

*Winston Churchill's statue*

Other initiatives were the creation of a labyrinth, designed in 2000, for reflection and contemplation by visitors to the gardens and a 'climate change' garden where exotic plants were grown to demonstrate to visitors what they would be able to cultivate in their own gardens.

Olivia, who paid tribute to the volunteers who helped man the gardens, said another innovation was a shell carpet (made out of seashells) that crunched as one walked on it.

*The Labyrinth at Pines Gardens*

She also told us about Rippledown Environmental Education Centre at Ringwould, owned by the trust, that provides education for urban primary school children, some of whom have never been to the countryside or seaside before.

The Calyx was also the venue for nine weddings in 2007. It was claimed to be the most energy efficient building in Europe she said.

Edmond provided technical details about the construction of the rammed chalk block conference centre, explaining that it was provided in an attempt to demonstrate to others how global warming could be tackled by using local resources. The chalk to build it came from the site.

He claimed that, so long as it was looked after, the chalk block built Calyx could last for 400 years. It required just 15 per cent of the heating normally used in a building of its size and, when in full use, needed no external heating at all because it captured the heat from people's bodies.

*\*The Pines Garden, at the foot of Bay Hill is open to visitors (daily all year from 10 am to 5 pm) and well worth a visit.*

*The Calyx*



# Wine and Wisdom 2008 ??

## *An Enjoyable and Popular Evening* ??

Report from Jeremy Cope

On the evening of the 18th February, over eighty of the wise gathered at St. Mary's Parish Hall for our Annual Wine and Wisdom Evening. We have to thank Clive Taylor and his team (wife Jill and Andrew) for the success of this good humoured but competitive event. As always, Clive set the questions that bring out the best in us. However, dingbats and abbreviations revealed those less able to think outside the box.

We must also thank Pat Hooper and Pat Sherratt for organising an evening that provided such very good value for money. The evening was as always, underpinned by members who helped with chores and by Mike Weston who dealt with the wine.

*Congratulations to the winners in reverse order:-*

Tying third were Good Companions and Enigma with 80 points.

Second were the BJ's with 83 points winning a prize of chocolates.

Brainiest of all, for the second year, were Smith's Crisps with 84 points who were awarded inscribed glasses.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Spring 2008

### **SUBSCRIPTION TIME!! SUBSCRIPTION TIME!!**

From time to time the topic of subscription increase is raised in committee especially as this has happened only once in our 20 year history. For the time being most committee members feel that the amount should remain at its present level of £6 single and £10 joint, relying on Gift Aid to add its supplement of about one third in value. One obvious benefit of a modest subscription is that we can appeal to as wide a membership as possible. Our finances are in surplus with a healthy bank balance enabling us to further our objectives, to earn interest, which also keeps subscriptions low and to maintain a prudent financial policy, which helps secure the Society's future.

Because we are a charity we are permitted to spend only a limited percentage of our subscription income for the benefit of members, apart from the newsletter. Quite rightly, the Charity Commissioners are becoming ever more vigilant in their supervision. While we can cover our permissible expenditure by means of the subscription we see no need to ask our members for more.

Nevertheless we are well aware that many committee members and others do generously contribute to our finances in a variety of ways either in kind or by their efforts, all of which enable the Society to function effectively. A good example of this is the raffle which keeps meetings in surplus overall, permits free entry to all and ensures that non-attendees do not subsidise those who are able to come to meetings. With a special cause, such as trees for Dover precinct, members are given the opportunity to support a cause that is of particular interest to them.

We now have 461 members and welcome new ones include:- Mr M Faulkner, Mrs J & Mr M Pope, Mr N Late, Mr P & Mrs J Hart and Mrs B Stapleton.

We send our condolences to families and friends of members who have recently died:- Mrs C Mackintosh, Miss J Wells, Mrs A Knott, Mr P Cook, Mr J Ullmann, Mrs A Sly (aged 101).

*Sheila R. Cope*

# FORT BURGOYNE & CONNAUGHT BARRACKS

*By Jon Iveson*

During the sixty years following the Battle of Waterloo, British popular and political opinion suffered three periods of alarm with regard to imagined French aggressive intentions.

The first of these, in 1847, was triggered by advances in technology. Explosive shells had increased the power of artillery, and steam power for naval vessels threatened to render obsolete overnight the Royal Navy. It was feared that the French might gain a temporary command of the channel and, no longer reliant on wind or tide, land a considerable force on British soil. This view was put most forcibly by General Sir John Fox Burgoyne, Inspector General of Fortifications, and was strongly backed by Lord Palmerston the Foreign Secretary. The revolutions of 1848 forced Louis Philippe, the French king, and his son to take refuge in England and the panic subsided.

In 1851 and 1852 the coup d'état and subsequent re-election of Napoleon III caused another panic, which was only dispelled when France and Britain allied themselves against Russia.

The third, more serious, alarm was generated once again by technological advances. France launched an ironclad steam warship - *La Gloire*, and new rifled guns increased the range and accuracy of artillery fire to such an extent that bombardment ranges

increased from 4,000 to 8,000 yards. Despite the recent alliance during the Crimean War fears about French intentions were increased by Napoleon III declaring himself Emperor and by building work beginning on the Suez Canal. The development of a large fortified harbour at Cherbourg was inspected by Prince Albert and Britain's defences suffered in the comparison. Britain, it was felt, was falling behind, and this feeling became apparent with the growth of Rifle Volunteer units up and down the country.

These various alarms caused money to be spent once again on fortifications and armaments throughout the 1850s, but it was not until August 1859 that a Royal Commission was instructed to enquire into the "present state, condition and sufficiency of the Fortifications existing for the defence of our United Kingdom..."

Work was already underway on the Western Heights at Dover but when the Commission reported in February 1860, amongst their recommendations was the construction of a new fort to the north of Dover Castle "in order to prevent an enemy establishing his batteries on the high ground, which overlooks the castle in that direction."

Although this fort was originally called Castle Hill Fort it was quickly renamed Fort Burgoyne in honour of the General

who had pushed so hard for new fortifications.

In November 1860 approval was granted to acquire the land and the outline design approved by the Secretary of State for War. In June 1861 work began on the construction of bombproof casemated barracks to house 1 Field Officer, 6 officers, 217 men and two horses. These barracks were built by civilian contractors at a total cost of £29,508 but the remainder of the work was completed by military labour.

The fort was designed by Captain Edmund Du Cane who was also responsible for the reconstruction of the defences on the Western Heights. The completed form of the fort is polygonal reflecting other forts engendered by the Royal Commission, such as those on Portsdown Hill at Portsmouth.

Fort Burgoyne is surrounded by a dry ditch 35 feet wide and revetted with concrete and flint in places due to problems with the structure of the underlying chalk. In the centre of the north face, hidden in the ditch, is a double caponier to give flanking fire along the ditch floor in both directions. At both the northeast and north-west corners of the fort are single caponiers with another on the west flank to give cover to the remaining ditches. On either side a ditch stretches across the crest of the hill to give two wings to the fort, each with its own emplacements for guns. The battery at the west wing was protected by a caponier to defend the ditch.

Within the fort bombproof casemates provided the accommodation and also acted as platforms for the guns, some of which were housed in Haxo casemates.

Ramps led up to the top of the casemates to enable guns to be positioned. The casemates along the north side of the fort were intended as men's barracks, flanked on either side by officers' quarters. In basements beneath the officers' quarters were rooms for servants, officers' kitchens, larders, scullery and cellars for wine and beer. At either end of the casemated barracks, and adjoining the officers' quarters, were the main magazines with passages sloping down to give access to the northeast and north-west caponiers.

Water tanks beneath the centre casemates provided water in case of siege and the fort's main gate to the south was flanked by guardrooms and cells. The access bridge and ditch at this point was protected by gunrooms in the ditch wall.

By the end of 1868 the fort was complete at an estimated total cost of £88,053 although its guns and the racer tracks on which to mount them had not yet been fitted. The fort had been constructed for 29 guns along the rampart, six of which were to be protected by Haxo casemates. In the caponiers and flanking batteries there was room for 26 smaller guns or carronades, and two guns on the parade level protected the ditch to the east wing battery. East wing battery was to be equipped with five guns and west wing battery with four.

The total capacity of the magazines, including the expense magazines in the Haxo casemates, the caponiers and the wing batteries, was 3,672 barrels of powder.

Despite the confident assertion in 1874 by the Deputy Director of Works

(Fortifications) Lt. Colonel Jervois, that "so long as it is held (Fort Burgoyne), an attack is impracticable either upon the castle or along the northern front of the Western Heights", the fort still had no guns.

By 1886 Fort Burgoyne was equipped with six 7 inch Rifled Breech Loading guns (RBLs) seven 40 pounder RBLs, two 32 pounder smooth bore guns and, in the caponiers, sixteen 24 pounder carronades. It was proposed that these should be replaced with one fixed 5 inch breech loader (BL) and one mobile, four 64 pounder Rifled Muzzle Loading guns (RMLs), fourteen 24 pounder carronades and four mobile 8 inch RML howitzers. In addition these guns were to be supplemented by a machine gun.

The proposal to change the armaments at Fort Burgoyne also recommended that the Haxo casemates be blocked as they were now obsolete. In 1888 this report was accepted. Also in 1888 it was realised that the 24 pounder carronades providing flanking fire along the ditch towards east wing battery were useless as they were blocked by the brick piers of the entrance bridge and the carronades were removed.

In 1892 it was recommended that two 6.6inch howitzers and a 4inch BL replace the four 64 pounder guns intended to be fitted in place of the 7 inch RBLs, and that the number of carronades be reduced to seven, with the remainder of the guns being replaced by nine machine guns. This work was carried out and in April 1893 only the 4 inch BL remained to be fitted.

In 1897 a hutted camp (Fort Burgoyne Huts also known as the red huts) was

constructed adjacent to the fort on land previously occupied by Castle Hill Farm.

By 1906 all the guns in the fort had been removed and replaced by three machine guns in the fort itself and three in its wing batteries. Fort Burgoyne now became a defensible barrack and a base for mobile guns rather than a permanent defence.

In 1912/13 Fort Burgoyne Huts were replaced with Connaught Barracks.

During the First World War brick gun emplacements were constructed in the fort and during the Second, when it was home to two batteries of 25 pounder field guns, concrete emplacements were added. A concrete blast wall was built on the parade ground across the front of the casemated barrack fronts during the Second World War and other concrete walls built in the main magazines.

In 1962 Connaught Barracks were demolished and new barracks built on the site by Messrs. C. Jenner and Son, of Folkestone, at a cost reported in a local newspaper of £750,000.

Today Fort Burgoyne remains virtually unchanged from its original layout and is part of Connaught Barracks. It is not accessible to the public. The Barracks were declared redundant in 2006 and were closed and mothballed.

A proposal by the Home Office to turn them into an open prison was defeated by a local campaign and the site was, on 16th October 2007, acquired from Defence Estates by English Partnerships with a view to demolishing and developing the barracks and finding a future use for the fort.

Notes taken from record drawing 1935 amended to 1952 on O.S. Survey plan of 1933.

Description	Date of Erection	Cost	Remarks
Casemated Barracks	About 1864	Unknown	
Coal Store Block	Unknown	Unknown	
Guard Room and Detention Rooms (disused)	1867	£400	
Officer's Stables (2 Stalls)	1881	£196	
Officers and Transport Stables	1929	£2330	
Ammunition Store	1880	£289	Formerly laboratory converted 1931-32 at a cost of £39
Miniature Rifle Range	1914	Unknown	
Vehicle Shed	1902	£681	
30 Yards Rifle Range	1921	£342	
Gymnasium	1926	£4557	
Squash Racquet Court	1931-32	£768	Cost of building borne by Eastern Command Sports Board. This building forms encroachment no.2042
Water Supply Tanks	1913	Unknown	
Miniature Range, Rifle, Brick			
24,000 Gallons Water Tank			
48,000 Gallons Water Tank			

The plan appears to have amendments at 30.6.35, 30.6.37, 30.6.47 and 30.6.52

## ***An Enduring Local Trust***

*Fr Peter Sherred (Clerk of the R.V.Coleman Trust)*

If one studies a map of the Borough of Dover, as determined by the Commissioners appointed by the House of Commons in 1832 and incorporating all improvements to 1835, one sees the key features of the town at the beginning of the 19th century. In particular opposite the Maison de Dieu (as it is called), beside the road from Folkestone adjoining York Street, one comes across Priory Farm with its buildings, while moving northwards through the parish of Buckland, adjoining the Canterbury to London Road and located opposite where the now empty Buckland Mill buildings stand and just south of what was the Crabble Gate, one comes across a large area of land upon which is a significant building identified as The Shrubby.

Meanwhile, at the same time, if one ventures in the direction of Deal and passes through East Langdon one comes across a building the origins of which go back some 800 years from the date of the map of Dover. This building in the early 19th century was mostly neglected with its roof needing repair and an important item of its interior thrown outside the building. This was St Augustine's church East Langdon, and the piece of furniture concerned? None other than its font, neglected in the graveyard with its pedestal broken.

After the dissolution of the Dover Priory, which had been in place since the early 12th century, its lands were from time to time let to various people. At the end of the 18th