

Last Plaque ~ Project Completed

Report from Terry Sutton



At long last our project, to put up ten historic plaques in the town, is completed. Much of the success of the project is due to the perseverance of past chairman Jeremy Cope and his wife, Sheila, who deserve our thanks. Little did I know, some five years ago, when I suggested installing the ten blue plaques to commemorate the Millennium, what hard work it would prove.

The tenth and final plaque was officially 'unveiled' in September on the outside wall of The Eagle public house at the junction of Tower Hamlets Road and London Road. Thanks to the help of Dover's town clerk, Robert Bailey, the ceremony was carried out by Dover's Honorary Recorder, Judge Andrew Patience QC, who was in town for Cinque Ports' Speakers' day.

This tenth 'gallows' plaque is near the spot where, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Dover's felons were executed. It had been planned to install the

plaque on another wall on the other side of the road but gaining permission from the ground landlords proved difficult. So the new owners of The Eagle, the Harvey family, came to the rescue.

The ceremony was attended by Dover's town mayor Mrs Diane Snallwood (also Speaker of the Cinque Ports) and a small group of our members. Many of our other members who would have liked to attend were on a society-organised visit to the battlefield of Agincourt.

I was able to thank the Recorder and his wife - also a judge- and others for attending the ceremony and also to thank Jeremy and Sheila for their hours of work in obtaining the various consents for the installation of the plaques. So, all ten plaques, marking historic events or places, are now in place. I hope they will mark the Dover Society's stake in the town for centuries to come.

ST MARTIN'S EMMAUS *Report by Terry Sutton*

St. Martin's Emmaus at Archcliffe Fort, just off the A20 at Dover, has made great strides since this Newsletter last described the work there. The Dover Society has helped in the establishment of the centre for otherwise homeless and unemployed men and women. The centre is usually completely full, with twenty Companions who keep busy with a variety of tasks ranging from furniture restoration to collecting unwanted items from the wider community. A new £100,000 smart showroom has been opened boosting average sales to about £2,000 a week. As a result the Companions are ensuring that the centre is now roughly breaking even. In

the future they hope to make a profit that can be used to assist other charities including the establishment of other Emmaus centres elsewhere in the country.

In September the founder of St Martin's Emmaus, Francis Watts, retired as chairman of the trustees although he remains a trustee. He has been succeeded by John Clayton, the former Director of Planning and Technical Services with Dover District Council.

Members are reminded that if they have any items of furniture, or other goods, no longer wanted please let St Martin's Emmaus know. Ring 01304 206600 or 204550 to arrange collection.