

started in 1847 and finished in 1871. This meant that little progress was being made by the time when, in the 1890's, different contractors had taken over. Messrs S Pearson and Son had taken over from Messrs Coode and Son and Matthews under the engineer in charge Major Pilkington C.B.R.E. The opening did not take place

until the 15th October 1909 and that year heralded a new threat, this time from the air. The first crossing of the English Channel by plane was accomplished by Bleriot in July. Hence the long awaited building of the harbour apparently coincided with the beginning of its redundancy.

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

New Dover Books!!! Two new books by Derek Leach will be available soon with signed copies for Dover Society members if ordered direct from Derek.

Caring for Dover's Poor should be available by August 2006. It attempts to trace from the 12th century to modern times how Dover's poor were cared for – or not – by religious institutions, the town authorities and charities as well as the impact of the various poor laws and the workhouse system. Education of the poor and slum clearance are also covered in the 130 pages. The price is not fixed at the time of going to press but should not exceed £12.

Dover Harbour, Royal Gateway The first edition was commissioned by Dover Harbour Board to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the granting of its royal charter by King James I in October 1606 and was limited to 2,000 copies not available to the general public. The first copy of the book was presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth during her visit to the port on 20 July 2005. Packed with illustrations, the book traces the development of Dover's harbour from earliest times to the present day interwoven with details of arrivals, departures and official visits by members of our Royal Family through the centuries.

A second edition in softback format will be available for sale from 1 December in time for Christmas, but, as only 500 copies will be available, advance orders will be taken by Derek Leach. The price will not exceed £20 for this full colour coffee table style book of 130 large pages.

Both books can be ordered from Derek Leach, 24 Riverdale, River, Dover CT17 0QX telephone 01304 823926. The books should also be on sale at the usual local outlets: W H Smith - Dover, Dover Museum, Tyler's of Deal and Albion Books, Canterbury.

About the Author Born in 1938, Derek spent his working life in Customs and Excise, moving to the Dover area in 1974. As a senior manager in Dover he had a close working relationship with the Harbour Board. Awarded the OBE in 1995, he retired in 1998.

A retirement aim was to write and publish a book about some aspect of Dover's fascinating history. His first effort, *The Life and Times of a Dovorian – Lillian Kay*, was a great success and he has since followed this with four more as well as helping to produce three similar books for The Dover Society.

