

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 63

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Dover College Gatehouse



THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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Contents

2	EDITORIAL	Alan Lee
4	IMPRESSIONS OF DOVER	Fr. Peter Sherrad
	SOCIETY PROJECTS	
8	River Dour	Jeremy Cope
9	Cowgate Cemetery	Jeremy Cope
11	DOVER'S SALUTE TO BLERIOT	Terry Sutton
12	THE WORTHINGTONS RETURN TO DOVER	Derek Leach
15	MEMBERSHIP NEWS	Sheila Cope
17	HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN DOVER	Alan Lee
21	PLANNING	Jack Woolford
	SOCIETY OUTINGS	
22	Tenterden Vineyard & Chapel Down Winery	Mr Pat Sherratt
24	Visit to Lille	Patricia Hooper-Sherratt
25	DOVER REMEMBERS	
	SOCIETY MEETING - OCTOBER	
27	The Coastguards - talk by Andy Roberts	Terry Sutton
28	Fort Burgoyne & Connaught Barracks - talk by Jon Iveson	Alan Lee
31	BOOK REVIEW	Alan Lee
32	THE MAGIC IN DEAL CONCERT	Jack Woolford
33	125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONNAUGHT PARK OPENING	
35	A DOVORIAN MAYOR...	Fr. Peter Sherrad
44	APPLICATION FORM	

The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archaeology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- and commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton, Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All members receive three Newsletters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events – talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

Editorial



*The committee would like to wish
all of our members, advertisers and
the staff of Adams the Printers
a very merry Christmas and may 2009
be a happy and prosperous year for all*

The last of the society's summer outings has now taken place and many thanks must go to Pat for arranging such a varied and interesting series of trips. We will refer to her as Patricia (Pat) Sherratt-Hooper and her husband as Pat Sherratt so as not to cause any confusion.

Quodlibet is the entertainment at the Christmas feast on Saturday 13th December. The slight increase in price is the first for many years and still good value at £19 per head. The numbers will be strictly limited so to make sure of your place please book as early as possible.

Early in 2009 English Partnerships, the body responsible for Fort Burgoyne, will be inviting ideas for future use of the fort. The committee welcome any ideas from the membership, bearing in mind the historic nature of the site and that 500 eco friendly homes are to be constructed on the Barracks site. Please contact the committee with your ideas so we can formulate a co-ordinated response for English Partnerships. They will present their development brief to Dover District Council in the autumn of 2009. The site will then be sold to a third party developer in the early months of 2010.

The fight continues to have a hospital in Dover containing some beds. It will be difficult to achieve but we must not give up. It is the very

least that the people of Dover and district deserve.

The Holm Oak in Connaught Park, sponsored by the Dover Society, has been formally dedicated by our president Brigadier Maurice Atherton CBE. Hopefully future members of the Society will plant another tree for the parks 250th anniversary.

The plaque in Saxon Street commemorating the Belgium workers who assisted Dover in rebuilding the town just after the war has now been refurbished; further details inside this issue. There will be a fuller article in the March newsletter.

Plans for the Louis Bleriot centenary event next year are now in place, following the initial representations made by the Dover Society.

A special thanks to all who help at St. Mary's hall for it is these volunteers who make the society meeting nights run so smoothly. Any member who could help in any way in the interval you will be most welcome.

I am still on the lookout for articles to be published in the newsletter, as I am sure that there are a lot of members with personal stories to tell. I am also in need of people to write about the talks by guest speakers at our meetings. Usually they can supply the text of the talk if asked so it can be summarised quite easily. Maybe you go on the summer outings and could occasionally report on the trip. If you think you would like to have a go then please contact the editor for a chat on 01304 213668.

Editor

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 64 will be Wednesday 14th January 2009. The Editor welcomes contributions and interesting drawings or photographs. 'Paper copy' should be typed at double spacing. Handwritten copy should be clear with wide line spacing. Accurate fully proof-read copy on computer discs is acceptable; please ring 01304 213668 to discuss details.

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IMPRESSIONS OF DOVER...

...a Belgian's Miscellany

Fr. Peter Sherrad

In July Dover was host to M. Roger Gallant, a Belgian who has visited the town many times since his first visit 76 years ago. On this occasion he was greeted by the Town Mayor, Councillor Diane Smallwood and the Chairman of Dover District Council, Councillor Bernard Butcher. Both presented him with tokens to commemorate his long association with the town. The Mayor and the Town Sergeant, Brian Walker then gave him a tour of the Town Council Offices, the Mayors' Chamber and showed him the town's civic regalia. While in the town M. Gallant addressed the Rotary Club of South Foreland and provided them with an insight into the changes to the town since he first set foot on the Admiralty Pier. He also offered some personal reflections on the state of the town today compared with all those years ago.

When he first came to Dover he was eleven years old (he now celebrates the fact he is 87 years *young!*). His father, Henri, a postman who served on the Ostend mail boat, arrived every day with mail for the United Kingdom returning with mail to Europe and the East. John James McKeen was his daily postal contact in Dover. John received the mail at the Admiralty Pier for onward carriage



Post arrives at Admiralty Pier (c.1932-3)

to either British or foreign destinations. Through this regular contact at the then Marine Station the two men became friends and Roger has continued that friendship with five generations of John's family.

In his address Roger compared the vast differences between Dover in 1932 and 2008. He recalled that the mail boats all arrived at the Admiralty pier. There were few ferries and no drive-on drive-off facilities. Pre-war vehicles were lifted on and off by crane. Nearby in the pier district was much housing and a big community existed. A feature of Dover



M. Roger Gallant with Councillor Bernard Butcher

life was the tramway system and the trams that ran from the pier community up Snargate Street into the town and beyond. Before the war the town was a very busy place and M. Gallant listed the types of work available in the town over the years he has known it. In addition to the nearby coalmines and the town's local engineering works he recalled a paper mill, timber yard and brewery, and on the east of the harbour a big metal breaker's yard. Pre-war the character of the town was markedly different for there were many small streets in Dover and many, many, small good and interesting shops. Of particular note was the elegant seafront where there were large houses, very large hotels and bandstands in public gardens. He described a town that was vibrant and busy and noted there were many properties near the seafront, which was a busy place where people would walk and enjoy themselves. French mail boats included the *Côte d'Azur* and the *Côte d'Argent* and he retained the impression that the harbour was a busy place although not as developed as today.

On several of his summer visits Roger stayed with John McKeen and his family in the High Street and it was due to these visits he had the chance to learn English. It was fascinating to hear from an outsider, but frequent visitor to the town, descriptions of pre-war Dover and it was clear to him it was a different world. As Dorvians know only too well, the war caused much damage to the town through a combination of shelling and bombing so that many areas he knew well in the 1930s were destroyed. The seafront and community immediately behind it was transformed, as the large grand hotels and so much property was subsequently demolished and not rebuilt. In the process so much of the character of the town and

port he knew in his pre-war visits was lost irretrievably and was a matter of great personal regret. In addition he thought that the loss was compounded by the fact that on subsequent visits since the war Dover had not made much progress in redeveloping and recovering something of the spirit that existed in the town pre-war. In some areas the town continues to look sad and appears to be still awaiting development - over 60 years after the war!

By contrast M. Gallant reminded his listeners that Ostend, Dunkirk and Calais, amongst others on the continent, had all suffered much damage in the conflict but they had responded to the challenge and as a result were now busy modern, developed and were places where people visited and stayed. He clearly found it strange that Dover had not been more comprehensively redeveloped and rebuilt after the war but recognised there had been some piecemeal development but much of the character of Dover had been lost. Many pre-war industries, activities and communities had disappeared, now under roads or simply lost and the trams that once hurried their way through the town were long gone. The sea front had been developed, principally with The Gateway flats, and looks nice with its promenade. The port traffic had grown but he lamented the fact that in the case of the Belgian ferries they had gone completely. After the war the first two roll-on roll-off berths at the Eastern Docks were created.

One of the early car ferries was the Belgian *Princesse Josephine Charlotte*, extremely small compared with today's ferries but it served well between Ostend and Dover for many years. In the heyday of passenger ferries it was usual, in the summer months, to see three or four

Ostend passenger ferries at the Admiralty Pier. Many carried the names of members of the Belgian Royal Family - *Koning Baudouin, Koningin Astrid, Koningin Fabiola, Prins Philippe, Prins Laurant and Princesse Marie Esmerelda* for example.

For a while a fast jetfoil service ran between Ostend and Dover, very practical to meet trains at Ostend. It used as its Dover base the converted structure of an old Belgian ferry moored alongside the Admiralty pier, and that reminded him of the Marine Station in Dover so close to the dock and sometimes very grey! Now there are no trains at the Marine Station or ferries between Ostend and Dover, although there is a service to Ramsgate from Ostend by TransEuropean Ferries. The loss of the Dover Ostend route, which had existed for 151 years from 1846 to 1997, was a great pity but in practical terms one can now drive from Calais to Ostend on a direct motorway.

Pre-war Dover, with its many pubs, churches, lanes and shops was very good and since the war Dover has not managed to recapture that character. It is now a place passed through to and from the port. He did add a note of consolation - we could relax - the White Cliffs and Castle remain as permanent reminders of Dover's worldwide fame!

M. Gallant provided an interesting perspective on Dover's fortunes over three quarters of a century and gave his listeners much food for thought before he proffered other reminiscences from his long life including the departure from England of King Edward VII with Mrs. Simpson but as he said that is another story.



M. Gallant in Belgian army uniform 1940

M. Gallant was born in 1921 at Ostend. In 1939, drafted into a Belgian infantry regiment, he fought alongside his colleagues at the River Lys when the Germans invaded Belgium. This delayed them for several crucial days and gave 220,000 British and 110,000 French soldiers the opportunity to escape from Dunkirk. The nature of the fighting over these days was often hand-to-hand and cost the Belgian army about 2,500 men and the Germans about the same. The 'miracle' of Dunkirk came at a high human cost. Taken prisoner, M. Gallant was sent to camp, near Königsberg in



*German labour camp work party, Berlin 1944
(M. Gallant bottom row, 2nd from left)*

Prussia, and had to help make roads. Later held in a labour camp in Berlin, with harsh military guards, the prisoners had to build shelters or bunkers working 12 hours a day 7 days a week. Food was scarce and conditions were awful. It was difficult to describe the horrible street fights he often witnessed and the execution by hanging of German deserters, even on the day of the capitulation. Along with his fellow prisoners, he had to help to clean the roads and pick up the corpses.

After liberation, by the Russians, he returned home to Belgium by walking, riding on Russian and American lorries and by train packed together with others in open wagon trucks. Despite this, it was the nicest trip of his life, for he regained his freedom after having lived for some 18 months in circumstances that were difficult to describe. There was almost constant bombing by allied air forces, 213 hours out of a total of 234 hours. He was later to find out his two cousins, in the RAF as Mosquito pilots, took part in many of these raids. In 1945 weighing only 54 kilos, very thin for a man of six foot, he had returned home to find his mother had died the previous year.

Subsequently employed by the Post Office in the Belgian Congo he said here he spent the best years of his life. By 1960 he had been promoted as General Director of the Post Services in the Belgian Congo. That year, after independence, he returned to Belgium and resumed his postal career there. However, he returned to Africa for a number of visits including to Ruanda-Burundi before the beginning of the genocide. His last visit, in 1976, was just after Bokassa was crowned Emperor of the Central Africa Republic in Bangui. An enormous budget was spent for this

festivity but in 1979 he was deposed after being accused of cannibalism and his chef testified that he had been made to sauté a corpse in Pernod and onions!

M. Gallant's postal career took him, in 1973, to help the Government of Saigon, South Vietnam. Two days before he was due return home, a Vietcong bayoneted him in the stomach and seriously wounded him. He was 'repaired' in Belgium and, after a year, he returned but the fall of Saigon on 30th April 1975 ended this. He managed to leave Saigon on the last helicopter with the U.S. Marines, landing safely on the aircraft carrier *USS Midway*, part of the American 7th fleet based in Manila. After the fall of Saigon he and his wife took care of four Vietnamese children as refugees in Belgium until they were re-united with their parents several years later and the whole family remain living in Belgium. Two years after the reunification he was invited by the communist government to create a Post programme for the whole of Vietnam. It was his third trip to Vietnam and he was very surprised to be received in Hanoi by a military honour! He was the first United Nations Observer expert returning after the war. One evening as he was peacefully walking on the street he was attacked by a Vietnamese with a dagger; he defended himself and was only wounded lightly. The offender had made a mistake thinking he had attacked a Russian; he was arrested and sentenced to be executed the next day. M. Gallant was invited to the execution and when he did he requested the man's life be spared and, after a long delay, his wish was granted. He left Vietnam with many memories but visited again as a tourist twenty years later and also in 2005 and was pleasantly surprised to see how the country had changed in such a short time. Development was

spectacular and there was more security. He retains good memories of these, essentially friendly, people. What surprised him was that he never heard a word of reciprocal hate due to their experiences. He even met up once again with the man who had stabbed him and whose life he saved.

M. Gallant provided his audience with a fascinating talk on his long life, his experiences and impressions of Dover over 75 years and, having been received by the Mayor of Dover and the Chairman of Dover District Council he ended his visit with a celebratory dinner at Cullins Yard. Here he was greeted by proprietor Jim Gleeson, with members of the fourth generation of the family he first came to Dover to visit in 1932. Earlier he had been photographed with members of the fifth generation. He was extremely happy with the reception he received in Dover and very much appreciated the interest and attention he received from the

many people he met during his visit. He hopes to maintain his links with the town and revisit again in future years.

There can be few 87 year olds who have been interned in Berlin in the last 18 months of the war and imprisoned in the Congo for refusing to endorse corrupt practices, bayoneted in the stomach and stabbed in the side in Vietnam and who philosophically state that life is a comedy, a pantomime, and who harbour no enmity whatsoever against those who have been responsible for some of the things that

have happened to them. He provides an object lesson for those who have antipathy and prejudice towards others in their lives. After all he says, when patting his stomach, 'all inside here is plastic - the best insurance against Cancer'!



M. Roger Gallant

* * * * *

SOCIETY PROJECTS

Report by Jeremy Cope

RIVER DOUR

The Dour volunteer working parties run by White Cliffs Countryside Project have operated through the summer months from April until October. The work undertaken has been the invaluable job of clearing the rubbish from the river and without this effort the river would almost disappear under a layer of litter and

rubbish. Most people passing by express their appreciation of what is being done but it is Dovorians who are the litterlouts, no doubt a minority, but still enough to anger the rest of us. I believe I am the only Society member to join the working parties and I would urge you to sign on next year. You do not have to work the whole day, I work for only 2-3 hours a

session, but all input is welcomed. We will now stop work for the autumn and winter to allow the fish to breed (the Dour is a prime river for trout).

The River Dour Steering Group of which the Society is a member met in October. The Group is a forum enabling members to let Dover know of their aims and work and to hear local views and comment. The Environment Agency, apart from its routine of flood prevention, hopes with gravel to raise the height of the timber barriers between the Police Station and Kent College. It is hoped that this will make the barriers more effective in creating a meandering flow as well as allowing vegetation to grow. In the stretch through Pencester Gardens and behind Pencester Court a gravel cleaning programme will be carried out which will include the removal of some boulders.

White Cliffs Countryside Project, apart from its work in litter clearance, intends to complete the Bushy Ruff information panel as well a panel at Wellington Docks in conjunction with the Harbour Board.

Dover Town Council, which has already carried out extensive upgrading to the riverside at B&Q, intends to install seating and an information panel. They hope to involve local schools in a project to design and install a sculpture the concept of which is based upon the history of the site.

All of this is good positive news, and if members were to take a walk along Barton Path I think they would be impressed by the work undertaken by the Environment Agency and maintenance of White Cliffs Countryside Project. Do also look at the Town Council's project by B&Q - a great improvement.



COWGATE CEMETERY

This past few months have very unusually seen three working parties rained off. We are now in the midst of cutting the summer's growth and hope that we will experience drier, brighter weather. Despite the rain we continue to make good progress, made enjoyable by the comradeship of the members of our working parties.

We celebrated Jack Woolford's 91st birthday and welcomed Nathan Late and John Widgery to our sessions. Any members interested in joining our work will be most welcome - the phone number for details is 01304 211348.

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Dover's Salute to Bleriot

by Terry Sutton

Following an initiative taken by The Dover Society, Dover District Council has revealed details of local celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of Louis Bleriot's pioneer flight across the Dover Strait.

The celebrations will focus on Northfall Meadow where Bleriot landed on 25th July 1909 after a flight from Calais of 37 minutes. At that time Northfall Meadow was free of bushes, but is now heavily studded with trees and undergrowth.

Dover District Council has plans to refurbish the site especially the area around the Bleriot monument where the Tricolour used to fly. A council spokesman says that tenders for clearing the site are being sought.

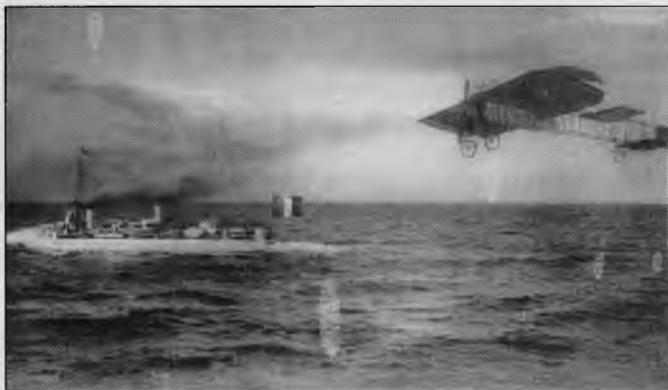
Next summer's celebrations will cover the weekend of Saturday 25th July and Sunday 26th July. Events scheduled will include an Edwardian seaside carnival on Dover's waterfront while overhead there will be an air pageant of aircraft depicting a century of flight. Most of the aircraft will have taken off from the French coast. One of the aircraft lined up to take part in this grand flypast is an original Bleriot XI aeroplane, controlled by an ace French pilot.

The British authorities are working with the French and Italian governments, the Armée de l'Air (the French air force) and the Royal Air Force to make it a spectacular weekend. The famous Red Arrows and their French counterpart La Patrouille de France expected to take part in the air pageant.

Aircraft, that are able, will land in the grounds of the Duke of York's Royal Military School to offer static displays of historic aircraft on both the Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday's celebrations will end with a formal dinner in the grounds of Dover Castle and with a firework spectacular over the town and port.

On the Sunday more events are planned including another Red Arrows flypast and displays by RAF units on the seafront and at the Duke of York's school.



Artist's impression of Bleriot



inside, particularly the windows, we went into the churchyard to see the family tomb and a headstone.

I still have not told you why the Worthingtons really came to Dover because most of them (except Jan and Garth) are not descendants of the Dover Worthingtons at all, although they are probably related. Three hours were devoted to their annual business meeting held in St. Mary's Christian Centre. Philip Worthington, assisted by his brother, spent many years researching the genealogy of the ancient family of Worthingtons who once lived in Worthington Hall, Worthington, Lancashire. This research covered the period 1200 to 1500, during which time several 'branch lines' were established near by or in other parts of the country. His book *The Worthington Families of Medieval England* is a masterpiece of painstaking research. Three years ago Philip and a number of other Worthingtons decided upon a five year project to research comprehensively all the possible relevant sources of references to Worthingtons in the 17th century, to construct pedigree lines (suitably validated by the College of Arms where appropriate) and then to draft and publish a book of the findings.

This incredible work is shared by several of the Worthingtons around the world and they meet annually in America or England to discuss progress etc. It is hoped that this work will establish whether and how all the Worthington branches are related to the Lancashire Worthingtons. In case it has crossed your mind, no link has yet been established between the Lancashire Worthingtons and the Leicestershire Worthingtons (the well-known brewing family). After discussing membership, finance and project progress, discussion ensued about whether at the end of the project there should be a permanent world wide Worthington Family/Genealogical History Society, use of technology in their research and recording including DNA to establish which groups different Worthingtons belong to and, inevitably these days, how to make their website more attractive and better known to recruit more members. They agreed to meet in New England next year.

After this marathon meeting there was little time to relax before a dinner at Sea Breeze Restaurant attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, the Town Clerk and his wife, the Hollingsbees, myself and all those Worthingtons. It was quite an evening!

Jan Worthington with the Mayor of Dover



There was still more to come on Sunday for those who had not had to catch a plane home. Several went to Buckland Church for morning service where we were given a warm welcome. Since it was a Worthington who paid to have the famous, ancient yew tree moved in Victorian times to allow church extension and had paid for refurbishment of a side chapel, I think the priest half hoped that the Worthingtons had arrived with wallets again - I jest! Following the service, we inspected the

Worthington memorial tablets inside the church before braving the pouring rain to see two family vaults and headstones in the churchyard.

After lunch Mike Webb, Town Clerk, showed the visitors round Maison Dieu House and the town's remaining regalia.

So ended a tiring, but fascinating weekend for me amongst this dedicated group of family researchers. Our visitors, both British and foreign, went away very impressed with what Dover has to offer visitors interested in history - indeed we were complimented on what we had managed to save despite the ravages of war and town planners. There was also amazement that the many 'hidden gems' of Dover are not better known.



The Worthington group's visit to Buckland Church

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Autumn 2008

With all the subscriptions paid, our numbers are slightly reduced, to 444. This is normal after subscription renewal time. We trust that the interesting programme of winter meetings as publicised in the local press will attract new members. We have also asked for our posters to be displayed in public areas such as the Discovery Centre. Please ask me for a poster if you feel you could have one put up at an appropriate site. Nevertheless personal introduction remains the most satisfactory method of recruitment.

We have recently welcomed Miss Y Austin, Mr R Frayne, Mrs J Cooper and Mr D Coles. We trust they will enjoy their membership.

Sheila R Cope



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Heritage Open Days in Dover

— Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September 2008 —

Alan Lee

The annual Heritage Open Days event is organised by English Heritage and the Civic Trust. This event is arranged to encourage free access to buildings usually closed to the public or who normally charge an admission fee. This year The Dover Society coordinated arrangements in Dover for the viewing of six properties.

Maison Dieu House



Built in 1665, in Biggin Street, as the Agent Victualler's residence this Jacobean house has now been purchased and fully restored by Dover Town Council. In 1834 it was the residence of the commander of the Royal Engineers before being purchased by the Kingsford brewing and milling family as a private residence. The next owners were the Mummery family, owners of the Stembrook tannery. The local Corporation bought the property in 1899 and converted the building into council offices. This remained as the use until after the Second World War when it became the public library until changed to council offices. Visitors were able to view the town's civic regalia, which was on display during the tour of the building.

Dover College

Mike Vanderhoeven and Rupert Hill led the tours of the college which took in the Chapel, the Norman refectory and the gatehouse. In the grounds are the remains of the Priory of St. Martin and St. Mary of the New Work at Dover. Founded by King Henry I on the 4th May 1130 it is known popularly as Dover Priory. The refectory, built mainly of Caen stone, is the only Norman refectory in Britain still used for its original purpose. The Chapel was once the King's Hall, or White Hall, and it is said that King Stephen died here in 1154. The gatehouse, rebuilt in 1320, is now the home of the drama department.

On 4th August 1295, during a small French invasion, one of the monks, Blessed Thomas de la Halle, was martyred. His tomb in the Priory Church was a place of



pilgrimage. The greatest period in the Priory's history was at the beginning of the Renaissance, 1371-93. The accounts for 1530-31 show Thomas Tallis as the organ master on an annual salary of £2. On 17th November 1835 the Priory was dissolved by Henry VIII and its lands handed over to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dover College began life with 15 boys on 12th September 1871 with the formal opening taking place on 19th October. During WWI the College was evacuated to Leamington Spa and in WWII to Devon. A Royal Charter was granted to the College by King George V in 1923 and the first girls were admitted in 1975.

St Edmund's Chapel

Situated in Priory Street this tiny cemetery chapel, consecrated by St Richard of Chichester in 1253, was dedicated to his friend St. Edmund Archbishop of Canterbury 1234-45. Hidden for many years, following war damage to the surrounding buildings the chapel was revealed again. In the mid 1960's the chapel was restored and in 1968 it was reconsecrated.



Church of St. Mary the Virgin



Situated in Biggin Street this parish church, nearly 1,000 years old, has been enlarged three times. Excavations beneath the floor near the font have shown evidence of a Roman bathhouse. From 1585 to 1826 the Town Mayor was elected here. Seven of the eight bells installed in 1724 are still in use today. In 1843-44 Canon Puckle had the medieval church rebuilt, with the exception of the tower. Declared unsafe in 1844 the tower was repaired in 1893. One of the bells returned to the tower in 1898 had to be replaced as it was found to be cracked. During WWII the church roof was damaged and most of the stained glass windows were lost.

One of the more unusual parts of the tour was that to the bell tower. The ringers' gallery is on the first level where some of the bell ringers were on hand to answer questions. A number of the team are female including the youngest, a schoolgirl along with her sister and mother.

Above this is the clock chamber which used to be the ringing chamber until that was moved down to the gallery below in 2002. The clock dates from 1186/7 and strikes the hours and quarters. It was fascinating to be able to climb up above the bells in the bell chamber and see the sound-control system;

the volume heard outside is regulated by shutters. On the outside of the south face of the tower are the clock face and a sundial that dates from 1656.

The Unitarian Church

Located in Adrian Street, just above York Street near the roundabout with Snargate Street, this is a grade 2 listed building. Originally it was known as the Adrian Street Chapel, designed by the architect Thomas Read, at a cost of £2,100. Completed in 1820 and licensed for marriages in 1838, the building is unusual in that it is in the shape of an elongated



octagon. The chapel is surrounded on three sides by the old burial ground which was closed in 1854. Most of the original roof and ceilings were renewed as a result of war damage and a fire in 1987. Inside are box pews to seat 136 people and simple stepped pews in a small semi-circular gallery. On the wall there is affixed also a small memorial tablet to the war dead. The G. M. Holdrich pipe organ, built in 1855 at a cost of £65, was played expertly throughout the visiting hours. There was also a small art exhibition to add interest to the visit.

Grand Shaft Staircase

The lower entrance in Snargate Street is a part of the restored guardroom. Entered through a short tunnel there is a unique triple staircase, each part with 140 steps,

which lead to an open bowl with another 59 steps to ascend. The barracks and fortifications on the Western Heights are some 250 feet above Snargate Street. The steps wind clockwise one above the other round a central vertical brick faced shaft open at the top. The staircases are lit naturally by windows in the side of the vertical shaft. Work on the structure started in 1804 to a plan by Lieutenant-Colonel William Twiss and was ready for use by 1807. The shaft gave troops rapid access to defend the harbour area and the town. It could also serve for the withdrawal of troops to the heavily defended Western Heights.

For a wager in 1812 Mr Leith from Walmer rode a horse up the shaft. After the threat of invasion had abated the use of the three staircases became segregated and notices erected to indicate who was entitled to use each one. There are various versions; the most popular seems to be "Officers and their Ladies", "Sergeants and their wives" and "Soldiers and their Women". Bavington-Jones quotes "Officers and their Ladies", "Soldiers", and "Women" (or "Civilians").



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The work of the
PLANNING
 Sub-Committee

Report by

JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

Presumably attributable to the current economic downturn, the number of planning applications has plummeted, to be partially replaced by applications for extensions. Applications for change of use to flats and studios continue to proliferate.

Despite the downturn, however, demolition of the bus depot suggests that DTIZ is not dead and Wetherspoon's renewed intention to transform Snoops into a pub, with flats above in addition, encouraging. Finally it now appears that, like it or not, because of - or despite the comings and goings of the East Kent Hospitals Trust, the Eastern and Coastal Primary Care Trust, Dover District Council and the General Practitioners Consortium, etc, etc, etc, we shall have a community hospital adjacent to the Health Centre. Although we do not altogether approve of the design, Dover Castle is certain to have a new Visitors Admission Building and, thanks to Dover's new Growth Point Status, a Cable Car too. Our doubts as

to the reality of air pollution control have been assuaged by the sight of Dover District Council's Local Air Quality Management Plan and its 2006 Annual Progress report.

On a smaller but still cheerful scale, we are confident that our town centre trees and the holly at Samphire Court will be replaced and are happy to have planted a Holm Oak to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Connaught Park, and to have insisted that the trees in Monastery Avenue be pruned rather than felled. We congratulate Dover Town Council for the greening of Charlton Green and all involved in the renaissance of the River Dour.

Contrariwise, Dover Harbour Board's buffer zone is shelved, Operation Stack continues to paralyse Dover and the prospective redevelopment of the Western Docks revives the possibility of privatization. Despite our efforts, the fence erected at Castle Rise on a Right of Way is declared beyond legal control. We are appalled by such proposals as the erection of no less than **seventy** dwellings at Westmount and two four-bed semis in the back garden of 106 Maison Dieu Road. We have seen no planning application for the extensive demolitions of former Post Office buildings on Maison Dieu Road. Even more flats? Or what?

Restored Plaque

The Society has had the plaque to thank the Belgian workers restored. It is situated on the wall of the end house of Saxon Street facing the Dover College. The Plaque reads On May 14th 1846 M. Leon-Elie Troclet, Belgian Minister of Labour and Social Security, unveiled this tablet to commemorate the arrival of Belgian workers who, as a token of gratitude and admiration, came to help in the rebuilding of Dover. Outpost of freedom from 1939 to 1945.

There will be a full article in the next newsletter Editor



Society Outings



Tenterden Vineyard & Chapel Down Winery



Mr Pat Sherratt

The Society trip in July started on a fine note. That is to say, when we arrived the sun was shining and continued to do so all day and we arrived in plenty of time for a coffee before our organised tour.

The first vines were planted at Tenterden Vineyard in 1987 on south facing slopes were of the Bacchus variety. That was the most suitable for our climate at the time. With a 4°C temperature increase in the last 35 years Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, and Pinot Noir, more suited to warmer regions, replaced them in 2004. The vineyard now covers 25 acres (average size is 5 acres) with 4 red and 9 white grape varieties being grown.

As a winery, Chapel Down sources grapes from other vineyards in Kent, Sussex and Essex with a growing area of over 180 acres and has an annual production of half a million bottles per year. Because of the climate change our temperature is only 1°C below that of the Champagne area of France and 30% of production is now sparkling wine. This spends up to 3 years "sur lie" (on the lees) and is produced in the "Méthode Champenoise" style. Planning is already underway for an expected high demand for sparkling wine in 2012 as it will be important that English bubbles are top priority.

The growth of Rosé in popularity, particular with the "fairer sex" is

showing a new trend, but the majority of production is white with a limited amount of red.

Our tour host gave us a detailed account of the growing and pruning of the vines. The grapes are all handpicked and transported to the winery in small bins as mechanical pickers often damage the grapes. After picking they are "soft crushed" in modern membrane presses and the resultant juice fractions collected in enormous steel cylinders. All wines are fermented with selected yeast strains at cool temperatures for up to 3 weeks. At Chapel Down the normal alcoholic strength is 11.5% to 12%. The wine is then stored in large steel containers, with have internal heaters and water-cooling to keep the contents at the ambient 12°C.

Some wine maturation occurs in oak barriques (barrels). American oak imparts a



spicy flavour and French oak a tannin flavour. British oak has too soft a texture. Each barrel holds 320 bottles and the cost of the barrel is £350. The barrels that have contained the red wine are then sold on to the Scottish whisky distilleries. We then saw thousands of new bottles all imported from France. So no glass manufactured here in the UK then? The sparkling wine production continues with the bottles being hand transferred to modern Gyro pallets for riddling. This replicates the traditional method of hand turning. The neck of the bottle is then dipped in freezing brine to create a frozen plug of wine. The wine cap is popped and the plug, complete with lees flies out (dégorgement). The bottles are then mechanically sealed with corks, labelled and packed in boxes. This machine has two operators who process 500 bottles per hour.

Having seen the winery we now had the pleasure of tasting. Normally guests are offered three different wines, but earlier I discovered that our host worked with a former colleague of mine and we were offered five wines. Firstly a dry sparkling wine, **Century Extra Dry**, a blend of Reichensteiner, Rivaner and Pinot Noir grapes, then a white **Flint Dry 2007** of mainly Rivaner, Schönburger and Bacchus grapes. Next was **Bacchus 2006** followed by **English Rose** a Rosé with Schönburger, Rondo, Dornfelder and Pinot Noir grapes. Finally came a red wine **Rondo Pinot Noir 2005** blended from Rondo and Pinot Noir grapes.

After this a visit to the shop ensured all took away a little something to remember the visit to Chapel Down.

Chapel Down is in fact at Small Hythe, which, prior to the silting of the River Rother was the port for Tenterden. Ships of up to 400

tons were built at Small Hythe of oak from the Wealden Forest.

Our journey took us back to Tenterden and it was interesting to see a recently planted cherry orchard - long may this fruit be grown in the Garden of England!

Lunch was taken at one of the various excellent restaurants in this beautiful town. Those who preferred some retail therapy seemed to find what they wanted whilst Patricia and I found a most interesting museum. One display depicted 1449 Rye that became impoverished by years of fighting the sea and coastal raiders. Henry VI had pressed Tenterden to join the Confederation of Cinque Ports as a limb of Rye. Another was a selection of weights and measures, including a splendid example of 1825 market scales. A hop industry display detailed a march of 16th May 1908 in Trafalgar Square to "Save the Hop Garden of England". The growers protested because for each £6 of production costs they were only receiving £3... Where have we heard this again in 2008???

A leisurely return (taking the scenic route) passing through the beautiful village of Smarden and Kent's most haunted village Pluckley saw everyone back in Dover by teatime.



Visit to Lille ~ September 2008

Patricia Hooper-Sherratt

It was disappointing that from almost 500 members of The Dover Society there were only 20 on the trip to Lille. However, as with all our trips this year, despite the poor summer, we have managed to take the sunshine with us.

When we arrived on time at the Eastern Docks ready to set off, we had to wait for a change of driver. To our surprise, the ferry company, SeaFrance, had brought our sailing time forward. The driver turned up after a few minutes of panicking and soon had us underway, no waiting about, soon boarding the ferry.

After a pleasant journey by ferry and coach, we arrived at Lille outside the Tourism Centre, where many of our group went in to pick up brochures. Some purchased bus tickets so they could enjoy an hour's tour of the city to see the sights and pick up ideas as to what they wished to visit.

Some went for breakfast as soon as they arrived, others waited until lunchtime.

A few of us enjoyed some retail therapy while others wanted more of the city's culture (of which there is so much to see, too much for me to mention). One of Lille's most beautiful buildings dates from 1652, when one walks through the arches into the inner courtyard to where there are 24 small identical houses, now taken over by booksellers and chess players. The statue of Napoleon in the middle had been cast from the bronze of Austerlitz cannons and a book market apparently is held there daily.

The Grande Place aka Place du General de Gaulle. The superb central square of the city is bordered by the impressive facades of the

Art Deco' La Voix du Nord' newspaper offices, the Vieille Bourse, and numerous Cafes, Bars and Restaurants.

I mention no names, but, one of our senior members (JW) decided to visit the museum, but, when he peeped through the doors, it looked so vast, he decided if he ventured inside he might get lost and we would go home without him.

Later in the day, some members took our advice and wandered along Rue Esquermoise to try one of the famous (for over 250 years) Meerts Patisseries where they have an enormous selection of teas (their own blends) and cream cakes.

After an uneventful journey, we arrived back in Dover tired but happy, with the completion of yet another most enjoyable trip abroad.



Near this spot on the 10th November 1920
the body of the Unknown Warrior
was brought ashore from HMS Verdun
on the way to its final resting place
at Westminster Abbey.

The Dover Society 1997



Dover remembers -
Remembrance Sunday
9th November 2008



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OCTOBER MEETING

The Coastguards

A talk by Andy Roberts reported by Terry Sutton

Andy Roberts, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency's sector manager (East Kent) proved to be one of the most amusing speakers of the many we have enjoyed at our public meetings at St Mary's Parish Centre. Andy was our guest speaker on October 20th when he had a packed audience.



On a macabre note he suggested some people reported missing were never found because their bodies remained unseen in the undergrowth, such as at The Warren near Folkestone, and were eventually devoured by wild cats and other animals, resulting in the bones being scattered over a wide area.

He shone when the PowerPoint presentation failed to react immediately and kept talking until eventually photographs appeared on the screen.

Andy had the audience in fits of laughter as he related the extensive work of HM Coastguards that ranged from beaching stranded whales to rescuing people trapped on the cliffs. More seriously he told of the many bodies he and his team of volunteers had been called upon to haul up the cliffs.

Andy explained that his responsibility stretched along the coast from Herne Bay to Rye and out into the English Channel. He had also been involved in cliff rescues and body recovery at Beachy Head - illustrated with pictures.

He told of one incident at Capel when the rescue team recovered a body from the cliff face and a woman spectator was so interested in the action that she fell over and had to be rescued herself! He also related domestic quarrels that at times ended up on the cliff top.

Andy also spoke of the wider duties of the MCA controlling the busy shipping lanes in the Dover Strait. He explained that each day there was an average of 500 commercial shipping movements through the Strait along with leisure craft, fishing boats and, at times, Channel swimmers. He pointed out that Channel swimmers and sailing boats had no right of way across the designated traffic lanes in the English Channel.

With some 40,000 ferry sailings a year he thought it "long overdue" there would be an incident involving one of the ships and he wondered how some of the young stewards would react when it came to directing passengers to the lifeboats. He regretted the departure from Dover of the hovercraft which would have proved ideal for "hoovering up" survivors from the sea or from lifeboats. He also wondered how the hospitals at Canterbury and Ashford would be able to cope if a major Channel disaster resulted in many survivors requiring treatment.

Fort Burgoyne & Connaught Barracks

A talk by Jon Iveson reported by Alan Lee

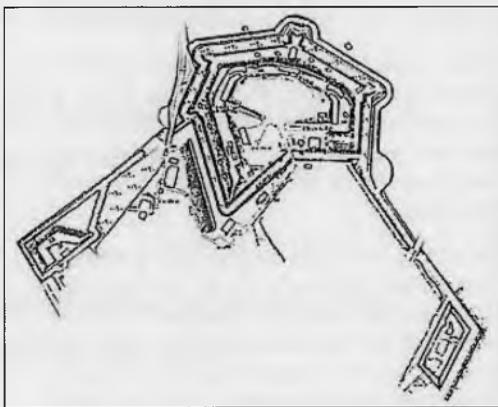
Following his recent article in the March issue of the Dover Society Newsletter Jon Iveson created a great deal of interest for the large audience in St Mary's hall. Beginning with the ancient history of the area he stated that there is not a lot known about the pre historic era. As we progress through time the site acquires a very significant meaning in the defence of England and later, during the two world wars for Britain and the free world.

One major event was the siege of Dover Castle in 1216-17 by Prince Louis of France, the eldest son of Philip Augustus. After securing Canterbury then Rochester Castle he entered London on the 21st May 1216. Gaining more support he took Winchester, then one of England's principal cities. Louis then turned his attention towards Dover Castle, the stronghold that blocked his line of communication with France. On his arrival Louis and his army spent several days camped in and around the town, but had not yet laid siege to the castle. The siege started in the middle of July, half his army remaining in the town and the remainder moving to the top of the hill about where Fort Burgoyne is today. His fleet put to sea and closed off the castle from that direction. Louis's troops breached the outer defences but the defenders managed to beat them back. He returned to the same spot in 1217 but again with the same outcome.

In 1859 a Royal Commission looked at the defences and recommended a fort be built on this high ground

overlooking the castle. In November 1860 approval was granted to acquire the land and the outline design approved by the Secretary of State for War. Work began in June 1861 and was completed in 1868 the construction costing £88,000. Named Castle Hill Fort it was soon renamed Fort Burgoyne in honour of General Burgoyne one of the experts consulted by the Commissioners.

Surrounded by a 35-foot wide ditch the fort is polygonal in shape and unusually is flanked by two wing redoubts connected to the fort by ditches. The Dover to Deal road crosses the eastern ditch and the Dover to Guston road crosses the western ditch. The fort was home to 270 men and 7 officers housed in casemated (bombproof from mortars) barracks situated around a central parade ground. Originally some of the guns were intended to be 7-inch Rifled Breech Loading guns but owing to some bad accidents and a poor standard of training these were replaced with the old



Plan of Fort Burgoyne

Connaught
Barracks and
Fort Burgoyne



style muzzleloaders. *For a fuller description please see article in March 2008 Newsletter.*

By 1906 the large guns had been removed and replaced by machine guns, while during the First World War brick gun emplacements were built. In the Second World War concrete gun emplacements were added and the fort became home to two batteries of 25 pounder field guns.

In June 1861 work also 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.

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

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.

In October 2007 Connaught Barracks was purchased by English Partnerships, The National Regeneration Agency. The site covers 56 ha, of which 12.5 ha is suitable for a proposed 500 new eco friendly homes.

Fort Burgoyne will need to be greatly repaired and cleaned up. In the spring of 2009 English Partnerships will be inviting ideas as to what the Fort can be used for in the future whilst preserving the site for future generations.

It is intended that the development brief, which will be informed by an extensive public consultation programme, will be presented to Dover District Council Cabinet in autumn 2009. The site will be sold to a third party developer in the early months of 2010.

After taking questions from the audience the Chairman Derek Leach thanked Jon for a most enlightening talk.

Any members of the Dover Society who have ideas about the future use of Fort Burgoyne please contact any of the committee members so we can co-ordinate our response.

Situated at the United Kingdom's closest point to Continental Europe, the Port of Dover is a vital link for tourism and trade.

Over 13 million passengers, two-and-a-half million cars and 100,000 coaches passed through the port on its ferry services to Calais, Dunkerque and Boulogne in 2005. Added to that, over 2 million freight vehicles used the port's freight services to Calais and Dunkerque.

But the port's year did not end there. Dover continued to be Northern Europe's busiest cruise port for turnround calls handling 120 visits involving more than 150,000 passengers. Its marina enjoyed record numbers of visitors and its cargo terminal saw consolidation in the fresh fruit and vegetable markets.

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

What the Papers Didn't Say

Review by Alan Lee

October saw the release of a book *Mr Dover Reporting* that covers the life and times of a most interesting Dovorian - Terry Sutton.

Written with humour, wit and sometimes sadness, this book follows Terry's life from his earliest childhood recollections to the present day. Although officially retired he is as busy today as ever.

Attending Barton Road School he acquired a reputation for being involved in plenty of fights. Then with the hostilities of the Second World War he was evacuated to Wales.

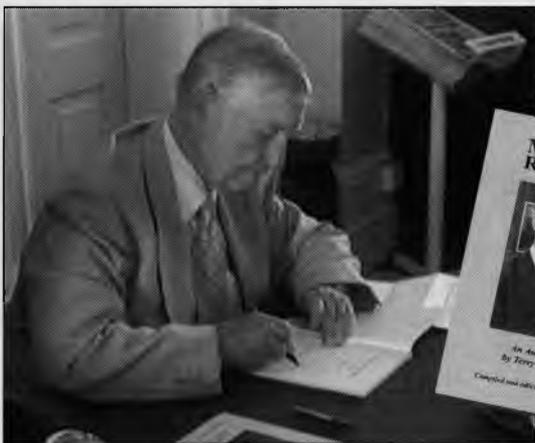
National Service saw him going abroad for the first time in his life. Sent off to Africa on a troopship, our Terry proved not to be a very good sailor; caught up in a storm in

the Bay of Biscay he was seasick for 48 hours.

Returning to Dover after his demob he became a cub reporter with the Dover Express. This was despite his father Norman, the editor at the time, being against the idea. He was to remain with the paper for the next 59 years and retired as its Associate Editor. During that time Terry has met and interviewed royalty, film stars and thousands of interesting people with stories to tell. He has also covered countless newsworthy events. One notable one he attended but did not report on was also one of his proudest, the day Her Majesty the Queen presented him with the MBE.

This book transports the reader along a nostalgic walk through time that will invoke in many people fond memories and in younger readers a glimpse into the past.

This is the latest book to be released by Riverdale Publications and is printed locally by A.R.Adams (Printers) Ltd. Costing £10, copies available at the Dover Express offices, W.H.Smith's in Dover, the Sussex Book Shop, Dover Museum, Tyler's in Deal and from Derek Leach OBE the Chairman of the Dover Society.



Terry Sutton at the book launch

The Magic in Deal Concert

by Jack Woolford



In an attempt to promote and augment harmony amongst member societies, a piano recital by Moscow born and London trained Sophia Lisovskaya, an internationally acclaimed virtuoso, known to us in Kent through the Whitstable Music Society (which happens also to be chaired by KFAS Chairman John Walker) was held in Deal Town Hall on Saturday October 4 2008. Although the numerical response suggested that not all amenity society members are (classically or romantically) musical (and several non-members, from Dover and Whitstable, happily gatecrashed) the evening was as magical as it was predictable.

Already known from her earlier Whitstable recital, Sophia particularly delights in playing the Chopin nocturnes, preludes and studies, which are less well known than the waltzes and polonaises. Though slight in build and almost

crouched over the keyboard, the sheer physical power and equally sheer tiniest whisper of sound, both mirrored in her beautiful facial expressions, are spellbinding. How such faultless control of blindingly difficult technical problems can co-exist with deep emotional response and commitment is unfathomable, and consequently enchanting. Sophia (witness her CDs as well as recitals) particularly champions the preludes and studies, etc, of the less well-known Scriabin, contemporary of Rachmaninov and Stravinsky. Although musically a descendant of Chopin, with nods in the direction of Debussy, he developed a powerful individual style of prodigious technical difficulty, alternating wild harmonic savagery with melting, lyrical, tenderness. The preludes and studies are disarmingly brief but *Vers La Flamme*, with which Sophia climaxed her recital, is as full of fire as its name suggests.

Romantic Chopin and Scriabin we knew from Whitstable, but what of classical Beethoven, with whose Sonata Pathétique (Op 13) Sophia dared to begin her recital in Deal. Shades of Schnabel, Brendel, and Barenboim... Beethoven's very name arouses expectation beyond the ordinary and demands courage as well as competence, to stand up to inevitable comparison. Sophia need have no fear. From the explosively dramatic opening chord, through the warmly comforting slow movement to the diabolically fiery finale she was superb, establishing a rapport with the audience unique in my nonagenarian experience.

125th Anniversary of CONNAUGHT PARK OPENING

At 11 am on Friday 12th September 2008 the President of the Dover Society, Brigadier Maurice Atherton, formally dedicated the Holm oak tree. The society had donated the tree to mark the 125th year of the opening of the park. In his address to the people present the Brigadier thanked, amongst others, Graham Wanstall for his work on the project, DDC for their help and assistance and H. S. Jackson & Son (Fencing) Ltd. in supplying the fencing around the tree free of charge.



Lily Pond Connaught Park



Left to right Brigadier Maurice Atherton CBE, Peter Lawson (Jacksons Fencing) and Derek Leach OBE



125th Anniversary celebrations, Connaught Park

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A DOVORIAN MAYOR...

...who set a precedent

by Fr Peter Sherrad

Kathleen 'Bobbie' Goodfellow was elected the 314th Mayor of Dover in 1972 and in so doing created a precedent for being the first daughter of a former Mayor to be elected as the town's leading citizen. Her father, Alderman Arthur T. Goodfellow, had been Mayor for a number of years immediately after the war (1945 - 1949). He was Dover's first Labour Mayor and had been one of a small group of people whose Defence Emergency Committee, had effectively, run the town in the war. Bobbie was also only the third lady Mayor of the town.

Bobbie was born in Dover on 4th April 1908 a daughter to Arthur and Florence (nee Parton) Goodfellow who had married on Christmas Day 1905 in the new Congregational Church in the High Street. She had one sister, Margaret known as 'Pixie', 5 years younger than her and one brother, Gordon, who was 18 months older. Both were to predecease her, Gordon being killed in 1942 at one of the local coalmines. This event may have influenced her answer to a young nephew when she was asked who the most important person in the country was. Her answer was not the King, Mr. Attlee or Mr Churchill it was 'a coalminer'. She lived variously in Priory Road, as a child, at 22 Leyburne Road, in one of the old houses with her parents, and her final days were spent in her flat number 3, York House Lancaster Road.

As a Dovorian her early education was based in the town as she attended St. Martin's Primary School in Elms Vale and

then the Dover Girls' Grammar School, the first former student elected Mayor. Destined for the teaching profession she rounded off her education at Southlands Teacher Training College in South London. For a brief period it decamped to Dover and the Burlington Hotel before returning to its permanent home near Wimbledon Common.

Her teaching career, which was to last 45 years, began in Folkestone in the late 1920s at St Mary's Higher Grade on Dover Road but during the Second World War she, along with countless others, was evacuated to Wales and Monmouthshire (Mynydd Islwyn) in particular. She returned to Mundella School, off Blackbull Road Folkestone where, during the war years, she was remembered and loved for taking great care of her pupils when doodlebugs were flying and shelling occurred. Her determination to do her job was demonstrated by a time when she took the bus to Folkestone, but due to heavy snowfalls the steep Folkestone Hill was closed so she walked the rest of the way only to find the school was closed - it is not known how she made her return journey.

In 1947 she was appointed the headmistress of Broadlees School on the Dover - Deal road just behind the castle where, very much ahead of her time, she introduced the language that she was fluent in and which she spoke to the time of her death - French, as well as cricket and Marion Richardson handwriting. The school was a village school without any village, a corrugated iron,

verandahed structure with two classrooms, one for infants the other for juniors and little else. It was closed 'temporarily' so that a new school could be built allied to new married quarters for the military so Bobbie, in 1963, found herself directed to East Langdon and the primary school there standing in on a temporary basis for the existing head teacher. In the event Broadlees School was not re-built and as the original Head of Langdon School moved on to another post Bobbie remained at Langdon as head teacher until her retirement. She retired at the end of an academic year, in July 1973, when she was 65¼ because she thought it inappropriate to leave in the middle of a school year!

Devoting herself to primary education was not her sole concern, however, because politics played an important part in her life especially since her father was so deeply involved in the political life of the town. Her interest in politics originated in her school days and she was to become a lifelong member of the Labour Party very much in the same vein as her friend, colleague and also Dover Mayor, Marie Hart who was also her Mayoress. Bobbie once recalled, "When I was about ten I used to go out helping the Labour Party to distribute pamphlets". She was a natural born organiser and her involvement in the party meant she served as secretary of the Dover Labour Party and the Dover Co-operative Party as well as being a management member of Dover Co-operative Retail Services Limited. With all this as

background, in addition to having accompanied her father when he was Mayor, it is little surprise that she stood as a candidate for the Borough Council and became a long serving Councillor for St Bartholomew's Ward in Dover.

During her mayoral year in 1973 she spent two weeks on a cultural and educational visit to Split in the former Yugoslavia and Dover's twin town and 48 hours after returning was a participant in a ceremony at Dover Town Hall where Calais and Dover were officially 'twinned'. As the Mayor of Dover she spoke fluently in French while the Mayor of Calais replied in English! She also inaugurated the fully automated telephone exchange making a telephone call to the Mayor of Calais to commemorate the event and being presented with, appropriately, a red telephone with a plaque upon it. With the advent of local government re-organisation Bobbie Goodfellow was expected to serve a second year as Mayor, being the last Mayor of the Borough of Dover, but due to internal Labour Party conflicts and with even numbers on the Council a Conservative, Peter Bean, was elected in her place. 'Twas



The Dynamic Duo. Kathleen (right) with Marie Hart



Kathleen 'Bobbie' Goodfellow as Mayor of Dover

ever thus, the political infighting!

Bobbie was a member of Dover District Council from its inception and remained a Councillor for many years eventually standing down in 1990-91. She was asked to stay on the Post Office Committee which she did until 1993 when she was 85 years old. In her role as a District Councillor she earned herself a reputation as a doughty fighter for the causes she cherished like securing fair deals for council tenants and also for the housing of those waiting on lists. In this she was very much a person who acted in the same vein as her colleagues Marie Hart and Edith Hadden the latter having been the other candidate in the competition for Mayor in 1973 that let the Conservative candidate take the honours.

Bobbie pursued a wide range of activities in her life and did not limit herself to teaching and politics. She was very keen on cricket and was a member of both Kent and Sussex supporters' associations but also followed Surrey and Middlesex. Not only did she like watching the game but also in her time at Broadlees School she had introduced the game there. Summers were a round of county cricket in select Home Counties and she loved to attend the Scarborough Festival. Her wide library of cricket related books are now in the library at St Lawrence cricket ground in Canterbury. She had autographs and signed photographs dating back to 1929 of cricketers from numerous county sides as well as those from touring sides. She was a good friend of the Compton brothers, Denis and the Leslie as well as the Langridge brothers, John and Jim.

Being a lover of France (she flew there in a biplane in the 1930s) and speaking French fluently she was a founder member of the Franco-Britannique Cercle de Douvres. Even late in age she would read novels in



French maintaining her linguistic talent coupled with her love of red wine until her death. She maintained her interest in politics, cricket, French and Dover throughout her life.

In many respects she was a lady well ahead of her time and she had an infectious sense of humour. Lively, intelligent, smoking like the proverbial chimney she would work into the early hours. Trailblazing in the introduction of cricket and French at Broadlees she also was noted for her natty hairstyle when she daringly cut her hair and it was worn in a bob hence the name 'Bobbie' by which she was fondly known for most of her life.

Additionally, although a single lady all her life, she was an auntie and also a mother to her daughter, Nikki, who was born in Walmer in 1943 Bobbie having the courage to see through the birth of her daughter at a time when society was not kind to the circumstances in which she found herself. She was determined her daughter would grow up in a family, and so Nikki was formally adopted by Bobbie's sister, Margaret Binfield. Nikki brought up as a Binfield changed her surname back to Goodfellow when she was old enough to do so. She read a lesson at her mother's

funeral while her 'brother'/cousin gave an address at the subsequent memorial service for Bobbie's life.

Like many people in their senior years Bobbie was challenged by the frustrations of old age. She once said, "For an innately lazy person, I have been very busy all my life; so now I have the right to do nothing - even if it does tire me out". Her ideal day was from 11am to 3am perhaps a hangover from the times when she was an ARP by night followed by a day at school. She loved to watch television and for a purpose - to correct grammatical errors in TV statements! ("under (in) the circumstances") ("If I was"/"If I were") - while knitting, doing the crossword and smoking! She was a true multi tasker. In her heyday she was an accomplished embroiderer.

Kathleen 'Bobbie' Elizabeth Goodfellow died peacefully on 17th December 2004 at the full age of 96. Having celebrated her 95th birthday the year before she was feted by her many friends and colleagues, given a bouquet of red roses and a bottle of House of Commons Champagne by the local Member of Parliament and congratulated by the then Mayor of Dover, Councillor Mrs Diane Smallwood.

Despite the outside appearance of a benign and benevolent Miss Marple, Kathleen Bobbie Goodfellow was no pushover but a person who, over the years, with dogged determination and persistence, represented her constituents' interests to the very best standards

of representative government stating fairly and firmly her case and fighting the corner of those who sought her help. In so doing she, like others before her and since, earned respect that only comes freely from others' awareness of her actions and not simply because of the positions of importance in which she found herself. Bobbie had a saying "Do look after yourself, good people are scarce". She was a fallible human being like the rest of us but she was a scarce good Councillor and Mayor of whom Dover can rightfully remember with pride.

Her funeral service was held in the Church of St Mary the Virgin Dover on 30th December 2004 prior to cremation at Barham. Her ashes were scattered under the five maples at Barham on 4th February 2005 where other family members' ashes had been scattered. There is now a seat in front of the crematorium with wonderful views across the Downs and towards the golf course with plaques for her, her parents and her sister and brother in law.

A service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for her life was held in the same church on 13th January 2005 at which the then Mayor of Dover, Councillor Bob Markham, read a lesson from Ecclesiastes 3.1-13.

The final irony for this lifelong Labour supporter and one which one feels sure would have appealed to her sense of humour was the fact that her death notice was placed in The Daily Telegraph, not exactly known for its support or encouragement for the Labour Party!



Kathleen Goodfellow outside Wimbledon

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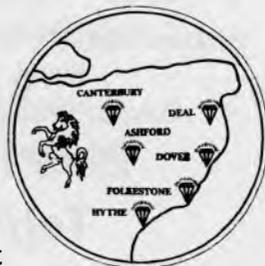
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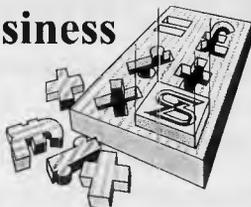
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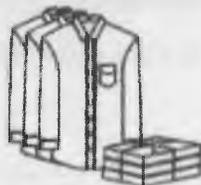
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WANTED

Volunteers are required to assist in running the raffle, in making and serving the refreshments and with washing up at the Society's winter meetings. We hold five ordinary meetings, plus one wine and wisdom, at St Mary's Parish Centre. Therefore, even if you can only assist at one or two of the meetings it would be of great benefit and help to the Society. If you are interested in helping out, or you know anyone else who may be, then contact the Chairman or any member of the committee,

(See inside front cover of newsletter for contact details).



Application for Membership

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Please make cheques payable to the Dover Society and forward the cheque or cash to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Sheila Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD

I/We could sometimes give practical help with the following *(please tick boxes)*

Social events Writing for newsletter

Projects e.g. clearance, surveys, photography

Any other interests or expertise

PROGRAMME 2008 - 2009

Guests are welcome at all meetings except the Annual General Meeting which is for members only.

2008

DECEMBER 13

Saturday

6.30 for 7.00

£19.00

Christmas Feast

Start Christmas in style by attending our annual feast held in the splendid surroundings of the Refectory in Dover College. Price to include sherry reception, a sumptuous buffet, wine, soft drinks and entertainment by the unique style of "Quodlibet".

Please note that the numbers will be limited to 100 to ensure your comfort.

2009

JANUARY 19

Monday 7.30

Speakers: Derek Leach: "Dover's Workhouse"

Richard Sturt: "Dover - 40 Years of the Legally Unexpected"

FEBRUARY 16

Monday 7 for 7.30

£4.50

Wine and Wisdom with Clive Taylor, a light-hearted quiz. Price to include refreshments and soft drinks. Free wine will be provided on each table. Prizes for first and second places.

MARCH 16

Monday 7.30

Speakers: Paul Holt: "Samphire Hoe - from Abbot to Shakespeare Cliffs, 1843-1973"

Phillip Merricks: "Eco-Tourism"

APRIL 20

Monday 7.30

Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Mike Webb: "Dover Town Clerk"

MAY 20

Wednesday

£17.50

Includes all admissions

Museum of Kent Life and Aylesford Priory

The Museum of Kent Life occupies part of the Cobtree Estate which opened in 1985. Its principle objective is to preserve Kent's countryside and rural heritage for the future. Aylesford Priory is a beautiful 13th century priory and home to a community of Carmelite friars who welcome visitors and pilgrims. There are peaceful grounds and picnic areas, beautiful works of art, Chapels and an open-air shrine, a working pottery, gift shop and tearoom. A guided tour is included in the price. Lunch may be taken at either venue as required, or you may bring a picnic.

Pick-ups: Railway Bell 0830; Frith Road 0840; Brook House CP 0845

All indoor meetings are held at St Mary's Parish Centre

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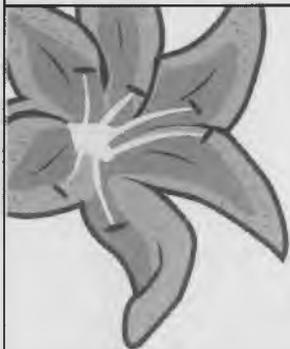


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