

she had lived in for three weeks and the clergyman who had cared for her after her ordeal. The Home Secretary had to answer questions in the House and as a result the police modified their behaviour somewhat.

With opposition growing stronger and evidence that the acts had not reduced venereal diseases since there was an even higher incidence, the government, in 1883, discontinued compulsory examinations and the Met. presence in Dover was reduced to one man. This was not welcomed by Dover Town Council which wrote to the Home Secretary regretting the end of compulsory examinations and hoping that the acts would not be repealed in view of the

benefits 'in the suppression of vice and immorality and in diminishing the spread of disease'. Repeal came, however, in 1886 and 7 Seven Star Street closed for business.

These acts epitomise the class and gender inequalities of the period where some were automatically thought impure and others innocent and pure. Let Elizabeth Burley have the last word, 'I am only a poor girl, but my character is as much to me as the character of a lady'.

PS Compiled by Derek Leach from a Womens' Studies MA thesis entitled 'The Hateful Ordeal at Seven Star Street' by Deborah Cheney whom Joe Harman assisted in her research.

The Western Heights Preservation Society

Report from Chris Taft, Publicity Secretary

Open Weekend 2008

The Western Heights Preservation Society (WHPS) is deep in the throws of planning the 2008 open weekend. This year there is



Working progress at the Drop Redoubt

to be some slight behind-the-scenes changes as the 2008 event will be led and managed directly by the WHPS, instead of through the White Cliffs Countryside Project as in the past. This naturally means there is a great deal of work to be done by the Society but happily many aspects are under way.

The open weekend will take place on Saturday 31st May and Sunday 1st June 2008. The Drop Redoubt and Grand Shaft will both once more be open, with a small charge being made for the Drop Redoubt. Other events are planned to work alongside the opening although it is anticipated that once more the Drop Redoubt will be the main attraction.

The Barracks, Western Heights



Constitution Changes

The planned changes to the Society constitution, reported in the last issue, have now been approved at the Extraordinary General Meeting held back in December. They will put the Society on a more professional footing for registration as a charity, which can strengthen its case when it comes to fund raising.

Hotel Proposal

During a recent committee meeting the WHPS heard from a member of the team behind the planned hotel development at the Heights. This plan has been much discussed in the local press and the WHPS continues to monitor and consider the proposal. The Society welcomed the opportunity to talk through plans and maintains its view that the protection and preservation of the Heights must remain at the fore during these discussions.

Publicity and Funding

The publicity arm of the Society has been sending out press releases on a national basis for the 2008 open weekend. Further details will be published nearer to the event in the local press and other publications.

Articles are currently being written promoting the Society to interested audiences on a local and national scale. It is hoped in the coming year further targeted marketing can take

place to promote the Society, the Heights and its history more widely.

The WHPS is also considering improving its range of retail stocks. Over the years a number of new lines have been added but in this year it is hoped to increase them further.

Getting Involved

We are actively seeking to expand and develop, so if you think you would like to get involved and help with this please contact us at the address below. The work need not be strenuous and is very rewarding. Please contact the Publicity Secretary for more details or to have an informal chat about what may be involved.

The workdays are on the 3rd Sunday of each month, from 10.30 am, at the Drop Redoubt. We hope to be able to continue to clear the parade ground area, the cells and also the gunrooms inside the sallyport door. This will hopefully allow us to expand the areas open to the public.

Contact Us

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