

OCTOBER MEETING

1st Talk

Haunted Dover

A talk by Lorraine Sencicle reported by Alan Lee

The start of our winter season of meetings saw one of our members Lorraine Sencicle begin the first talk with an introduction that mentioned her earlier book 'Banking on Dover'. It was while researching this that she had her first supernatural experience. Here in Dover we have, reputedly, the most haunted castle in the country. Lorraine was stopped by English Heritage from researching more than a couple of episodes. They seem to be under the impression that they own the rights to them; they do not.

Lorraine told the story of the old lady and her dog placed alive in the walls within the castle grounds at Peverell's Tower and sealed in to stop the supposed curse on the building of the tower. At the Officers' Mess the Lady in Red has often been seen. In one incident there she proved to be the key figure in saving the lives of the men from fire in December 1897.

Over on the Western Heights at the Drop Redoubt we find Peter Watson 'The Drummer Boy'. He was murdered 1804 after ascending the Grand Shaft carrying some of the garrison's payroll. His beheaded body was later found but there was no sign of the money; his murderer was never caught. The beating of his drum is still heard to this day echoing around the Drop Redoubt. Back in the town, at Camden Crescent, are four ghostly soldiers who guard and protect the Rifles Monument and have done so since 1861.

Near the junction of Queen Street and York Street Agnes Jaoman is frequently seen sitting whittling. In 1588 she owned the local pub,

the Black Horse; in 1826 the name was changed to the Cause is Altered. The last drink was served there on 22nd March 1969 prior to the pub being demolished, a sad end to a friendly establishment.

William de la Pole, born in 1396, was beheaded as his ship crossed the channel on 2nd May 1450. His headless body is seen walking from the Market Square towards Church Street still looking for his head.

A very young urchin, Jack, haunts Buckland House on Crabble Hill. He had a lovely singing voice but after his voice broke he returned to the workhouse where he later died of T.B.

Rarely seen but often heard near the old Metropole Hotel in Cannon Street is Adele, another singing ghost, looking for her love.

The last story Lorraine told was of Jimmy, a young man who volunteered to fight for his country at the start of World War One. Killed on the Somme battlefields, he was first seen on the Admiralty Pier wearing a tattered uniform waving the troops off to war and greeting them on their return. One of the reasons the war memorial at the cruise terminal, the old Marine Station, was not moved in 1992 was the fear that Jimmy would be left behind. It is here that he is still seen to this day.

These were just some of the tales Lorraine enthralled her audience with. The full accounts along with many more interesting stories can be read in her new book *Haunted Dover*.