

The Western Heights Preservation Society

report from Chris Taft

As the nights are closing in and the days are getting colder, the Society is entering a quieter period for the winter months and is concentrating on work behind the scenes, such as preparing newsletters and drawing up lists of work for the New Year. It has been a busy year preparing for the annual open day in June. This event takes a lot of work and many hours are spent preparing the site ready for the public to come and view the Heights. The Society will be ending the year's events by delivering a presentation at Crabble Corn Mill. This is an area the WHPS have been branching out more this year, especially since the purchase of new computer equipment.

WHPS AGM

In August the Society held its Annual General Meeting. Attendance this year was reasonable and allowed the Society to review the constitution and make some minor amendments to allow developments into other areas. The Society is hoping to expand its work beyond the immediate boundaries of the Heights and be able to look at some of the sites associated with the Heights but not strictly part of them. The AGM gave members the opportunity to ask questions of the committee and make suggestions. Ideas from the membership are always welcomed by the committee.

Charity Application

The committee have for a while now been discussing the possibility of registering the WHPS as a charity. At the moment the application is being prepared and a final discussion as to whether or not this is a direction in which the group wants to go will be made at a future committee meeting, after discussion with the membership at large. News on progress of this will be published on the WHPS website at www.dover-western-heights.org.

Future Plans

The autumn and winter months are those when plans are made for the forthcoming year. There are several areas that the committee are considering for the future. As well as the charity registration already mentioned, there are plans for new areas on the Heights as well as those worked on in the past, such as the Drop Redoubt. These plans are still in the early stages and more details will be available as they progress. One area that the committee is keen to work on in the future is its own development. The Society needs to improve its Newsletter productions and communication generally and at the moment there is a shortage of volunteers in these areas. If any readers feel they would be able to help in this or other areas they are encouraged to contact the Publicity Secretary at publicity@dover-western-heights.org.

Publicity and Promotions

The last issue of this Newsletter reported on the successful delivery of a lecture about Western Heights and the WHPS to a Society in Sittingbourne. This lecture is now to be repeated at the Crabble Corn Mill in Dover on November 21st. The publicity team of the WHPS is keen to use this presentation as much as it can to help promote its work and share the history of the Heights. If readers feel they know of organisations wishing to hear this talk they are asked to get in touch with the Publicity Secretary at the address above. The publicity and promotions team is also using the winter months to re-think strategy for continuing publicity into 2007. Promotion of the annual open weekend is now a regular part of the sub-committee's work but new avenues of publicity are being explored. The WHPS would like to develop programmes to work with other groups or individuals. This work has been started and will be developed over the coming months.

Aside from all the above the WHPS are always looking at new avenues to pursue, from physical work to organising social events or writing letters to various groups. If you have any ideas then we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Publicity Secretary with any ideas or comments via email to publicity@dover-western-heights.org or by post to: WHPS, Box 366, DEAL, Kent CT14 9XY



The Christmas Feast



Due to play at the Christmas feast this December are **Mac & Steve** who fuse their different experiences of songs from the 60's and 70's, especially from the world of traditional and contemporary folk songs. They include comic and satirical ditties, sometimes indulging in nostalgia albeit in a light-hearted way, and invariably succeed in demanding audience participation for responses and chorus songs - not to mention the famous *in at the deep end challenge*, where requests are encouraged and spontaneity is tested to the extreme. They both sing and play guitar, with Steve doubling on accordion or Mac adding harmonica bursts.

Also appearing at the feast this year is a young lady named **Leyla**. She has been singing for the past 11 years since she was 4 years old but assures me that it is only a hobby. Leyla has appeared in a number of local shows and charity concerts, has been invited to perform twice at Euro Disney and has appeared in the West End a couple of times. She prefers to sing ballads and songs from musicals and on the night will be singing three songs.

With these two acts appearing it should give us a memorable evening of entertainment and feasting, a night not to be missed.