

In Memoriam

Ivan Green 1912-2004 Vice-President

from Ken Wraight

IVAN was a well-known member of the local community for nearly fifty years. He took a teaching post at Archer's Court School at the beginning of the sixties and soon became known for his technology classes, where his pupils, girls and boys, built go-karts, telescopes and hovercraft

At about this time Ivan, with his wife, Margaret, started giving lectures on local history, illustrated with slides. They became very popular, leaning heavily on Ivan's deep interest in and knowledge of the history of Kent and of Dover in particular, going back to the Conquest and Doomsday. Ivan was aided by his wife's ability to read Old English documents. Together they did their own research, spending much time over a period of years researching old records in the British museum and in church and county archives.

Ivan was a member of the Dover Society, of the Dover History Society and co-founder of the Dover Film Festival, where his contribution to the 'Then and Now' sequences was very popular and eagerly awaited each year.

He was the author of 23 books. His first, 'Bells, Clocks and Towers', was published in 1935, the same year that he was married. After the war came a series written as teaching aids for technical students. These may be revised and republished soon. His first major publication was 'The Book of Dover', the first book written specifically about Dover for fifty years. It remains one of the best of its kind.

Among his other publications there are four pictorial histories of Dover, Maidstone, Canterbury and Tonbridge and 'The Book of the Cinque Ports' which has become a standard reference book on the subject. Ivan received requests from Her Majesty, the Queen Mother, for several of his books, the Cinque Ports book being one of them.

His last book was 'Dover and the Monarchy', published locally in 2001 by Triangle Publications. It traces the relationship of the town with the monarchy from 1066 to 1688 and also gives the reader a glimpse of life in Dover during this period. Ivan regularly wrote articles for the Dover Society Newsletter and some of these articles were used in the book.

Ivan came from a farming family and was brought up in the West Country. Soon after leaving school he moved to London and had a number of odd jobs as handyman to the rich and famous. One of these was with Lord Astor at Clevedon, where he acted as chauffeur. Another of his employers was a descendant of one of the Lancashire coal barons, who gave Ivan a scholarship to the Woolwich Polytechnic, where he studied engineering. However, when war broke out, instead of staying to complete his course, Ivan volunteered for service. He was sent to the North African desert with the Eighth Army, his job to service and repair tanks. Later he had command of his own Maintenance Unit. He was seriously injured when a tank was blown up and after several

months convalescing, some of it in South Africa, he returned to North Africa to take up a position as political liaison officer with the Arabs in Jordan. This involved dressing and living as an Arab for two years, until the end of the war.

Ivan died, aged 91, on 10th February,

2004. His funeral service, attended by many friends and colleagues, was held on 19th February at St. Mary's Church. He was a truly remarkable man, a gentleman and a real character, who was a great conversationalist with a good sense of humour. He will be sadly missed by many people.

Leo Wright 1915-2004

from Jack Woolford

LEO WRIGHT was born in Manchester in 1915 and won a scholarship to the Manchester Grammar School and from there went on to St Edmund's College at Oxford. His degree was in French and German but he also became a skilled and enthusiastic oarsman. At the beginning of the war he was a schoolmaster in Dublin but immediately volunteered for army service, becoming an intelligence officer at the highest level in Egypt. There, he met and married his wife Marjory, also in the intelligence service. At the end of the war he returned to schoolmastering and was appointed to Dover College where he served as sailing-master and housemaster as well as teacher, until his retirement forty years later. He was a most devoted family man to his children and grandchildren.

He was a founder member of the Dover Society in 1988 and he became Secretary in the following year. He was a scrupulous minute-taker and a skilled correspondent until his retirement in 2002. In all those years he missed only one of the monthly committee meetings. With his wife he played a full part in every activity of the Society, including Dover Festivals, and he was a frequent contributor to the Newsletter. In particular he initiated the links

developed with two environmental organisations in Calais, liaised with the Channel Tunnel company which sponsored two orchestral concerts in Dover, and with Dover College for the use of the Refectory for Christmas feasts. He represented the Dover Society on the Dover Town Council Twinning Committee, and was a dedicated member of the Society's Planning Committee, tireless in tracking and commenting on planning applications. He was an active member of the St Peter and Paul Church in Temple Ewell and delivered, first, parish and then village, magazines for many years until very recently. He was deeply involved in the preservation of St Edmund's Chapel in Dover. He was an ardent gardener with a positive taste for heavy labour in his steep and chalky garden. He was devoted to music and his piano was very recently re-tuned. He was most hospitable, with a fine taste in wines. He was also a very good, though unobtrusive, neighbour.

In all these activities he was nevertheless a quiet and modest man, with a quiet but marked sense of humour. His unending loyalty to his boyhood school, his college, to St Edmund, to Dover College - and to the Dover Society - were indeed exemplary.