

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 49

April 2004



Cowgate Cemetery



THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

Registered with the Civic trust, Affiliated to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies
Registered Charity No. 299954

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The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archæology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- and commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton, Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All members receive three Newsletters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events – talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

Editorial

The next meeting will be the fifteenth Annual General Meeting on Monday, 19th April, at St. Mary's Parish Centre, when the speaker will be Martyn Webster. This will be the last indoor meeting until October. We hope for the usual good attendance.

Summer outings will take place each month from May to September and details of these are listed on the back cover as usual. Our Social Secretary, Joan Liggett, has again been working hard planning the summer trips and five application forms are included with this Newsletter. The first, in May, is a trip to Rudyard Kipling's home in East Sussex. In June we go to Lydd for a guided tour of the town with the Lydd Society. You may remember that last summer a similar morning in Broadstairs was a very successful one. The July outing is likely to be a popular one. It is a morning tour of the Shepherd Neame Brewery at Faversham, followed by an afternoon to explore the 'Open Day' there. The London trip this year is to the Bank of England museum, with time to visit Tate Modern in the afternoon. The September outing to Lille on September 11 will be our first visit to this French city and offers a fascinating mix of old and new.

This issue includes reports of the November, January and February meetings and the usual contributions from the Planning Committee Chairman, the Membership Secretary and the two committee members concerned with the Cowgate Cemetery Project, Jeremy Cope writing of the clearance work and Leslie

Gordon reporting on the deciphering of the gravestones. As you will see the project is proving a very successful one and has achieved a great deal in a relatively short time due to the hard work of the volunteers involved.

The 'Glimpses of the Past' series has four contributions this time, sadly missing the regular article from Ivan Green, who died on 10th February.

We include two obituaries here. Jack Woolford has written of Leo Wright, founder member and past secretary, and Ken Wraight of Ivan

Green Vice-President. Both of them will be greatly missed by the Society and by the local community.

We regret that Steve Franks, who has worked as page-setter and assistant editor for the last two issues of the Newsletter has had to give up due to pressure of work. We thank him for his help and wish him well in his new job.

We thank all our contributors, advertisers and distributors. Without them there would be no Newsletter.

Editor

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DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 50 will be Monday 14th June 2004.

The Editor welcomes contributions and interesting drawings or photographs. 'Paper copy' should be typed at double spacing. Handwritten copy should be clear with wide line spacing. Accurate fully proof-read copy on computer discs is acceptable; please ring 01304 205254 to discuss details.

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The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

The advent of Independents on Dover Town Council made committee proceedings (even) more contentious and (even) more interesting. The (apparently) emerging consensus on eg. Christmas Lights, the River Dour, various economies, including the Town Clock on the 'Eagle' and the necessity for a high speed link to Eurostar, is encouraging. We hope that the same may apply to the Heathfield 'Home Zone', the exchange of the Salvation Army building for DOD's Mill at Temple Ewell and the need to reduce the number of houses in Lorne Road on traffic grounds.

The same appears to be true in some respects with the District Council, on such impending developments as Buckland Paper Mill, the St James's Project, the CTRL link, the relaxation of restrictions on hackney carriages and the Farthingloe Golf Course. We regret the abandonment of the proposed face-lift to Dover Priory and hope that Danish State Railways will win the auction for taking over Connex from the Strategic Rail Authority. We wonder whence will come the buyers for the continuously increasing grants of housing permits and when the market for take-away food shops will be satiated.

We are happy to report that our long quest for information about the running of the Dover Charity has been satisfactorily answered, and, in conjunction with David Ryeland, we hope that the Langdon Cliff gates will be removed.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SPRING 2004

At 442 our number of paid-up members is as high as it has ever been. Please help to maintain this happy state of affairs by letting me have your £6 or £10 as SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE. Our projects such as Cowgate Cemetery clearance, initiation and organisation of concerts and support for River Watch raise our profile with the public and help to increase membership. Of equal value, however, are personal introductions made by individual members who bring friends and acquaintances. Please maintain the good work. Recent new members are: Mr D Marples, Mr P Wells, Ms D Gasking, Mr D Beecham, Mr N Reed, Mr N Slater, Mr E Kembery, Mrs M Keress.

Three newsletter distributors have retired recently and we thank Ken Wraight, Sybil Standing and Leo Wright (posthumously) for their combined 42 years of service. We are grateful to Judith Betts and Jeremy Fox for taking over their rounds and to Jim Francis for extending his existing list. Deaths during the year include: Mrs C Walker, Mrs O Callaghan, Mrs J Cook, Mr F Fisher, Mrs R Sandiford, Mrs M Wiggins, Miss F Brook, Mr R Painter, Mrs G Massey, Mr L Wright. Our sympathies go to their families and friends.

Sheila R Cope

Encore Tykhoneko!

Jack Woolford

LIKE THE FIRST, also on a wet and windy evening, Yuri Tykhoneko's second piano recital filled the excellent theatre at the Astor College for the Arts on Saturday January 17 with an audience convinced in advance that their rapture would be repeated. They were not disappointed. That prodigious and faultless technique, allied to the most exquisite and tender sensitivity, was as potent with Beethoven and Chopin as it had been with Rachmaninov and Liszt.

Beethoven's early and much-played Sonata Pathetique re-emerged as powerfully passionate and stormy and as nobly sad as when it was new. All its majestic power was there in the thunderous first movement. Was I alone in sensing the influence of Chopin in the execution of the lyrical second movement?

The less well-known 32 Variations, also and characteristically in the

dramatic key of C Minor, showed, as the Pooles programme note so well said, that 'Beethoven was a brilliant improviser... unsurpassed in creating variations... repetition(s) of a theme... with modifications and embellishments'. All Beethoven is there: together with the reminder that he, too, was a piano virtuoso.

The programme note said that Chopin was almost self-taught as a pianist. Confronted in succession with three of his unique masterpieces, a Ballade, a Scherzo and a Polonaise, each and all of them with wildly contrasting thunders and whispers, I could only marvel even more at his genius. Yuri's personal interpretations combined towering passion and fierce discipline.

I await, as patiently as I can, his third recital on April 17, same place, same time, same sponsors and free. Please make a note of it!



Next Concert



Piano Recital by three distinguished pianists

Yuri Tykhoneko • Oliver Poole • Lora Dimitroua

Saturday 17th April 2004 from 7.30 to 9.30pm

at the Astor Theatre, Astor College for the Arts, Astor Avenue, Dover

☆ *Admission Free* ☆

By kind permission of the Governors and Principal of Astor College for the Arts
Presented by The Dover Society in conjunction with Dover Town Council

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.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

The November 2003 Meeting

10 MAY 1940 *Reported by Derek Leach*

A packed meeting was waiting to discover why Reg Colman had entitled his talk '10 May 1940'. Our curiosity was soon satisfied - it was the day that Winston Churchill became prime minister.

In 1940 Reg was fourteen years old. His home in Croydon was bombed and he moved to Exmouth where he went to the grammar school. Armed with spades the boys were sent to the beach where they dug a trench to repel Hitler's tanks. Every Saturday he bought 'War Illustrated,' price 3d, to keep up with the news, which at that time was all about 'strategic withdrawals' rather than retreats.

Turning to his subject, Reg outlined the formula for leadership: knowing where the initiative lies (who is the decision maker) and any decisions must be capable of effective application - quite simple in a dictatorship, but more difficult in a democracy. Churchill exercised these qualities through his words and charisma.

What helped to make Churchill the man he was? Scholarship (despite not doing well at Harrow), mastery of detail (speeches were revised again and again before delivery), great

personal courage (as a war correspondent, as a soldier and his escape from the Boers) and the unscrupulous exploitation of personal contacts.

Until 1939 there was a very strong peace movement in the UK. British people did not know, or ignored, the terrible things that were happening in Germany. Politicians were content with Hitler absorbing into Germany surrounding German-populated areas. Chamberlain's ultimatum followed Hitler reneging on his promises, occupying the Sudetenland and invading Poland.

Churchill, out of office during the 1930s, had obtained information about Hitler's activities including German rearmament and had spoken out about the threat he posed, gaining a reputation as a warmonger. People at last realised that he had been right all along. With war declared, Churchill returned to government as First Lord of the Admiralty and the famous signal went round the Royal Navy, 'Winston's back'. During the first three months there were major naval losses. Churchill was anxious to take the war to the Germans by floating mines down the Rhine and by denying Swedish iron ore to them by

controlling neutral Norway. Unfortunately, this gave Hitler the excuse to invade Denmark and Norway. The Anglo-French force sent to Norway met with disaster and the government, with a large Tory majority, was heavily criticised. Chamberlain was the focus for the opposition, 'You have sat too long. For God's sake go!' Churchill stayed loyal. Following a vote of confidence, a coalition government was decided upon, but Labour would not have Chamberlain as prime minister. Churchill was preferred over Halifax and on 10 May 1940 he became prime minister, fulfilling what he thought was his destiny. Very quickly he formed a small war cabinet comprising five politicians and the three service heads with himself as Minister of Defence - making it much easier for the Prime Minister and the Minister to agree! His policy was made clear to everyone with his 'Blood, toil, tears and sweat' speech, creating the atmosphere to prosecute the war certain of ultimate victory, despite the overwhelming might of

Germany.

Churchill in charge was a mixed blessing for those in command. He was a nightmare with fingers in every pie and wanted to be everywhere, despite being 65 in 1940. George VI had to stop him from joining in the Normandy landings. His example made a big impact upon the troops, exuding confidence based upon knowledge from personal experience fighting in the Boer Wars and the First World War when out of office.

Party politics returned with the general election campaign of 1945. The Tories made a grave mistake in concentrating their efforts upon Churchill, the man who had won the war, as the man for winning the peace, rather than pushing peace time policies. Labour won a landslide victory. Churchill was out, but time had produced the right man for the hour.

So ended another fascinating talk by Reg Colman delivered, as always, without any notes and ending bang on time much to the delight of our Chairman!

* * * * *

THE ROYAL CINQUE PORTS

A talk by Dick Bolton..... *Reported by Merril Lilley*

The second speaker of the evening, Lt. Col. Dick Bolton, gave a witty and entertaining address on various aspects of the Cinque Ports, with appropriate illustrations.

He first reminded his audience of the names of the ports, the principal

ones of Hastings, New Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich, which were the original five, and the two 'Antient Towns' of Winchelsea and Rye, which later became head ports in their own right.

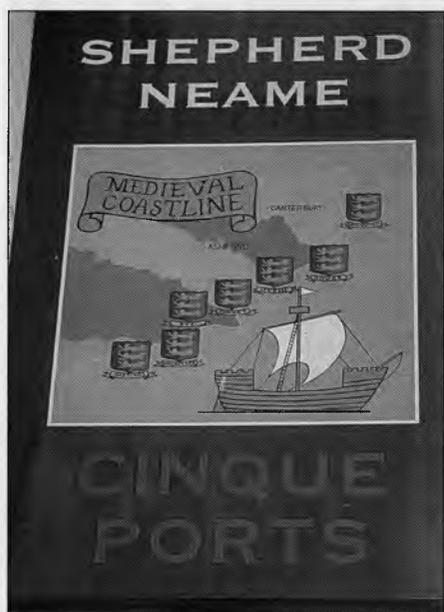
He began with some historical



Deal Port Coat of Arms



New Romney Coat of Arms



Rye Coat of Arms



Sandwich Guildhall Coat of Arms

background to his subject, telling that the custom of Ship Service to the crown started in the time of Edward the Confessor, or possibly earlier than that. The Doomsday book mentions that 21 ships were supplied by Dover alone.

The ships were in service for 15 days in every year, not like an organised navy but a collection of local ships, normally engaged in fishing and trade. They gave their services at their own expense for the 15 days and at the expense of the Crown for any days thereafter. For their services the Cinque Ports men were granted special privileges, including the right to hold their own courts, exemption from national taxes and freedom of trade. This meant they had the opportunity, with their larger and better boats, to take the 'lion's share' of the lucrative North Sea herring trade and land their catch free of charge at Great Yarmouth, where the annual Yarmouth Herring Fair was held. The Cinque Ports men controlled the fair and appointed bailiffs to collect dues. Needless to say, this caused some contention with the Yarmouth fishermen!

Another privilege they held was the ancient honour of supporting the canopy held over the king and queen of England at every coronation. Cinque Ports men held the canopy for the coronation of Richard I and were still performing this honour by the reign of James II. After this, while they may not have carried the canopy they were allowed to attend the ceremony, except at the coronation of



Dover Mace



Sandwich Coat of Arms

Queen Victoria. Even at the coronation of Edward VII they were again given places and carried the National standards.

The main meeting place was at their own Court of Shepway, with two smaller courts of Brodhull and Guestling. The Court of Shepway was presided over by the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. The other two courts are now merged into 'The Court of Brotherhood and Guestling' which controls the internal workings of the federation.

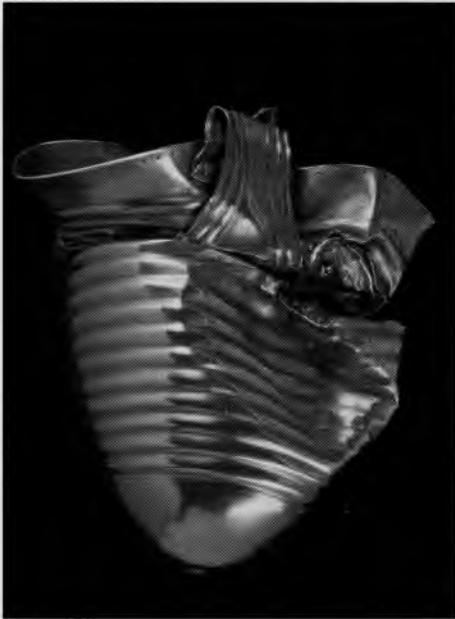
Our speaker spoke of various Lord

Wardens, mentioning, in particular, the Duke of Wellington, Winston Churchill and the last Warden, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

He ended by describing various coats of arms and emblems of the Cinque Ports. He mentioned the mace and the pendant still used by the Mayor of Dover, both of which depict St. Martin, the three demi-lions and demi-ships on the shield of Sandwich, the windows in Dover Town Hall and the Queen Mother's banner at Walmer Castle.

The January 2004 Meeting

THE RINGLEMERE FINDS *Reported by Derek Leach*



The Ringlemere Cup

Photo: Dover Express

Advertised as a talk by Keith Parfitt (Canterbury Archaeological Trust) about the Woodnesborough Gold Cup, it was soon evident that, whilst it was the most important find on the Ringlemere Farm site near Woodnesborough, it was only part of a much bigger story that the site could tell.

On Bodmin Moor in 1837 a prominent mound was spotted by labourers. Inside was a stone lined burial chamber containing a skeleton and a gold cup, now known as the Rillerton Gold Cup, about the size of a half pint mug. This Bronze Age find was unique in Britain until November 2001 when a metal detector enthusiast found something very similar at Ringlemere, albeit damaged by ploughing machinery. It was

classified as treasure and the finder and the farmer each received £135,000. This find was exciting as little had been found in East Kent from the Bronze Age at that time with the outstanding exception of the Dover Bronze Age Boat dating from 1550BC found in 1992.

The next step was to establish whether the cup had come from a burial mound. Such mounds were built by digging a ditch round the site and throwing the spoil into the middle, burying the important personage. A geophysical survey of a low swelling in the field indicated evidence, but a hand dug trial trench revealed nothing in the topsoil except for a few flint tools and pieces of pottery. The best find apart from the gold cup was the handle top of a Bronze Age dagger. A machine dug trench revealed prehistoric rubbish pits with evidence of Stone Age occupation - a village - predating any burial mound. Four thousand fragments of grooved pottery ware

were found, including the largest piece to be found in Kent dating from 2400 to 2800BC. Five hundred flint scrapers for cleaning animal skins were also found.

It would appear that this Stone Age village site had been used again about 1000 years later for a Bronze Age burial mound, but then came evidence of a later Anglo-Saxon village from about 600AD. A large rectangular pit had been cut through the burial mound with post holes round its edge, suggesting a sunken Anglo-Saxon hut. Aerial photographs suggest several more similar circles. Digging continues on this very interesting site.

Keith Parfitt's fascinating talk demonstrated the painstaking work of the archaeologist on such sites when a slight colour change in the soil can be an important clue to its ancient history. The Ringlemere Gold Cup is currently on display at the British Museum and will then go on a national tour including Dover in 2006.



Digging at Ringlemere Farm, Woodnesborough

Photo: Dover Express

WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT

A talk by KIRK ALEXANDER *Reported by Jack Woolford*

The expanding work of the White Cliffs Countryside Project was unfolded with screened slides. Mr Alexander explained that chalk strata, as found in the Cliffs of Dover and the Pas de Calais, was not common in the world. He described the heritage coast on both sides of the Channel and the importance of the chalk grassland on the cliffs and in the immediate hinterland. The hills around Dover and Folkestone represented two per cent of

the world's total chalk grasslands. If not grazed regularly, they would become woodland in fifty years.

He spoke of the success of Samphire Ho and of the thousands who yearly visited these new acres of England created from the spoil from the Channel Tunnel. He also reported how guided walks organised by the Project were assisting green tourism and bringing extra income into the local economy.

The February 2004 Meeting

WINE & WISDOM EVENING *Reported by Jeremy Cope*

The attraction of a wine and wisdom evening is that the clever clogs who win and those who score close to them look at the event as one whose primary purpose is the expression of cleverness and knowledge. Those of us who are in the also-ran category believe that the evening's main purpose is the enjoyment of the company of our fellows, enhanced by the effects of wine. In addition there is comfort for also-rans who know that although they failed to come top this is due to the inclusion of very odd subjects such as films, television, sport and pop music of which no reasonable person can be expected to have much, if any, knowledge. In this way we all end the evening in a happy, satisfied mood.

About 90 of us turned up to test our knowledge or the company and the

wine or most likely both. The Wine and Wisdom becomes ever more popular and I would guess that this evening was the most successful to date. As always the team of Clive Taylor and his wife Jill, helped by Andrew, provided the test of our wisdom. They always do so with such good humour. Clive's dingbats are to my mind one of the best rounds. I was impressed by the way peppermint became a three-piece suite, so if anyone is baffled come to next year's Wine and Wisdom and be enlightened.

Joan Liggett assisted by Muriel Goulding and other members organised the evening and food, and Mike Weston the wine. They deserve our thanks for all they do for us.

**And the clever clogs were:- first Sagittarius, second Five & Ray and third Banjos.*

The Western Heights Preservation Society

report from Chris Tuft

THE WESTERN HEIGHTS PRESERVATION SOCIETY (WHPS) is, as ever, busy with plans for the coming months. With the spring and summer providing us with some of our best opportunities to continue our work we are now well under way with outlining our forthcoming activities.

We have also been taking advantage of the long cold nights to develop further some of the behind the scenes work that is undertaken by the group. We were also delighted to be able to offer a relaxed social event for our members to thank them for their support. Details of our work are summarised below, but there are lots more things in the pipeline so do contact the Society to find out more.

Social Events

The Western Heights Preservation Society hosted a New Year's social event for its members. Approximately 30 people joined members of the committee for drinks and light refreshments at Dover Museum on a Saturday evening where there was opportunity to discuss the plans of the Society and to ask questions of some of our expert members. It also provided a relaxed environment to meet with other members and discover common interests.

Further events are being considered for other times throughout the year, in addition to our annual lecture evening and attendance at the Western Heights Open Day.

Work Days

The last update in this journal advised of a forthcoming work day in the North Lines. This was undertaken

successfully and was followed up by a further day where more unwanted undergrowth was removed. While there is still a long way to go, the improvement to the Lines is marked. Advice was sought from the White Cliffs Countryside Project to ensure nothing was cut back that was either rare or providing essential habitats for the many species of wildlife on the Heights.

More work days are planned for February although possibly too late for this publication date. However, anyone interested in joining in what is always an enjoyable and productive day should contact the Honorary Secretary at the address below for more details.

Publicity and Promotions

The expanded version of the sub-committee for publicity and promotions is now firmly established.

Sub-committee members are making welcome contributions in terms of ideas and practical help on projects. A major one being planned at the moment by the team is the production of a Society leaflet that we can distribute to local Tourist Information Centres and hand out at events.

We are also working on preparing the publicity for the summer Open Day and lecture evening, and for other events that may develop over the coming weeks.

The team is always looking for more ideas and assistance with its projects and anyone wishing to help in any small way is encouraged to contact the Publicity Secretary, Chris Taft, via email to: chris-taft@excite.com or by post to: 8 Astor Avenue, Dover, Kent CT17 0AR.

Website

For sometime the Society website has

been in need of an update, which the treasurer, Paul Wells, is now carrying out. It is hoped that the new version will be available soon at:

www.doverwestern-heights.org.

Available on the new site will be a calendar of events, including social events, activities, trips and work days.

Membership

The Western Heights Preservation Society is not all about getting your hands dirty clearing trees: it is also about supporting and moving the Society forwards in promoting the Western Heights and help is needed at all levels.

For more information or to join please contact the Hon. Secretary, Mr Dave Mallinder at 66 Union Road, Deal Kent CT14 6AR or visit the website:

www.dover-western-heights.org

and please remember to say where you read about the WHPS.

* * * * *

Cemetery Walks

In 2004 Martyn Webster will be leading two walks, with commentaries, around Dover's cemeteries and graveyards. Note these dates for your diary:

Saturday 12th June COPT HILL (St James', St Mary, Jewish Cemetery)
Meet at Charlton Cemetery Gates 2.00pm

Saturday 10th July COWGATE
An overview of the work to date on clearance and recording done by members of the Dover Society.
Meet at St Mary's Church Hall 2.00pm

WITH THANKS TO THE SPONSOR, WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT

Projects

COWGATE CEMETERY

Cowgate Cemetery Clearance Update

◆◆◆ Report by Jeremy Cope ◆◆◆

ONE OF THE FEATURES of our work at Cowgate has been the extraordinary weather pattern since we started in April 2001. I cannot recall that we have been rained off on a Thursday turnout until this January. For the first time the weather caused our advertised date to be cancelled but everyone turned out on the following

Thursday to be blessed with a glorious sunny morning. The Saturdays have been nearly as good for weather as the Thursdays but this January saw us defeated by the rain at about 11 a.m when a very sodden party accepted that enough was enough. Despite the hiccup in the weather we continue to make good progress in which the clearance party should take considerable pride.

I reported in the December 2003 newsletter that, because of a generous donation, we had acquired a powerful strimmer which has greatly increased our ability to mow the grass and to clear the undergrowth. Due to the generosity of our member, Dick Bolton, we now have a second similarly-powered strimmer. Using these machines makes me very much more confident that we shall be able to finish the clearance and then to maintain Cowgate as we would wish.

In February we welcomed member Ken Tranter to the group. If anyone would like to join us please telephone me on 01304 211348. We are a happy group. Do not be put off if you are unsure of your abilities at clearance work; we only ask that you work at your own (comfortable) pace. Why not give it a try?



Vandalism at Cowgate Cemetery



Cowgate Cemetery



Social History on a Hillside

◆◆◆ Cowgate Cemetery, Dover ◆◆◆

The unrelenting task of recording and mapping gravestones at Cowgate Cemetery is nearing completion and a final report should be ready later in the year. In the meantime, the following article by Miss Elizabeth de Bourbel on the history of the cemetery may be of interest. It was written in the 1980s when she herself had started the Herculean task of recording gravestones. Thanks to her efforts and those of her helpers, some 462 headstones were recorded and matched with their official grave numbers, whilst the Society has now transcribed an additional 300 or more.

Lesley Gordon.

"Dover was growing in importance as a harbour in 1834 when Mr. William Mowll, of a family prominent in local civic affairs, donated 2¼ acres of pastureland on the edge of the town for a burial ground. St Mary's parish churchyard, on a site today traversed by York Street dual carriageway, would soon be inadequate to fulfill the ultimate requirement of an increasing population. The extension upon the lower slopes of Western Heights was therefore consecrated as St Mary's New Burial Ground and the first interment took place in April 1837.

Situated at the top of a short, steep lane, Cowgate Hill, a quarter-mile or so from the parish church, the New Burial Ground was completed with a mortuary chapel and a lodge for the sexton. The last occupant of the lodge before closure of the cemetery in the 1950s, William Petchey, had been born there, successor to his father and grandfather. The latter is recorded on his iron headstone as having buried over four thousand people (more than half the total entered in the Burial Register) between 1857 and 1881.

The site is rectangular, enclosed on three sides by a high ragstone wall. Its

upper boundary, the fourth side, consists of a row of vaults excavated in the chalk hillside. So steep is the terrain that the wall of the lower boundary presents a drop of some six feet to the lane, which runs along the rear of the Sarah Gorely Almshouses built in 1877. At the junction of this lane and Cowgate Hill, tall double gates adorn the entrance for hearses. A small gate at the other corner of the lower boundary wall afforded access for handcarts or biers pushed up a path from Snargate Street and the populous dockside district.

No plan or original design for the New Burial Ground exists. Division of the rectangle into lettered or numbered plots has become a matter of deduction. The row of vaults, now obscured by untidy vegetation, has features in common with the terraces or catacombs of London's famous Highgate Cemetery designed by the architect Stephen Geary (1797-1854). The pathway up the centre is aligned on the Mowll family vault. Near the intersection of this central and the main lateral pathway an obelisk serves to mark the nodal point of the layout.



The gates at the entrance to Cowgate Cemetery

The excavated vaults, with tiny 'front gardens', along the upper boundary were the last resting place of prominent Dover families. Aged 46 in 1839, Mr. Mowll was the first of his clan to be laid to rest in a vault where six generations are since commemorated. One freestanding tablet adjacent to the entrance carries the name of Howard West Kilvington Mowll (1890-1958); Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia. Further along the terrace, two adjoining vaults entomb members of the Finnis family. When he died, aged 71 in 1889, Steriker Finnis was Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, a Justice of the Peace and chairman of the governing body of Dover College, where his professional stature is confirmed by a Latin memorial inscription in the chapel.

The vault of the Knocker family - three of whose members were Town

Clerks continuously between 1860 and 1935 - was built of 4,000 stock bricks in 1853; and a ground fee of ten guineas paid to St Mary's parish. No record otherwise exists as to the size of these vaults at the upper boundary or elsewhere in the New Burial Ground.

Graves dug in the numbered plots of the rectangle, separated by pathways, varied widely in depth and dimension. The memorials above them, their script sometimes in fine Georgian lettering, represent the handiwork of stonemasons who took pride in their craft, and the bereaved who commissioned such work in loving memory, thought to immortalise a name.

Immortality was not to be the reward for many who were borne to this hillside site for burial. A grassed-over corner, some twenty yards square, was reserved for casualties of the sea washed ashore without

identification, navvies killed by falls of chalk, paupers from the Dover Union, suicides and other unfortunates. The navvies had a role to play in local history. They worked on the construction of the London, Chatham and Dover Railway along the foot of the cliffs. A few have named graves; "... one of 13 men blown up at the cave near Abbott's Cliff... ", reads a small headstone.

Casualties of the sea were more numerous: Cinque Ports pilots, customs officers off revenue cruisers, a lifeboat man, foreign seamen and ill-fated voyagers like Mrs Elizabeth Marshall, washed ashore in 1843 from the shipwreck of an East Indiaman. Some succumbed to the hazards of travel. John-Claude Nattes, architect of Stowe and drawing-master to George III's daughters, died in 1839 at the

'City of London' Inn, a staging hostelry where travellers awaited, or recovered from, sea passage between Dover and the continent of Europe. Nearby, in Plot 4, a stretch above the chapel used for the earliest burials, lies Mrs Mary Sloper under a well-faceted headstone which includes the information that her husband was Rector of West Woodhay in Berkshire. She expired at Boulogne-sur-Mer in November 1841 and he shipped her body across for interment in this, the nearest spot of English, Protestant soil.

A baronet, Sir Luke Smithett; two 'hons' - Admiral Edmund Knox and his sister Jane, who resided in upper-crust Waterloo Terrace - and a little granddaughter "of the Earl of Albemarle" comprise the only mention of titles amidst more than 7,000 names in St Mary's New Burial



Caretaker's cottage without roof

Photo: *Dover Express*

Ground register. For students of Dovorian social history the pattern emerges of a middle-class community, mercantile and maritime, orientated. In 1871 Dover College was founded with a senior churchman as head - and pupils whose names could be expected to appear on memorials in the fashionable cemetery. The importance of the town owed nothing to the presence of important garrisons upon Western Heights and at Dover Castle. Few military men were interred in the New Burial Ground, although the obelisk at its nodal point commemorates a volunteer, Sergeant John Monger, killed by a bursting gun. A Press photograph of 1860 shows him being accorded full military honours.

In 1877 legislation was passed which required cemeteries to be sited on the outskirts of what are nowadays termed conurbations. Families in St Mary's parish continued to bury their own amidst neighbours and friends, but inevitably numbers dwindled. The register shows only 326 entries after 1900, 66 of these between the wars. The New Burial Ground was closed for interments save those in existing vaults or tombs, and became known henceforth as Cowgate Cemetery. St Mary's handed over responsibility to Dover Corporation, whose members decided that the professionally laid-out site should be left to revert to nature. Small trees and shrubs were planted to obscure its distinctive outlines on the hillside. In the quarter-century since then, ties between the quick and the dead have loosened. In this decade the only grave tended and be-flowered - at least until the

octogenarian sexton's own death - has been that of the Petchey family.

Lichens which shroud gravestones afford their inscriptions some protection from the elements; but only man can preserve the tombstones, altar tombs, Celtic or plain crosses, and tablets of a fairly uniform five feet in height from overgrowth by bindweed, ivy, mare's tail, nettles or brambles. Kerbs, coped stones and slabs lie all but concealed. The initials and year of death normally to be read upon footstones are out of sight in knee-high grass. Where the mortuary chapel stood until 1952, when it was demolished with the lodge, an entanglement of blackberry bushes is a repository for rubbish.

In the far upper corner, however, where a wartime bomb caused some small damage to Plot 1, nature keeps the vandals at arm's length and birds nest safely in impenetrable overgrowth. The graves hereabouts are sparse. In springtime, clumps of primrose cluster about the modest cross above the Andrews - mother and son? sister and brother? - Liberty Washington and Alfred Junius, carried off within four March days of 1865, aged respectively 23 years and 15 months. Strangers here, and by their names American: at least together forever, and unaffected by the neglect which presently desecrates Mr. William Mowll's handsome gift to Dovorian posterity".

*Reproduced by kind permission
of Miss de Bourbel.*

All pictures of Cowgate courtesy of the Dover Express or Hugh Gordon

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

Some snippets of Dover History

☞ THE CZARS OF RUSSIA CAME TO DOVER ☞

by Martyn C. Webster

DOVER has seen the comings and goings of the great and powerful since time immemorial, thanks of course, to the unique geographical and strategic situation of our town. Previous articles in this journal have reported upon the arrivals of Louis XVIII (1813) and Napoleon III (1858 & 1871), but neither these nor any other can surely have been more remarkable than those of two Czars of all the Russias (1814 & 1874). Indeed, when President Vladimir Putin made a state visit to the United Kingdom earlier in 2003, much was made of the fact that it was the first of its kind for a Russian Head of State in 129 years.

What were the circumstances then that led to the setting foot on Dover's shores of these two high and mighty potentates, Alexander I (reigned 1801-1825) and Alexander II (reigned 1855-1881)?

In the first instance, and noted in the diary of Thomas Pattenden, local schoolmaster, on 3rd June 1814 there arrived at Dover from Boulogne together with Count Metternich and the King of Prussia, His Imperial Majesty Czar Alexander I of Russia, all three hot-foot from the signing of the Treaty of Paris (which temporarily put an end to the war with Napoleon Bonaparte). Unfortunately there are no local newspaper reports of the

time to give us more detail. Pattenden records however, that "the regal party stayed in Dover before proceeding from the town to London GQ en troupe". What an occasion that must have been and a life-long memory for all those who witnessed it, but more was to come.

In the second instance, for the arrival of Alexander I's nephew Alexander II on 13th May 1874, we are spoiled for the minutest of details by the report which appeared in the edition of the 'Dover Express' of Friday 15th May 1874.

Ironically the Czar's disembarkation at Dover had never been intended. However, his yacht, the 'Dervaja' in conveying him to England had gone aground on a mud bank off Flushing in Holland causing it to miss the tide for the scheduled morning arrival at Gravesend where all the celebrations had been prepared. It was only at ten o'clock on the Wednesday morning in May that Dover had been alerted by telegram of the change of plan for an arrival that same afternoon.

The consternation all this must have caused can only be imagined. A reception by the Mayor and Corporation had to be arranged hurriedly. An address was prepared on vellum 'finished off with a



How the Illustrated London News depicted the Tsar's unexpected arrival in Dover after his yacht had run aground off Holland. From Dover, he made a hectic dash by train to Windsor

pendulous seal of the hue and size of a Chichester lobster'. The townsfolk were informed by the town crier in order to provide a local welcome in numbers appropriate for such a lofty personage. Not only was the Czar expected but also a royal train, bearing, to greet him, the Prince of Wales, Prince Arthur of Connaught and, most importantly, the Czar's recently-married 21-year-old daughter Marie, Duchess of Edinburgh.

The royal train duly arrived at

3.45pm in order to be in time for the imperial yacht, which was expected at 4.00pm. Yet still plans went awry. There was an interminable wait for everyone involved until nearly 6 o'clock, when finally the yacht came into sight. Throughout this time their Royal Highnesses, the Mayor and Corporation had to hide themselves in the Lord Warden Hotel while the Dover Garrison (9th & 90th Regiments, 7th Fusiliers, the Royal Artillery and the Kent Militia) were marshalled on the

Admiralty Pier, overseen by crowds of restless spectators.

In due course, a gun salute from the Castle signalled the arrival of the "Dervaja", its tender the "Livadia" and their escort HMS Galataea.

It is not clear what the weather was like that day, but probably because of wind and tide, the yacht berthed at the landing stage on the western, seaward, side of the Admiralty Pier and not, as more usually, on the harbour side. Confusion reigned again, as it took two or three attempts of manoeuvring and the raising of a staysail forward to cant the vessel alongside. The lack of skilled handling of a vessel of 340 feet length in deep water was noted by commentators in unfavourable comparison to that of the British Royal Yacht. Only then was the newspaper report able to describe the object of all this excitement in full flow...

"The Emperor who had been standing on the bridge, or the starboard paddle-box, threw off the roquelaure (cloak), in which His Majesty's person had been enveloped, and displayed the magnificent uniform of a Russian general, over which was the dark blue ribbon of the Garter. The people who packed the promenade on the top of the pier, cheered loudly as soon as they recognised the Czar who graciously acknowledged the reception..."

The British Royal greeters then boarded the 'Dervaja' proceeded by the Duchess of Edinburgh who hastened aboard to embrace her father effusively in full view of the public. After an official exchange in

the saloon of the yacht, the whole party then came ashore to a full gun salute from the Castle and the playing of the Russian national hymn on the pier.

Before climbing into the Royal carriage, where a bouquet from Queen Victoria had been placed on the seat, and reaching it by way of a crimson carpet, the Czar was presented to Dover's Mayor and Corporation in their full regalia. They handed His Majesty the specially (and hastily) prepared address. Also entraining at this time was a Russian suite of 80 persons together with some 18 or 20 tons of Imperial baggage manhandled by a team of Russian sailors. So much weighty luggage in fact that the train had to subsequently stop awhile at Staplehurst en route to London so that the axles could be checked. So, for Dover, an unexpected day's role in history had been played out in a short, fleeting moment after an agonising wait. With only the train smoke emerging from Shakespeare Tunnel left to show for it, they were all gone.

Had there been any elderly person among the spectators, who had also witnessed the earlier Czar's arrival? Is there among us anyone whose grandparent may have known such a witness? A tantalising thought.

And the Czars themselves?

Alexander I died mysteriously in 1825 in the Crimea. Alexander II was assassinated by a bomb in 1881. Both are buried at the St. Peter & Paul Fortress, St. Petersburg. Sic transit gloria mundi.

THE SAD STORY OF HENRY MATSON

by Terry Sutton

ALL for the want of a wooden peg a bride was lost. That's the sad story of proud Henry Matson, landowner and Dover churchwarden. It's a tale of the 17th century as Dover settled down soon after the Restoration of the Monarchy. Henry Matson, it is claimed, could have married virtually any of the young maidens of the town but his eyes were firmly fixed on coy Elizabeth Stokes, the charming daughter of master mariner and six times mayor William Stokes. One day, while the chattering classes waited for Henry to propose, he was taking his regular walk along one of Dover's piers. Absentmindedly he let slip his gold knobbed cane which slid through a hole in the pier's wooden decking where a peg-a-trunnel should have been. And down into the sea went Henry's gold knobbed cane. Not surprisingly church warden Henry Matson forgot himself and let forth a terrible oath. Just at that moment sweet Elizabeth Stokes and her mother were strolling along the pier and they heard the dreaded words. That was enough for Elizabeth. That was the end of any possible friendship. Why a man who could swear could do anything in the future. And it wasn't long before Elizabeth married another.

Poor old Henry, it is recorded, from that day never smiled. He never tried again his fate as a suitor and, as he grew older, he visited his attorney. After making provision for a few

relatives, Henry's will bequeathed all his estates at Capel, Westcliffe, Coldred and at Digges Place, Barham, to the Warden and Commissioners of Dover Harbour.

There was one condition. The Commissioners, on a set date every year, were to patrol the piers, discover any treacherous trunnel holes and have them immediately blocked up to prevent other gentlemen's canes suffering the same fate. Henry Matson lived till the year 1720 when he was buried in the churchyard of the Church of St James, where he had been a faithful churchwarden. His lawyers told the harbour commissioners about Henry's curious will and so, once a year, they strolled the piers together to carry out their duties by plugging a few holes here and there. And then they went along to enjoy a real feast, at the expense of the Matson estate. As the years rolled by the pier duties began to be forgotten but the annual Trunnel Feast continued. In time, however, probably interrupted by war, even the Trunnel Feast fell into disuse. Eventually, it is recorded, Matson's lands were sold off and the income used to improve the condition of Dover Harbour. I occasionally take walks along Dover's piers and don't find many holes. So perhaps the loss of Henry's cane, and his unrequited love, has had some impact.

References: Annals of Dover - J. Bavington Jones & Dover Express 25 December 1903)

ODO, THE WANABE POPE

by Terry Sutton

DOVER people, and others throughout Kent, were once heavily taxed in order to finance a bishop's desire to become Pope. Soon after William the Conqueror was crowned King of England he decided to give Dover and its castle into the custody of his half brother Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, whom he created Earl of Kent. That was when troubles began, because Odo, although a man of great ability, proved greedy and too ambitious. His greed fed his lust for power. Odo, who had invaded England with William, as soon as he was created an earl, began plundering from the landowners of Kent. He seized for himself 200 manors and such was his greed that he goaded his tenants into a revolt which failed. His resulting punishments were so severe that King William felt he had to interfere.

Historian Lambarde wrote: 'The king was offended with the disobedience, avarice and ambition of Odo who raked together great masses of gold and treasure. Odo then caused this gold to be ground into small powder, filled into pots and had them sunk in the bottom of rivers so that he could eventually purchase the papacy of Rome!'

Odo was also suspected of having his eyes on the throne of England. Suspicious King William consulted Lanfranc, the Archbishop of Canterbury, about what should be done. He asked if the Church would be offended if he prevented Odo taking

the confiscated treasures out of the country as he headed for Rome. Lanfranc was a clever old bird. He suggested to the king that Odo should be detained, not as a bishop but as Earl of Kent.

The king thought that a good idea and imprisoned Odo in Normandy. Meanwhile Odo's servants were persuaded, by torture, to reveal where the confiscated treasures were hidden.

After William died, Odo was pardoned by King Rufus (William II) in 1087 and he returned to England but was soon banished for conspiracy against the new king. In disgrace Odo then lived in Normandy for a further ten years, dying in retirement unhonoured and unsung. Ancient documents tell that Odo allowed one of his tenants to build a 'mill' at the entrance to Dover harbour but there is some mystery over this because, surely, the violence of the sea would have destroyed any building. It is written the 'mill' -not there in the time of King Edward - damaged almost every ship, including the king's, that entered the harbour. Later historians suggest that the word 'mill' had been badly translated when it should have been 'mole' (a breakwater). That would certainly make more sense because a mole would have stood up to lashing by the sea and could easily have damaged any ships arriving.

**Today, nearly 1,000 years on, one of the few memories of Odo is a road named after him at Tower Hamlets.*

9. There's Brockman at the
 Bricklayer's Arms,
 And Tom Grant at the Fountain.
 And Rigden at the Briton True
 Whose fame I'd be recounting.
 Jack Cesar at the Barley Mow,
 And Harvey at the Fleece, Sirs.
 At the Chequers lives Ned Hollingsworth
 Who only aims to please, Sirs.
10. At the Packet Boat fam'd Chittenden,
 And Atkins at the Pig, Sirs.
 Who by no means must be despised
 Because he wears a wig, Sirs.
 Then Easton at the King's Arms,
 And Davis at the Gun, Sirs.
 And at the Swan friend Ellis lives,
 A broth of boy for fun, Sirs.
11. At the Cooper's Arms,
 Prince you'll find,
 At the Dover Castle, Ford, Sirs.
 And Hammond at the Dragon lives
 Who sometimes keeps his word, Sirs.
 Then Jenkins at the Three Kings,
 Boyce at the Fleur de Lys, Sirs.
 And Watson at the North Sea Boat
 You any day may see, Sirs.
12. At the Coach and Horses, Atkins lives,
 And Chapman at the Brothers,
 Two as hearty fellows hay
 As any of the others.
 Then Bowles at the Marlborough Head,
 And Goodburn at the Ark, Sirs.
 At the Folkestone Cutter,
 Penn you'll find
 As brisk as any lark, Sirs.
13. There's Evans at the Seven Stars,
 Where politicians meet, Sirs.
 Then Simmonds at the
 Shipwright's Arms,
 Where many cocks were beat, Sirs.
 To the Ordnance Arms in Paradise,
 With Ruttom you may steer, Sirs.
 At the Prince of Wales lives Head,
 A man you need not fear, Sirs.
14. Next Carlton at the Herrings Three,
 A man who's rather serious,
 At the Scarborough Castle,
 there you'll find
 That jolly dog, Cornelious.
 But ah! poor James, the Pilot Boat
 Looks very sad without you
 For Boney d--- him took you, here
 You'd time to look about you.
15. And now the lady landlords come,
 A merry set, I vow, Sirs.
 And what of them, I have to say that
 You shall hear just now, Sirs.
 Kath Sandford at the Brewers lives,
 Good purl you may have there, Sirs.
 And if you choose a mug of Fenners
 Canterbury beer, Sirs.
16. Ann Podevin at the King's Head,
 I wish for her we'd peace, Sirs.
 Dame Harnett for her Privateer
 Has had a pretty breeze, Sirs.
 Ann Whitehorne at the
 Crown and Anchor
 (Not that in the Strand) Sirs.
 And Barras at the Hovelling Boat
 Has got our grumblin' band, Sirs.



B.O.O.K R.E.V.I.E.W.S

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

from Jack Woolford

There are two excellent additions to the books published, respectively, by the Society's Vice-Chairman Derek Leach (Riverdale Publications) and by the Editor, Merrill Lilley (Triangle Publications).

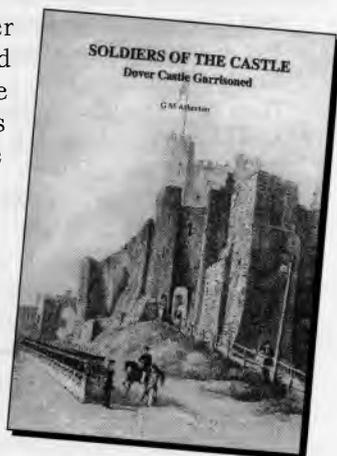
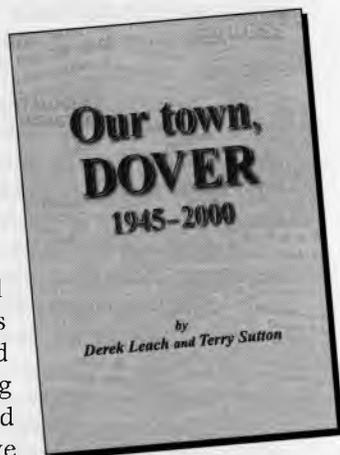
Derek and our Chairman, Terry Sutton have rapidly and seamlessly collaborated to produce the best-selling 'Our Town, Dover 1945-2000'. They have most skilfully avoided the pitfalls of chronological narrative by devoting chapters to the various subdivisions of eg. Local Government, Roads and Rail, the Port, Industry, Clubs and Societies (including the New Dover Group and the Dover Society) and Churches, etc. Even more skilfully they have interspersed fascinating summaries of the lives of past and present Dover luminaries, like Lillian Kay, Ivan Green and Budge Adams. My own favourite is the revealing sketch of Town Clerk James A. Johnson and his defeat by vicar's daughter, Miss Elnor.

The book is brilliantly and profusely illustrated, beautifully printed by A.R. Adams (of course) and at £12 is at once a bargain and a treasure trove.

* * * * *

Wendi Atherton, wife of our President, Brigadier Atherton, when in residence at the Castle, was invited by the then architect to 'compile a list of the regiments stationed at the Castle'. Twenty five years of labour followed and the result, 'Soldiers of the Castle: Dover Castle Garrisoned' is quite breathtaking. Mrs Atherton claims to be 'an amateur' but her work is thoroughly and most painstakingly professional.

Her summary of the early history of the Castle is a finely readable work of compression. The list itself is interesting (and sometimes surprising) but the fascination is in the nuggets of detailed, sometimes amazing, not to say amusing,



information detailed research has revealed. The author's comments on details convey her pleasure in finding, for example, in the account of the 1216 siege: 'There was a continual watch kept during the night... and every hour a horn or trumpet sounded to keep them all awake... At the time of Spanish Armada in 1588... The propriety of the time expected gentlemen to fight with pikes; the nimblest men with firearms; the clumsiest with bills, and the blockheads with pick and shovel as pioneers...'

The maps, diagrams, documents and pictures, culminating with World War II are plentiful, beautifully reproduced, arranged to accompany the text, and those in colour more than fit for framing. These alone are more than worth the £10 cost of purchase. Professor Colonel Richard Holmes says: 'This is a little gem of a book'. In fact, it is a masterpiece.

BELOVED EMMA by Flora Fraser

(John Murray £9.99)

from Terry Sutton

This new paperback, *BELOVED EMMA*, tells the story of the rags-to-riches career of Emma, Lady Hamilton. She was born Emy Lyon in Cheshire. She climbed the social ladder through domestic service, prostitution and then becoming the mistress of several wealthy men before marrying Sir William Hamilton.

Emma was a regular visitor to Dover when she crossed the Channel in the late 18th century. She often crossed the Dover Strait with her husband as he journeyed to and from his post as British ambassador in Naples. But, in later life, she purposely kept away from Dover when, deeply in debt and suffering from dropsy, she scurried away to live in Calais where her eventful life ended. She knew she was too well-known in Dover.

It was as Sir William's wife she met and fell in love with Horatio Nelson and had his child. But after Nelson's heroic death in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, society turned its back on Emma and their daughter. She fell heavily into debt, moved down market in her London accommodation until, like many other debtors at that time, she decided to set up home in Calais. There, getting fatter, sadder and taking too much wine, she died in poverty in January 1815 forgotten and unmourned.

Years later, in the First World War, a group of British officers put up a plaque in Calais marking the spot where she died but that was lost during the bombardments the French town suffered in the 1939-45 war. Another fresh one is now in place in a side street off the Rue Royal and in April 1994 an American woman unveiled a monument to Emma in the Parc Richelieu, roughly on the spot where Emma was buried.

The Dover Society Website

www.doversociety.homestead.com

Please visit the site.

Read reports on meetings, check the programme of events.

Your comments and observations would be appreciated.

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- Charlton Shopping Centre: www.charltonshopping.co.uk
- Dover Carnival: www.dovercarnival.homestead.com
- Dover Castle: www.dover-castle-friends.org
- Dover District Council: www.dover.gov.uk
- Dover Hospital Fete: www.doverhospitalfete.homestead.com
- Dover Operatic Society: www.dods.org.uk
- Dover Pageant: www.doverpageantsociety.homestead.com
- Dover Topsy: www.topsy.demon.co.uk
- Dover Town Centre Management: www.dovertcm.homestead.com
- Dover Town Council: www.dovertown.com
- Dover Web: www.doverweb.co.uk
- Gateway Hospital Radio: www.ghbs.org.uk

Venturing outside Dover

- Kent County Council: www.kenttourism.co.uk
- Kent Federation Civic Amenity Society: www.kfas.org.uk
- St Peter's Village Tour: www.villagetour.co.uk

**Contact the editor, Mike McFarnell or a member of the committee
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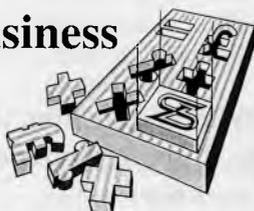


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Signed ..... Date .....

Please make cheques payable to the Dover Society and forward the cheque or cash to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Sheila Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD

I/We could sometimes give practical help with the following (*please tick boxes*)

Social events  Writing for newsletter

Projects e.g. clearance, surveys, photography

Any other interests or expertise .....

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# PROGRAMME 2004

*Guests are welcome at all meetings except the Annual General Meeting  
which is for members only.*

- APRIL 19  
Monday 7.30                      **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Speaker: Martyn Webster "Dover's Alien Clerks"
- MAY 15  
Saturday                         **Bateman's**, Burwash, East Sussex - the home of Rudyard Kipling for  
over 30 years. A beautiful Jacobean mansion set amid a six acre  
garden. The interior of the house reflects the author's strong  
associations with the East. £11.00  
Pick-ups                         0900 The Railway Bell, 0910 Frith Road, 0915 Brook House CP
- JUNE 9  
Wednesday                      **Half Day Outing!!** Walkabout Lydd. Morning tour led by members  
of Lydd Society. Distance: 1 mile; Duration: 2 hours; Lunch: local  
hostelry (not included). £11.00.  
Pick-ups                         0900 The Railway Bell, 0910 Frith Road, 0915 Brook House CP
- JULY 3  
Saturday  
Pick-ups                         **Shepherd Neame Brewery**. Guided tour to include refreshments  
and tasting! Later, time to explore 'Open Day' Faversham. £14.00  
0830 The Railway Bell, 0845 Frith Road, 0850 Brook House CP
- AUGUST 12  
Pick-ups                         **The Bank of England**. An audio-visual presentation - listen to 'the  
Duke of Wellington' - explore museum. Later, Tate Modern or your  
choice! £14.00  
0800 The Railway Bell, 0810 Frith Road, 0815 Brook House CP
- SEPTEMBER 11  
Saturday  
Pick-ups                         **Lille - European City of Culture 2004**. A fascinating mixture of old  
and new. £26.00.  
0700 The Railway Bell, 0710 Frith Road, 0715 Brook House CP
- OCTOBER 25  
Monday 7.30  
**BIGGIN HALL**  
Speakers: Mike Dawson "Planning for Dover"  
Jon Iveson "Future of the Western Heights"
- NOVEMBER 15  
Monday 7.30                      **Speaker:** Councillor Lyn Young 'Dover District Council'  
Brainstorming Session
- DECEMBER 19  
Saturday                         **The Christmas Feast**. Details later. £17.00

Normally all indoor meetings are held at St Mary's Parish Centre with parking at Stembrook.

*Note:* There is one exception this year. The October Meeting will be at **BIGGIN HALL**.

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