

# SOCIETY PROJECTS

Report by Jeremy Cope

## Cowgate Cemetery

Oh dear! What have we done? We have been rained off on more occasions this winter than in any year since that start of our clearance and maintenance work in 2001. We may have angered the gods probably by laughing too much but that will not deter us from continuing the good work, rain or sunshine, wet or dry. Volunteers are always welcome. The dates of our morning work sessions for the rest of the year are as follows:-

Thursday Meetings	Saturday Meetings
5th April	14th April
3rd May	12th May
7th June	23rd June
5th July	14th July
2nd August	11th August
6th September	22nd September
4th October	13th October
1st November	10th November
6th December	15th December

Interested?

Phone Jeremy Cope on 01304 211348 or email [jeremycoppe@willersley.plus.com](mailto:jeremycoppe@willersley.plus.com)

## The River Dour

The spawning season for fish is from October to March is so that there is little to be done by way of clearing the river. I learnt that it is an offence to clear rubbish as litter can be a shelter for spawning fish. If anyone complains about the state of the river, my response is that it is not the river that is dirty; it is the people who foul it up.

Dover Pride is trying to get funding for a walk/cycle path and we have been asked to provide a letter of support. The idea is only a proposal at the moment but if anyone has any thoughts or comments please let me know. If this is to go ahead it will need to take account of and work with the existing walkway recently signposted by White Cliffs Countryside Project. There is outline information and a map on [www.sustransconnect2.org.uk](http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk)

## HOW THE STREETS OF DOVER GOT THEIR NAMES

by Terry Sutton

The names of many of Dover's streets give an idea of the date when they were planned and built. Many were named after leading national politicians of the time while others recall monarchs and their supporters' way back in history.

Today, in my view unfortunately, the trend is to name new roads after the wives or families of the developer or after some attractive part of the country.

This occasional feature, however, seeks to explain the historical association of some of the streets of Dover, many in the older parts of the town.

**Abbots Walk** - on Buckland Estate obtained its name from the Canterbury Tales when, along with neighbouring roads, "New Jerusalem" was laid out. Other roads in the area also took their names from the same source.

**Adrian Street** - once known as Upwall or later Above Wall - obtained its name from Adrian Gate, one of the gates of the town wall that stood nearby.

**Alfred Road** - probably after Alfred the Great (849-899). In 886 King Alfred negotiated a partition treaty with the Danes and gained control of areas of West Mercia and Kent.

**Ashen Tree Lane** - named after a large ash tree that once flourished there.

**Beach Street** (now part of a lorry parking area near Southern House) stood on what was the Western Beach, now called Shakespeare Beach.

**Bench Street** - different suggestions but probably after the benches from which merchants sold their wares.

**Biggin Street** - after Biggin Gate, another entrance through the town's walls that was demolished in 1762.

**Bowling Green Terrace** - once a bowling green stood where Durham Hill flats now stands - was used by officers of the garrison.

**Branch Street** - linking Peter Street with Bridge Street - so called because a little footbridge crossed a branch of the river at this point.

**Bridge Street** - Probably named after a brick bridge, built in 1829 to replace the ford and old wooden bridge.

**Cowgate Hill** - near here stood Cow Gate through which cows were driven to feed on the foothills of the Western Heights. Another gate in the town wall.

**Dryden Road** - was probably named after the first poet laureate (1668).

**Edred Road** - after Edred, King of Kent (reigned 946-955), who died while still in his twenties and was buried at Winchester.

**Eastbrook Place** - stood alongside the eastern portion of the river that emptied into what is now the harbour.

**Edwards Road** - the side road off Biggin Street opposite Woolworths, was named after a popular pastor at Salem Church that once backed on this little road.

**Erith Street** - James Beale, a member of the Society of Friends, who built a large house at the corner for himself, came from Erith.

**Ethelbert Road** - after Ethelbert, King of Kent (reigned 560-616). He ruled all England south of The Humber. He became first baptised Anglo-Saxon king and made Canterbury the centre of Christianity in southern England. He was buried at Canterbury.

**Fishmongers Lane** - stood near to what was the Fisher Gate (another gate into the town) where fishermen washed their nets and sold fish.

**Five Post Lane** - linking Adrian Street and Snargate Street alongside the Trocadero Inn, so named because it was protected by five posts to prevent access to all but pedestrians

**Frith Road** - leading to Frith Farm at Guston. Previously known by some as Love or Lovers' Lane. The Corporation purchased and demolished the cottages at the end of the road in the 1880's to allow the road to be widened.

**Gloster Way** - is associated with Shakespeare's King Lear in which Gloster (not as some times misnamed as the Duke of Gloucester) is a character approaching what is now known as Shakespeare Cliff.

**Godwyne Road** - after Godwyne, Earl of Kent, governor of Dover Castle in 1057 and father of King Harold killed at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

**Herbert Street** - the owner of the land on which Herbert Street was built, near Erith Street, named it after his servant, Herbert.

**King Lear's Way** - off Old Folkestone Road, gets its name from Shakespeare's King Lear.

**Last Lane** - now sadly gone. Possibly named as it was the last in a series of lanes off the Market Square. More likely it was after the lasts used by the shoemakers who provided footwear for the Canons of St Martin-le-Grand nearby.

**Laureston Place** - was built on land owned by banker Fector and it is believed the name was given in memory of his wife Miss Laurie of Laureston, New Brunswick.

**Noah's Ark Road** - on a steep hill above Astor Avenue, just the place for a modern day Noah to build his ark!

**Norman Street** - recalls the work of the Norman invaders in Dover.

**Odo Road** - at Tower Hamlets, gets its name from Bishop Odo, half brother of William the Conqueror, who became Earl of Kent after 1066. He was Constable of Dover Castle and had ideas of becoming Pope.

**Oswald Road** - King of Northumbria who reigned from 634-642, the first Anglo-Saxon king to be canonised.

**Priory Street** - recalls its close proximity to the 12th century Priory that ceased in the reign of Henry VIII and now the Dover College complex.

**Seven Star Street** - another thoroughfare now gone, was named after the hostelry of that name that gained considerable notoriety in the town.

---

## *Out and about in the district...*

---



### === **East Kent Road Car Company Ltd** ===

by John Lines

A few months ago, thanks to a Lottery Grant and support from a number of local businesses, the Transport Museum acquired premises of its own at Willingdon Road, Whitfield. These were the old gymnasium and swimming pool for the Old Park Army barracks. Whilst moving we re-discovered the war memorial to the employees of East Kent Road Car Company who had died during the Second World War, either on active service or because of air raids.

With the support of Paul Southgate, managing director of Stagecoach in East Kent, we built a tribute room, the refurbished memorial forming the centrepiece. Paul and the Mayor of Dover, Councillor Mrs. Jan Tranter, opened the room on Friday 27th October 2006 and, with a former East Kent Road Car vehicles display, this was well received. On Remembrance Sunday, Stagecoach employees attended a short service and laid a wreath in memory of their colleagues who had paid the ultimate price.

We realized the affection for 'East Kent' in the District so Sunday 29th April will be *East Kent Day* at the Museum. We hope to have many old buses, coaches lorries etc and some of the modern Stagecoach fleet. All are welcome to this day of nostalgia, browse the displays and enjoy the old buses and coaches. Hopefully some may be able to give trips around the area on some of the old routes of long ago. It will be a GREAT day, especially if YOU are there!