

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nice to see the plaque in position at the Eagle pub. but perhaps a word of caution because I think many are associating the pub with the gallows. I noted the following extract from 'By the Way' in Dover reference library.

'The Eagle Hotel, on a commanding corner position. The original was built on the former site of the 'Black Horse', shortly after 1839. It possessed a tea garden but that attraction was discontinued when it was rebuilt in 1863. Brockman served in 1843 and might well have been the first to do so. The new house had teething troubles from the start and by 1868 the licence was suspended. It next traded as 'The Denmark Arms' but the new name did little to change its fortunes. The licensees changed every year up to 1877 and in 1893 the sign was once more 'Eagle'. It was an outlet for many years of John Smith's Tadcaster Brewery but went to Courage in 1946, then perhaps Elder, then Foster.

In 1997 the title changed to 'The Olde Irish Times'. Shortlived. Back with us now as the 'Eagle'.

Barry Smith

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I write to congratulate all concerned on the successful completion of the Society's Millennium project of installing ten blue commemorative plaques around the town, highlighting places of historic interest.

They will be a permanent source of

information for residents and visitors alike.

Sheila and Jeremy Cope particularly deserve our thanks for their tenacity and determination in seeing the project through to completion.

John Owen

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I fear I can award you no more than a 'beta-minus' for French history!

I don't know whether Louis XVIII visited Dover in 1813 but he certainly didn't embark for France in that year, as France was still under the control of Napoleon.

Indeed you can work this out... if Louis fled to Belgium in March 1815, after eleven months in Paris, he couldn't have arrived there before April 1814.

N. Turns

*Editor's Note: Mr. Turns is absolutely right! The events described in Terry Sutton's article on Louis XVIII's embarkation from Dover must have occurred in 1814 and not in 1813!*

*So who made the mistake?*

*Answer: a Dover Express reporter writing in 1863 for a series in the newspaper entitled 'Fifty Years Ago'. His article describes the event in graphic detail and is very interesting. However the reporter got his facts wrong - by one year. What a great example to illustrate the saying, 'Never believe everything you read in the newspapers! Many thanks to Mr. Turns for putting us right.'*

## THE VARNE LIGHTSHIP EDITOR'S NOTE

The Editor apologises for an error in Newsletter 44. The Cover caption for the Varne Lightship depicted there should read Varne Lightvessel 75.

Anyone wishing to know more about lightships is referred to Anthony Lane's book *Guiding Lights, the history of the development of lightships*. ISBN 07524 21158, Price £17.99. It is available from TEMPUS PUBLISHING, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Glos. GL5 2QG or from Dr. A.R. Lane, 40 Alison Crescent, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3LN. Telephone: 01304 827663