

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was very pleased to hear a new editor has been found for the Dover Society Newsletter and that the annual meeting was so well attended which proves the group is doing a worthwhile job!

My main reason for writing is to point out an error in the last newsletter regarding identification of an old engraving of a port building, from the late Ivan Green, said to be in Dover. I have several illustrations of this, including at least a couple of photographs, which show it was, in fact, seven miles away at Folkestone harbour. It was variously known as the Clock House, Clock Tower (which it had) or Harbour House, which was built in 1843 for the use of the directors and officers, etc. of the South Eastern Railway, including the harbourmaster Lieutenant G. Essells, R.N. According to the Folkestone Herald newspaper of March 8, 1950, he was succeeded by Captain George Hathorn R.N. (1850-60.) Later Admiral Hathorn, with a family of 10, he had his home in the large building. He was also the Superintendent of the company's steamers at Dover, Folkestone, Calais and Boulogne. The Folkestone Herald told how one of his daughters was still resident in Folkestone in March 1950.

In an old copy of the Folkestone Herald newspaper I found the building described as of Venetian style architecture, with each elevation having a distinct character of its own but harmonising as a whole. The building, of red brick, had a 100ft campanile tower, which projected from the centre of the frontage facing the quayside and inner harbour. It had an illuminated clock and a look-out gallery near the top. According to local book authors Alan Taylor and Eamonn Rooney, of Folkestone, the building was demolished around 1899 to make way for an extension of the nearby Royal Pavilion Hotel, on the site of which the Hotel Burstin was built in modern times.

The thought occurs to me that the building bears a resemblance to Dover's former Burlington Hotel with its lift tower in the centre of the Woolcomber Street frontage!

*Yours sincerely,
Bob Hollingsbee*