

The Western Heights Preservation Society

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WHPS opened the Drop Redoubt for this year's Western Heights Open Day. Once again this was organised by the White Cliffs Countryside Project and again visitor numbers increased. WHPS ran a stall selling publications on the Western Heights. The Grand Shaft was again open, free, to visitors, giving them the chance to see the remarkable triple helix spiral staircase. The Society ran two guided walks over the Heights, which proved very popular and provided a wonderful insight into its history. The Open Day was a lot of work for members, but I think it was worth the effort. Its exact success has yet to be determined, but we already know that the weekend was the most productive yet for the WHPS and we look forward to the next.

As an introduction to the Open Day the second WHPS lecture evening was held in Dover Castle. Paul Pattison, Senior Archaeological Investigator for English Heritage delivered this. Paul and his team are currently conducting the most extensive survey of the Heights ever undertaken and Paul's lecture introduced his research and gave us an insight into the forthcoming report.

Other WHPS Projects

Members of the Committee have been busy producing a series of information sheets. The first batch comprising Western Heights, The Drop Redoubt, The Grand Shaft Barracks, The Grand Shaft, St. Martin's Battery, North Entrance and a glossary sheet explaining some of the terms featured in the sheets, went on sale at the Open Day, proving extremely popular. The next batch will include the Citadel and Archcliffe Gate.

Several people have contacted WHPS to share their memories of the Heights, following appeals in the last issue of this newsletter and elsewhere. Any readers who spent time at the Heights can contact Tamsyn Edwards at 8 Astor Avenue, Dover, Kent, CT17 0AR or e-mail tamsyne@excite.com.

Plans are now under way for this year's AGM in July, exact date and venue to be confirmed. If you wish to join the WHPS, or to find out more, please contact the Honorary Secretary at 66 Union Road, Deal, Kent CT14 6AR and please state where you read about the WHPS. The Committee would like to thank all who helped out at this year's Open Day and all our members for the support that made this event possible.



Visitors being shown Soldier's quarters at Drop Redoubt
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