closed in 1950 and was demolished in 1965. The malthouse and barrel store survived as Martin Walters'



garage until demolition in 1995.

Finally, close to the mouth of the Dour was Town Mill in Mill Lane. By the 12th century it was owned by Dover Priory. It was rebuilt in 1520, again in 1587 and was

demolished by Thomas Horne in 1803 being replaced by a new mill. As mentioned earlier, the old mill was apparently rebuilt at Kearsney Abbey. The new mill fell into John Minet Fector's hands in 1825, who leased it to the Pilchers and then the Mannerings who purchased it in 1856. Milling ceased in 1889 and it became a corn store until 1924 when it fell derelict. Demolition came in 1953.

So we reached the sea after an absorbing trip down the Dour, realising that we had only scratched the surface of Dover's industrial past. With much more information available, combined with Mark Frost's interest in industrial archaeology, there should be one or more fascinating sequels.

THE GURKA FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

◆ ◆ ◆ *by Merrill Lilley* ◆ ◆ ◆

In 2002, on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th April, the Gurka Festival of Music was held at a new venue, at Nye Hall, Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover.

This was the third year of the festival. The first year, 2000, the festival was held at Cruise Terminal 1, in the Western Docks, the second, in 2001 at Cruise Terminal 2. While both these festivals were successful I think that the cruise terminals were not the best venues for the event, as the accoustics and the seating arrangements were not ideal. In Nye Hall, a purpose built concert hall, the accoustics are excellent and it is easy to arrange numbered seating so we anticipated the best concert yet. We were not disappointed.

The band performed under the direction of Captain Neil Morgan with a selection of light music, cavalry marches and dances. In the first half these included a Shirley Bassey collection, *Lord of the Dance*, *Harlem Nocturne*, *Post Horn Gallop* and ended with *The Gael* from *Last of the Mohicans*. The second half, which started with *Strike up the Band*, included *The Two Imps*, *Misty*, Songs of World War 2 and performances of Puccini's operatic masterpieces by two young, guest artists, *O Mio Bambino Caro*, featuring Miss Catriona Clark and *Nessun Dorma*, featuring Mr. Nicholas Watts. The concert ended with *The Day Thou Gavest*, the National Anthem and the Brigade March.

In addition to the band pieces each half of the programme included a Gurka dance and in the second half Neil Morgan contributed a version of 'Goldilocks' with appropriate band accompaniments. In the interval there were drinks, ices and raffle tickets for sale.

The Gurka Festival programme is always so varied and interesting that the time passes all too quickly, leaving the audience asking for more. The Festival provides a very enjoyable evening and it is pleasing to know that it will from now on be an annual event, probably held at Nye Hall.