

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 70

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The Cause Is Altered

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THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

Affiliated to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies
Registered Charity No. 299954

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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, archæology, 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

Our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, at 7.30pm on Monday 18th April at St. Mary's Parish Centre. I would like to remind members that all nominations for elected posts within the committee and any resolutions must be received by the secretary no later than 14 days before the meeting.

The speaker for that meeting will be our newly elected MP Charlie Elphicke. This will be the last of the winter meetings until October so I hope for the usual good attendance.

Once again, this year the committee has decided to keep the subscriptions at the same level as last year. This offers excellent value considering that the last time the rate was increased was back in 1996, fifteen years ago. If you know of anyone contemplating joining the society and need an application form then please contact Sheila Cope or the editor. There will also be forms available at the meeting.

One of our longest serving and hard working members Jack Woolford has not been well of late, I am sure that all our members hope that he makes a full recovery soon.

The summer outings have now been finalized with the first to take place on 14th June. This will be to the Palace of Westminster please book with Patricia Hooper. The other outing this summer will be on 9th September. This will be to the Geffrye Museum please book with Georgette Rapley. Full details of the

outings are on the inside of the back cover. If any of the members have any ideas, as to future visits to places of interest, then please contact any member of the committee or the editor on 01304 213668.

Owing to the bad weather the Christmas Feast had to be cancelled. It could not be rearranged for an alternative date but it is planned that a feast will take place again this December as usual. That said if the members would like to see a feast style social event take place during the summer months then please let the committee or the editor know.

The latest extension to the Dover cycle system is now completed. It runs along Barton Path, by the river, via Cherry Tree Avenue, Barton Road to Lorne Road. After a month of traffic disruption motorists will be thankful at the end of the works. I am sure it would have been completed quicker but for the short hours worked, start at 8.30am, finish at 3pm with also a lunch break included within that time. With work on gas pipes now taking place along London Road it looks as if the traffic disruption has just moved to a different part of town.

Congratulations to Mike McFarnell for yet another successful Dover Film Festival. This event grows and improves every year, we all look forward to next year's event.

After Pfizer's announcement of closure comes the news from English Heritage that all of their sites are to close on weekdays from the start of November to the end of March. This will have a big effect on staff at Dover Castle and the

knock on effect to the local economy. Visitors will lose a wonderful amenity and schools a valuable learning facility, with over 15,000 children visiting in that period.

In the last issue of the newsletter within the planning report it stated that Patrick Sherratt represents the Dover Society on the Dover Port People's Trust. He is on their Steering Committee but he does not represent the Society and has taken great care to avoid any conflict of interest between the two groups.

Just a reminder to the effect that the society is running a lottery to raise money to help refurbish the Maison Dieu Hall, for as little as £1 your contribution can make a difference. Contact Mike McFarnell or the editor. Entry forms will be available at the meeting.

The society is now conducting guided tours of the Maison Dieu for details please see article in this edition. The guides have an interesting tour lined-up it is well worth a visit.

Another event coming up soon, and growing in numbers, is the annual commemoration of the Zeebrugge Raid. Held on St. Georges Day this will take place in St. James' cemetery 11.20am on Saturday 23rd April. This will then be followed at 12 noon by the ringing of the Zeebrugge bell at the Town Hall.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I must report the death of Mr Barry Smith who was the society's first secretary in 1988.

Editor

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Spring 2011

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

Please pay promptly by cheque or cash - at the AGM, personally or by post. To minimise cost and labour, receipts are only given with inclusion of an SAE. Better still, and if you do not already do so, pay by standing order, which once set up, saves the need for reminders. I am always delighted to provide a form. Subscriptions remain unchanged at £6 single and £10 for two members living at the same address.

Special thanks are due to our faithful Newsletter distributors who trudged out during particularly unpleasant December weather. They are among the many who work away in the background to help keep our Society going.

We are delighted to have recently welcomed:- Mrs J Pateman, Mr D & Mrs J Screene, Mr P & Mrs S Hall, Mrs J Allcock, Miss E Reeves, Mr M Newton, Mrs J Skinner, Mrs J Purssord, Mr D Emms, Mrs A Bertelsen, Mr J Golding, Mr B Cope and Ms L Lang.

Sadly, we regret the deaths of the following members: - Mr R Frayne, Mrs P Gould, Mr S Launder, Miss R Matthews, Mrs C Thomas, Mrs M Wright, Mrs G Janaway and Mr B Smith the society's first secretary in 1988.

* * * * *

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 71 will be Wednesday 8th June 2011. 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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Granville Street School Plaque

The new plaque was unveiled on 10th February 2011. Derek Leach, Chairman of the Dover Society gave the following speech.

'Thank you all for coming today to mark the installation of a new plaque to replace the original which has unfortunately passed its sell by date. It commemorates the destruction by enemy action in 1943 of the Granville Street Boys' School on this site - the boys section of Charlton Church of England School which opened in 1875.

I would particularly like to welcome and thank:

- Lorraine Sencicle who first brought the state of the old plaque to the attention of The Dover Society
- Richard Blackman whose company owns these premises and Unipart that occupies them for their co-operation
- Mrs Carol Barrett, Head Teacher of Charlton C of E Primary School that has contributed to the cost of the plaque
- Similarly representatives of Charlton Church which has also contributed to the cost
- Members of The Dover Society that also contributed to the cost
- And finally, Jeremy Cope, my Vice Chairman, who has overseen this little project and made it happen.

Without more ado, let us unveil the plaque'.

Matthew and Jade who are year 6 pupils at Charlton School then performed the unveiling of the plaque.



© Alan Sencicle

NB: Forster's Education Act of 1871 required provision of elementary education opportunities for every child (not necessarily free). This meant many more school places were needed - provided by government or church authorities. The new Charlton schools, the infant and girls school were opened in the same year, replaced the small parish school adjacent to the old Charlton Church.

After the boys school was hit the boys joined the girls at their school.



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NOVEMBER MEETING

1st Talk

Recycling and Waste Collection

A talk by Roger Walton

Director of Property, Leisure & Waste Management, Dover District Council
reported by Alan Lee

Our first talk of the evening was on the changes that Dover District Council will be implementing in the way of collecting household rubbish in the future. Dover and Shepway councils, Kent County Council and Veolia Environmental Services are finalizing arrangements for the new joint recycling, waste collection and street cleansing services. These talks initially started three years ago with a lot of financial analysis work carried out in the first year. This new partnership should ensure that costs of the cleaning and waste disposal service are at as low a level as possible.

Changes to Waste & Recycling Collections

Important changes are coming to the way DDC collect householders' recycling and waste. This should lead to significantly more recycling, save resources and more effectively help protect the environment for the future. The new service will see the introduction of a separate weekly collection of food waste, together with the provision of new containers by the Council for your recycling and waste.

This includes:

1. A wheeled bin provided, wherever possible, for the collection of recyclable materials. This will enable you to recycle a wider range of materials, and ensure that the materials are properly contained to stop them from escaping on windy days.
2. The black box will be for paper and cardboard. This will maintain its quality and value by keeping it clean from food and drink residue.
3. A smaller lockable food waste bin being provided, so that a separate weekly collection of food waste can be introduced, allowing it to be recycled.
4. A kitchen caddie provided for the home to make it easier to move food waste from the kitchen. Collections will be weekly to ensure that there is no risk of smelly food waste causing concerns in warm weather, as has been the case elsewhere when Councils have introduced fortnightly collections.
5. A wheeled bin provided for the fortnightly collection of the waste that you are unable to recycle. Due to the

improved recycling service, it is anticipated that once we are all recycling our food waste, along with a wider range of recyclables, there would not be much left to throw away. The bin will contain the waste to stop it being attacked by seagulls and foxes.

Although the new contract with Veolia was signed on 16th January, changes in the collection service are not likely to start until September 2011. All customers will receive full details of these new services as these are implemented. Meanwhile collections will continue as they currently are.

Roger then expanded on the way the system will work.

Week 1

Residual waste - wheeled bin
Food waste - kerbside caddy

Week 2

Mixed dry recyclable - wheeled bin
Paper and card - black box
Food waste - kerbside caddy

Questions asked by the audience included the following:

Will everyone get wheeled bins?

NO, each property will be assessed for whether they are suitable for a wheeled bin (or not). The criteria will be set once the preferred bidder is appointed later this year.

Will flats be issued larger bins for waste collection?

YES, where suitable, flats and multi-occupied properties will be issued with larger bins (where required). This will be for the collection of refuse, recycling and in some cases food waste.

Will Dover district residents have to pay annually for garden waste collections as in Shepway?

NO, Dover residents will still receive a free green waste collection service. The garden waste service will continue as it currently is, with up to 15 bags put out for collection.

If my property is suitable for a wheeled bin, will I have to use it?

YES, or your waste will not be collected.

What will happen if I am assessed to have a wheelie bin but I am unable to manage to put it out for collection? If issued would I have to use it?

If your property is assessed as suitable for a wheeled bin but you are unable to manage to put it out for collection due to restricted mobility or similar, arrangements will be made for the contractor to collect it from an agreed point of storage.

Who does the bin belong to?

The bin remains the property of Dover District Council, however we would like you to give it a good home and care for it accordingly.

Can I use pedal bin liners or plastic bags in my food waste bin?

NO, only compostable liners (recyclable bags), or newspaper can be used. After an initial issue of free bags they will then have to be purchased.

* * * * *

2nd Talk

Streets of Dover

A talk by Derek Leach reported by Alan Lee

Derek commenced his talk by outlining some of the older history of Dover; there is evidence of people living here since about 2000 BC.

The priory of St. Martin Le Grand was possibly the first substantial building erected in Dover since Roman times. King Withred of Kent, 691 to 725 AD, removed 22 secular canons from the castle into the Priory.

The church of St. Mary the Virgin, erected by the secular canons from St. Martin Le Grand, is now known to have been built on part of the site of a Roman bath house.

The Domesday book of 1086 valued the town at £40, twice the amount recorded during Edward the Confessor's reign, 1042 to 1066. This also showed how much Dover had recovered and expanded since the burning of the town by William's troops in 1066.

Medieval Dover was comprised of the military quarter on Castle Hill, the fisherman's quarter under Castle Cliff, the ecclesiastical quarter around St. Martin Le Grand and the commercial quarter around Queen Street.

From 1066 to 1600, the town changed considerably. Many large and

important buildings were built along with the town walls and numerous gates.

The building of the castle between 1180 and 1275 certainly transformed the view of the skyline from the town.

Many pilgrims and soldiers passed through the town. Henry III's royal charter decreed that all pilgrims would leave England via Dover or face a year of imprisonment.

Between 1600 and 1809 the town continued to grow and prosper. The only setback to growth was the national outbreak of the plague. In 1665/66 when it was at its height up to 900 townspeople may have died. Many were then buried on the side of the Western Heights. The town was so filthy that all householders were required, by law, to sweep the streets in front of their house. More ships used the bay and the Pier district expanded rapidly. Turnpike roads became more common. It took three days to reach London by coach, but although it was in a bad state of repair it was the most used road in the country.

The king's daily mail service from London to the continent, via Dover, was instituted in 1660. In 1778 the Dover Paving Act was passed. The first street cleaning contract was

awarded to Israel Claringbould: £10 per year to clean the town's streets once every week. In 1780 the first paving contract was awarded. In 1790 the Tivoli Theatre, later the Royal Hippodrome, was built.

By 1800 the population of Dover was 8,570. With fewer than 2,000 houses the Maison Dieu was the upper limit of the town. Charlton and Buckland were still separate villages. Between 1801 and 1810 they both grew in size at a much faster rate than did the town. The Napoleonic War years proved another boom time with a garrison up to 10,000 stationed at Dover. The town attracted the well-to-do and became one of the most fashionable places in the country. By 1835 the villages of Charlton, Buckland and Hougham had become part of the town with River being added in 1903. They regained parish status in 1987. A local gas company was established in 1821 under Castle Cliff, the whole town being lit by 1823. The workhouse opened in 1836 and the Dover Police Force, run by

the Watch Committee was set up the same year.

The coming of the railway in 1844 heralded another period of prosperity for the town. The horse drawn coach services were discontinued the same year. The town's stations were built, as was the Lord Warden Hotel.

In 1850 it seemed that every other house in the Pier District was a public house with 16 in a 700-yard stretch of Snargate Street, 30 in Limekiln and Strond Street and another 30 from here to the Town Station, near the Lord Warden Hotel. Many large businesses flourished and included mills and breweries.

By the 1870s gas lighting in homes was commonplace. Electric lighting was introduced in 1881. Many schools opened during this period, boosted by the 1879 Education Act.

Then in 1897 Dover became one of the first towns to introduce trams. Three miles of track were laid and the penny fare proved to be very popular.



Construction of the Admiralty Pier

Bomb damage, Randolph Road

© Dover Museum



In 1905 the line was extended to River. The Admiralty Pier was constructed between 1847 and 1871. At this time the pier and seafront area saw a rapid expansion in house building; many large villas were also built. Connaught Park was laid out and opened in 1883. Crabble Athletic Ground opened in 1897; it was a commercial failure so the Dover Corporation purchased it for the town in 1902.

After the *Great War* many of Dover's old slums were cleared and replaced by new housing estates, much of this work being carried out in the 1920s.

The period between the two wars was a depressing time for the people of the town with many out of work. One bright spot was the opening of Pencester Gardens in 1923.

During the Second World War many of the businesses were closed down and the Admiralty took over the running

of the harbour. Dover became known as *Hellfire Corner*. By the end of the war half of the town's housing either had been destroyed or suffered some damage from enemy bombs and shells. In 1947 a great many "prefabs" were built as a temporary solution to the housing shortage. It would be 30 years before the last of these were replaced by permanent houses. The Gateway flats were built with the first tenants taking up residence in 1958. Much of old Dover disappeared at this time. York Street was completed by 1972 and the Dover bypass by 1977. The most controversial road, the A20, was completed in 1993 and the A20 is still a major source of concern to the people of the town

Derek's talk was most enjoyable, enlightening and interesting. If anyone would like a more in depth insight into the town then Derek's book *Streets of Dover* is still available in local bookshops.



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JANUARY MEETING

1st Talk

Butterflies of South East Kent

A talk by Richard Sturt reported by Terry Sutton

Richard Sturt OBE, the former Dover Coroner and solicitor, was our guest speaker again at St Mary's parish centre at our January meeting. He has spoken to members of the society a couple of times before on various subjects but this time was about one of his hobbies—watching butterflies!

Richard told me his interest in the subject went back many years and followed his father's pursuit on similar lines.

Using a PowerPoint presentation Richard told the meeting that even in winter 59 species of butterflies could be found in the United Kingdom of which some 40 were located in or near Dover. He produced a map of East Kent, pinpointing where the various types of butterflies were to be found there.

Woods and forests were favourite places but also grassland at Lydden, the Alkham Valley, Watersend, Langdon Cliffs, the Western Heights and Folkestone Downs.

His beautiful pictures ranged from the Red Admiral to the Duke of Burgundy (the latter hatching from a chrysalis in the spring). There were large and small whites, the delicate Orange Tip, the Speckled Wood, Green and White

Hairstreaks (Temple Ewell and Alkham). Also shown were the minute Small Blue, immigrant Painted Ladies, the eye-catching Marble White, and the not-to-be forgotten Adonis Blue found at Lydden and on the hills above Folkestone. There were many more types shown.

Richard also told of us of the remarkable arrangements between the Adonis Blue and ants.

"The Adonis Blue and Chalkhill Blue are attended by ants and the chrysalises actually sing to them. They are then taken down into the ants' nest where the ants suck the honey like fluid out of the chrysalis. Later the ants attend the emerging adult taking it to the surface, ready to dry its wings and take off," revealed Richard.



Adonis Blue (male)

2nd Talk

Dover and the Localism Bill

A talk by Terry Sutton and Patrick Sherratt
introduced by Derek Leach and reported by Alan Lee

As this is such an important subject, I have decided to print the majority of the talk in full, as it will no doubt have some affect on all of us at some time in the near future.

Consultation is still going on and changes to the Bill are still possible. Representatives from a number of civic societies in Kent, including The Dover Society, have met to discuss it. They then had 2 hours with the minister responsible to put their views and concerns. Patrick Sherratt, our acting Chairman of Planning, who represented us, collated our member's thoughts, concerns and its possible impact on Dover and included them in his submission.

The chairman Derek Leach introduced the speakers and outlined the major points of the Localism Bill at present proceeding through the parliamentary process.

What is it all about?

This government has a policy of decentralisation and it is implementing this under six areas of action:

1. To lift the burden of bureaucracy
2. To empower communities to do things their way
3. To increase local control of public finance
4. To diversify the supply of public services

5. To open up government to public scrutiny

6. To strengthen accountability to local people

This will be tackled across all areas of government - already schools have the option of becoming independent of the local education authority and groups are able to set up their own free schools.

The Localism Bill is another step making radical changes to planning laws as well as new community rights.

Whilst we cannot examine all the provisions of the Bill tonight, we have identified those of most concern to The Society and to Dover.

Terry will give us the main features of the Bill and Patrick will comment with a few of the issues they raise. Once our *Two Ronnies* have finished the floor will be yours to add your thoughts.

Before they start let me remind you of the major concerns the Society has about Dover so that you can assess whether anything in this Bill will help or hinder improvement.

1. Dover, like many coastal towns, has increasingly become run down. It is seemingly unable to make the

best of its very rich history, stock of good Victorian buildings and beautiful natural assets and surroundings.

2. There is little regard paid to the quality of building coupled with a lack of awareness of what is special to our locality. Local Government appears unable, through either central government constraints and direction or its own lack of vision, to make the best of Dover.

3. The town centre suffers from the lack of concern from absentee landlords. In some other areas a plethora of developments of accommodation that is cheap and of minimum standard leads to a downgrading of neighbourhoods.

4. Dover and other local authorities need powers of enforcement over removal of rubbish dumped on private land. Neighbourhoods can be spoilt by careless owners and occupants leaving piles of rubbish and waste close to the public highways. Litter is a constant problem.

5. Because too much has been allowed to run down many inhabitants do not have a sense of pride in the town.

NOW THE TWO RONNIES

Terry Sutton (TAS)

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, let us consider two main aspects of the bill, planning and community rights.

Neighbourhood Plan

One major element of this Localism Bill, although optional, is the provision for Neighbourhood Plans.

This will normally be formulated by town or parish councils but in their absence they can be drawn up by civic organisations (such as The Dover Society) or residents' groups.

The neighbourhood plan can make what is described as a neighbourhood development order for areas zoned for development. As I understand it this could mean such areas as the much-publicised Dover Town Investment Zone (DTIZ). In effect, this order grants either full or outline planning permission without the requirement to submit a separate planning application.

But a neighbourhood plan **MUST** fit in with national planning policy and the strategic elements of the district council's Local Plan, for example on how many houses per acre.

All such plans will be examined by what is described as an "*independent examiner*" to ensure they fit in with the overall planning policy.

All neighbourhood plans will have to be agreed in a public referendum in which the majority will have to support the plan. If the majority agree, then the local council **MUST** adopt it, whether in agreement or not.

Patrick Sherratt (PS)

So I suppose we must ensure that it is not tainted by the "*Loudest Voice*" or open to developer's backhanders and that any Neighbourhood Plan has cohesion for adjacent parishes in accordance with the Local District Framework. We need to see how

developments outside Neighbourhood Plans are policed and enforced.

(TAS)

Two sources of funding will financially support these neighbourhood plans.

1. The government says it will match for six years the council tax raised by each new house built. This is called the New Homes Bonus.
2. There will also be what is called a Community Infrastructure Levy where developers will be expected to provide finance to the local community so community groups can spend the money locally on facilities they want in their area—such as parks, playgrounds or cycle paths.

(PS)

Certainly interesting, but will it benefit Dover? The direct financial incentive by the Government only recognises new house build. Take Whitfield development with some 5,000 homes... this may have a knock on to Dover Town as "*migration*" to the "*New Town*" occurs leaving more empty properties both residential and commercial. The local council is therefore incentivised to encourage new build without any thought of the consequence to existing communities.

The introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy could assist. Currently for the Whitfield Urban Expansion there is proposed a £2,000 per property levy on stage 1 and 1a (1500 properties) amounting to £3 million to be used for Rapid Bus Transport.... however nothing to

Dover town for regeneration or derelict property improvement.

(TAS)

As I understand it a key issue will be the availability of advice and guidance to help the local community prepare a neighbourhood plan. This help could come from private sector interests (such as major landowners, volume house builders, or a major supermarket chain).

(PS)

Well Terry that initially sounds like asking a thief to advise on security. Certainly great care will need to be made if a scheme is to be Community driven and not influenced by those who will financially or commercially benefit.

(TAS)

A reasonable observation Pat, but the government is also expected to announce a new fund to support local communities to replace existing Planning Aid.

(PS)

And so it should. It is pleasing to see some of the high cost quangos removed. However at present much of the Planning Aid is funded within the South East Economic Development Agency (SEEDA) pot. With the closure of SEEDA and a reduced spend it is essential that there is continuing regeneration support for the many coastal towns such as Dover that is in desperately in need of regeneration which is causing deprivation.

It must therefore be of paramount

importance to ensure local councils fight for a share of this pot and that central government ensure that when allocating Planning Aid funding that a set amount should be used for deprived towns in need of regeneration. Sadly for many years it has been seen that regeneration is needed in deprived northern towns due to the loss of industry but the pockets with similar problems within the "*Affluent South East*" have been ignored.

(PS)

However we shall have to see.... local government restructuring.... certainly a question mark at present.

(TAS)

That's enough about planning issues; let's go on to community rights.

Community Rights

Let's look at what is described as community rights in the Bill.

A number of new rights for communities are promised in the Bill. Civic societies like ours, and other groups, will have a legal right to buy community assets-such as museums, libraries, pubs or shops. If taken up we would have to come forward with a funded business plan to run them if the asset went on the open market. But of course, the owner would still be free to sell to somebody else.

(PS)

Yes very exciting.... how about Dover Society taking over the loos.... but I have to say we have not consulted our Treasurer.... anyway away from jest.

As Terry has said any such community asset purchased could be sold on.... Is this right? If a group secured the purchase of say Elms Vale or River Recreation Grounds, or even Connaught Park, only to be sold on.... quite worrying unless protection clauses are introduced. What about museums and their treasures?

I have to declare an interest as a Director of The Peoples Port bid. Before making the bid we had to secure the written support of our bankers as well as sound business plans in order to submit to Government. Although this bid has been made under section 9 of the Ports Act the criteria for ensuring that any bid from the community is sound must be part of a bid process otherwise any Tom, Dick or Harry can put bids in for all sorts of things and waste time and money.

I do however feel that in general the community "*right to buy*" may benefit more affluent communities. In Dover we need to ensure where there are opportunities these are not lost because of financial constraints within the community.

(TAS)

The Bill also provides the right to prepare a local list of community assets and especially a right to trigger local referenda on local issues.

This important measure gives people the right to instigate referenda on any local issue. But I am advised these referenda are not binding on councils

although the outcomes must be taken into account in decision-making.

Another important new right will be to give the community the opportunity to veto "excessive" council tax rises. What is excessive and will it be decided by the House of Commons?

So, if you think your district or town council is demanding too much in council tax (the rates) 5% of the affected population can demand a referendum on the issue.

The government says this is the first time local people can have the power to decide for themselves if the council tax demanded is too high, rather than a government minister imposing a cap on the amount to be paid.

(PS)

Well, what can we say! At what cost if it's not binding? Excessive tax rises.... again it could well cost the taxpayer more to secure the vote of the community than the cost of the tax rise.

In some ways having a local input is sensible (not only if too high) as if there was a need for an identified local public expenditure requirement which resulted in exceeding central government capping levels the community should be able to decide.

Certainly this is an area that needs to be re-evaluated.

(TAS)

The Localism Bill repeals regional planning strategies and abolishes

regional development agencies such as SEEDA.

(PS)

As I mentioned earlier quangos have cost the taxpayer millions.

There are already working arrangements between Kent C. C. and Essex C.C. and I suspect that smaller regional strategies will emerge, this, with a greater input from local councils.

The importance is on the priority of reduced funding and our elected county and district councillors must fight for the share of any funds (in particular regeneration) available.

(TAS)

The Bill also requires developers to consult local communities before submitting planning applications for large developments. It is also supposed to strengthen enforcement of planning controls.

The Bill also provides local authorities (such as DDC) with general powers of "competence" which, it is claimed, will free them up to be more entrepreneurial.

But, as far as I can see, there is no community right of appeal as set out in the Bill now before Parliament.

(PS)

Thanks Terry.

I think we have to recognise that DDC do operate an open consultation process with major developments. Whether the feedback comments are

always listened to is another matter, but perhaps this bill if adopted, may encourage greater community involvement.

Will it enable the Council to be more entrepreneurial? It may, without being cynical, be asking a great deal.

No right to appeal? Is that right, and therefore will it deliver community led objectives.

Well I hope our "*Two Ronnie's*" presentation has enlightened you on a topic that will be subject to much press activity over the next year or so. It is complex, and I have no doubt will go through several amendments, before a final reading and passing to the House of Lords.

Through the Kent Federation of Amenity Services and the Civic Society there is no doubt that issues will be raised and we must ensure any of our concerns are highlighted.

(PS)

That's goodnight from me.

(TAS)

And goodnight from me.

The chairman then took a series of questions from the audience. A number of interesting points, anomalies and concerns were raised by the members present. These were duly noted and were included when Patrick presented the societies' views in our submission to the minister.

COWGATE CEMETERY

Jeremy Cope

We are working through the winter but the wet weather has made for a few gaps in our schedule. Nonetheless, we are making good progress in clearing out the old piles of mowings and prunings built up over the past years. With the lengthening of the days, we now look forward to spring, the warmer weather and the new growth - a prospect to bring a spring to our step.

Barry Late has earned the gratitude of all and been promoted to be the most important member of our team - he has volunteered to become our tea and coffee maker. We welcome a

new member to our team, Peter Hall. If any member would like to join us, do give me a call on 01304 211348 or send me an email on jeremyclope@willersley.plus.com

Our meeting dates for 2011 are:

Thursday (9.00 to 12.30)	Saturday (9.00 to 12.30)
7th April	16th April
5th May	14th May
2nd June	11th June
7th July	16th July
4th August	13th August
1st September	10th September
6th October	15th October
3rd November	12th November
1st December	10th December

One of a series of articles
covering the lives of Dovorians of international renown.

Albert Mummery

- *the father of mountaineering*

by Lorraine Sencicle B.A. (econ) hons

Albert Mummery was born on 10 September 1855 at Maison Dieu House (the present Town Council offices). He was the younger son of William Rigden Mummery, Mayor 1865 and 1867, who owned the ancient Stembrook Tannery. He bought the Tannery in 1850 and while still a child Albert joined his brother William in the family business as part of his education. By 1861, they were employing 21 men and William Mummery was making a name for himself in local politics. However, no sooner had his term of office as Mayor ceased than William died. He was 48 years old and young Albert, 13.

Following the funeral, the two young brothers were sent for a holiday in the Alps. There, as Albert later wrote in his book, *'My Climbs in the Alps and the Caucasus'*, *"the crags of Via Mala and the snows of the Theodule raised a passion within me which has grown with my years, and has to no small extent moulded my life and thought."*

On returning to Dover, the two boys decided to take over running the tannery. They introduced recently patented machinery and the business continued to prosper. However, Albert longed to return to the Alps and his opportunity came in 1871. He later wrote that when he first gazed upon the Matterhorn, he scarcely dared to hope that he would ever climb it. Three years later, and described as being tall, blond, with a powerful frame and oozing with energy, he successfully reached its peak and wrote that he, *"ought to have ceased taking an interest."*



© Dover Museum

It was possibly about this time that Albert met J. Norman Collie and William Slingsby, then in the vanguard of guideless climbing. The three became expert mountaineers with Albert eventually making seven ascents to the summit of the Matterhorn. Of this he wrote, *"no sooner had I ascended a peak than it becomes a friend, and delightful*

as it is to seek fresh woods and pastures new, in my heart I long for the slopes of which I know every wrinkle, and on which each crag awakens memories of mirth and laughter, and of the friends of long ago."

On one of his trips to the Alps, Albert met Mary Petherick, the daughter of an Exeter solicitor who also enjoyed mountaineering. They married in 1883 and included a climb to the top of the Matterhorn in their honeymoon. That was in the middle of summer and as they sat, at the top looking over the majestic Alps they both loved, *"the wind was not sufficient to stir the flame of a match."*

Although, at the end of the nineteenth century high-risk sports such as mountaineering were frowned upon, Albert continued climbing. He was the first to ascend the Aiguille du Grépon in the Mont Blanc group; later a famous crack was named after him. He climbed the Dent du Requin and the Grands Charmoz also in the Mont Blanc Group; the Teufelsgrat on the three sided Tschorn (southern Switzerland), and on the Matterhorn, the difficult Zmutt ridge.

In July 1888, Albert ventured into Himalayas and said that it was like looking through a, "big hole in the cornice of the ridge I could look down 3,000 feet or more on to the vast unbroken glacia ..." That year his mother, Esther, died and Albert decided to devote his time to the family business. Along with Mary and their daughter Hilda, born in 1885, he bought a house in Leyburne Road (since demolished).

However, Albert's heart was still in his beloved mountains and he in his spare

time wrote his biography. He also researched and wrote *The Physiology of Industry* (1889), a pioneering book on economics, with his friend John Atkinson Hobson. In the book, they argued that the economy required intervention to achieve stability, a stance that was very controversial at the time.

Nevertheless, the mountains called and in 1895, he was back in the Himalayas, this time in an attempt to climb the unconquered, 26,929 feet, Nunga Parbat, the ninth highest peak in the world. At the western end of the great mountain range, the Nunga Parbat is in Pakistan administered by Kashmir, near the Afghanistan/Chinese border. The mountain's name describes it well, Nunga means naked - one side is so steep that snow cannot lie on it - and Parbat means peak. The mountain has three faces; the northern one is the Rakhiot.

Along with two mountaineer friends and a number of Ghurkhas, Albert set out from the military station of Astor. On 24 August, having successfully established a camp at 10,000 feet, together with Ghurkhas, Ragobir and Goman Singh, Albert set out to reconnoitre the Rakhoit Face of the great mountain.

Shortly after they left the camp there was an avalanche and the three never returned. Their bodies were never found. Subsequently there were many attempts to climb the Nunga Parbat and many more lives were lost. A German-Austrian team eventually conquered it in 1953.

Although Albert is highly revered within

the climbing community and referred to as the 'Father of Mountaineering', it is sad that there is not a tribute to him in his hometown... although, I am told, there was one once in Maison Dieu House.

This article first appeared in the Dover Mercury and the Dover Society would like to thank them for the use of this story.
Editor



St Peter & St Paul churchyard

© Alan Sencicle

* * * * *

==== **Royal Victoria Hospital** ====

by Joan Liggett

It is ironical that the Royal Victoria Hospital was probably only built because Dover was spared during the Cholera Outbreaks in the early 1850's. Many towns were affected by the disease but somehow Dover escaped - though deaths occurred in Canterbury, Sandgate and Folkestone (Shorncliffe Barracks). As a practical "Thanksgiving" Dover decided to establish a hospital and to raise the necessary finance by public subscription.

The Hospital Fund having raised £1,760 (*equivalent to £170,000 in 2010*) a suitable site was sought. The first proposal to build on St Martin's disused burial ground having been rejected; it was decided to buy a property on the High Street named Brook House at auction for £1,336 (*£130,000 in 2010*).

Dover had had a Dispensary since 1823 (located on the east side of the Market Square) so it was decided to incorporate that with the new hospital, under the name "The Dover Hospital and Dispensary."

After undergoing extensive alterations, the original hospital building was opened in 1851; the text over the window reads; "INSTITUTED AT THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING OF MDCCXLIX" (1849).

In 1851 the hospital and grounds was surrounded by meadows; but in 1858 Wood's Meadow (the name given to the land on each side of the Dour), was bought by Developers; to prevent the hospital being hemmed in by buildings half an acre of the meadow was purchased at a cost of £740 (£68,000 in 2010). That transaction enabled the later enlargement of the hospital to take place. It was suggested in 1870 and again in 1897 that the hospital be removed to another site; but eventually it was decided to enlarge the existing site.

Monies raised by public subscription were used to build the Annexe to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. The upper panel reads; "HOSPITAL ANNEXE" and the lower



panel: "JUBILEE OF QUEEN VICTORIA." "The Dispensary" was dropped from the name in 1893, when it became known simply as "The Dover Hospital."

In 1897 one of the women's wards was named "Victoria" in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and in 1901 Edward VII gave permission for the hospital to be called Royal Victoria after his mother.

In 1927 a Centenary Fund was started and with the money raised another new wing was built in 1933. During the Second World War the hospital moved into the country, to Waldershare Mansion, the In-Patients Department, the Maternity Ward and nearly all the staff being moved there. The Out-Patient Department remained in Dover with a skeleton staff; the Nurses' Home was taken over for a Military Hospital and a First Aid Post was established in the old main block. For six years the in-patients and the majority of staff remained in

the country, only returning to Dover in 1945.

At first the Royal Victoria Hospital remained viable but with the formation of the National Health Service, Buckland Hospital gradually took over more and more, eventually leaving just a Stroke Unit and Geriatric Day Hospital at the Royal Victoria. The hospital finally closed its doors in May 1987 and spent a number of years mouldering away until converted into low cost apartments in the 1990's.

Source material - Dover Express, J G Harman (Bygone Kent).



TIME FOR ACTION

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LOTTERY

The Maison Dieu (Dover Town Hall) building is in great need of restoration to its former glory. The Dover Society has started a restoration fund with a donation of £600 from a member. The Society plans a major Heritage Lottery Fund bid but this will require matched funding locally. To increase the local fund a small lottery has been organised. Target to raise £10,000

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- Illuminate the Zeebrugge Bell.
- Restore the Town Hall Organ.
- Bring back the Town Gaol Experience.
- Undertake essential restoration of the fabric and decoration of the building.
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Guided Tours

Guided tours of this impressive, historic building, lasting about an hour, are available on the first Wednesday morning of each month from April to October inclusive, starting at 10am and 11am. Additional tours may be available on some Saturday mornings as announced in the press and on The Dover Society website www.doversociety.org

Guided tours will also be available during Heritage Open Days in September - please see separate publicity. Tours for groups can be arranged at other mutually convenient times. Please contact Derek Leach on 01304 823926 or email derekrivervdale@btinternet.com

HISTORY:

Founded by Hubert de Burgh, then Constable of Dover Castle, in 1203, the primary purpose of the Maison Dieu religious house was to provide free board and lodging for pilgrims on their way to the shrine of Thomas a Becket at Canterbury and later to care for the elderly poor and sick of Dover. More buildings were added over the centuries. A chapel was added by Henry III, which was adapted in the 19th century as a court. In 1536 the religious house was suppressed by Henry VIII and then became the King's property.

The buildings became a victualling depot for the navy until 1830 when it was taken over by the Board of Ordnance. Put up for auction in 1834 it was bought by the Dover Corporation. Restoration and adaptation of the Stone Hall and chapel took place between 1852 and 1862. The 19th century stained glass windows in the Stone Hall depict episodes in the history of the town and there are a number of portraits of famous people connected with the Dover. The Council Chamber was added in 1868 and the adjoining Connaught Hall was opened in 1883.



© Alan Lee

Directions: *The Maison Dieu is situated in Biggin Street, the main shopping street, and (pay and display) car parking is available at the rear in Ladywell, in Maison Dieu Car Park, (Maison Dieu Road) or in Norman Street car park off Priory Road.*

Tours are organised by The Dover Society with the co-operation of Dover District Council, the owner, and the Town Hall managers, Thanet Leisureforce Ltd.

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Colony

Strange Origins of One of the Earliest Modern Democracies

By Reg Hamilton

Reviewed by Alan Lee

The author Reg Hamilton is the direct descendant of Richard Hamilton who in 1797-98 rented a house in Last Lane, Dover for £3 a year. In 1816-17 his son, also Richard lived at 119 Snargate Street. This rent was £7 a year. By 1826 the family had moved to Ewell. Richard, like his father, was a tailor but his brother John became a solicitor. These three and many more of his family were Freemen of Dover.

Reg writes in depth about the old Dover Corporation and the corruption in the town. There are many interesting and amusing tales of crime and punishment; it is worth reading just for that chapter. Many unusual facts emerge. A Dover man, William Huskisson MP for Liverpool, was the first passenger killed by a train, Stephenson's Rocket, on the 15th September 1830, the opening day of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. In 1835 the family saw the birth of the Dover Chronicle, the town's first newspaper.

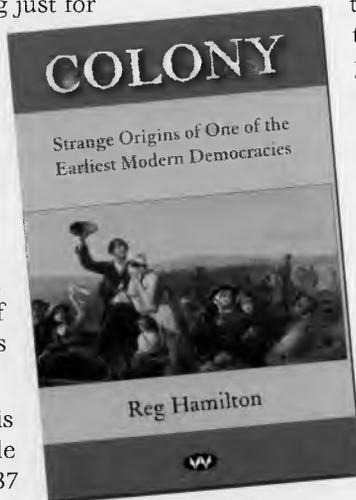
He details how Richard and his family were some of first people to emigrate to Australia in 1837 going with his wife Ann and their

seven children. They purchased a plot at Holdfast Bay, cleared the land and built a house. Within a few years he established the very successful Hamilton's Ewell Vineyards and winery. They took part in the first free democratic elections for all, at Adelaide, Australia in 1840, years before they arrived in Dover.

This review is slightly unusual as the book is published in Australia. That said it contains a great many interesting facts and much about Dover. I found this a fascinating and amusing story of one family's journey from Dover, and the old country, to the birth and early years of sweeping change and social upheaval in South Australia.

This book contains many illustrations of Dover and Adelaide
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*The work of the***PLANNING***Sub-Committee*

Report by

PATRICK SHERRATT

First of all I am deeply sorry that I have to prepare this report as Jack continues to have a health problem and I am sure all members wish him a speedy recovery and return to the Dover Society fold.

Since the last edition of the Newsletter the Planning Committee has been active. We have made detailed comments in respect to five planning applications, the Planning dept at Dover District Council have taken into account our comments with two refusals (back-garden infill) and one application imposing restrictions.

The Whitfield Urban Extension (1 and 1a) has taken much time in assessing the supporting documentation (possibly over 10,000 pages) but we have made comments with regard to this somewhat controversial development and the main ones are summarised below.

The development will go ahead as contained in the Councils Local Development Framework document. However, it must be recognised this development will raise issues outside the development area, in particular the issue of retail in Dover if, as proposed, a "District Retail Centre" is part of the development. This may

create more empty houses in Dover; there is a need to ensure an empty homes strategy runs parallel with the Whitfield development and exercise Section 215, which would bring back into use many derelict buildings that are currently eyesores, shows that it is actually cheaper to renovate a building than to build a new one.

The supporting pictorial design code documentation shows many examples from Poundbury in Dorset, which was the inspiration of HRH Prince Charles, being developed on Duchy of Cornwall land.

If the aspiration by DDC is for a similar "village" concept it is doubtful that the proposed density planned at Whitfield would deliver this type of quality development.

There will need to be job creation in Dover to justify the creation of so many new homes otherwise the homes become a dormitory for other towns or even worse a second home which has seen local communities, particularly in the West Country, suffer from the lack of local spend. Supporting infrastructure (Transport/Schools etc) must be in place before houses are occupied and correct phasing of the development is crucial. With very slow delivery of

Dover regeneration we are concerned that there will be greater "planning" time to the Whitfield development at the detriment to time being spent on delivering the Dover schemes, resulting in further delay to the regeneration that Dover so badly needs.

Since starting this report the disturbing announcement of 2,400

jobs being lost at Pfizers must question the need for such a build unless, we hope, that these jobs are saved.

The highly complex Localism Bill is continually being evaluated in respect to revised planning procedures and is reported on page fourteen by Alan Lee.

The Dover Society Websites

**[old] www.doversociety.org &
[new] www.doversociety.org.uk**

In 2010 there were over 20,000 visits to our website, in 2002 it was only 110. The content has now grown to a level that requires a new more sophisticated ability to handle the data. It will take a year to achieve the switch over, meanwhile both sites will be accessible. The new website has a powerful search facility and the content will be more visible to the search engines.

The Dover Festival www.doverfestival.info

This event, held every four years, leads to an increase in media attention that gives other local events a boost. Bigger and better events are planned for 2012 with the committee working hard to market Dover and enrich the lives of the community. The Queen's Jubilee and the London Olympics are the major events but Charles Dickens and his many connections with Dover could provide a theme.



Popular Items on the Website

The Daughters of Dover by Lorraine Sencicle

Includes details of some of the 88 Dover's around the World.

Dover History Scrapbook by Kathleen Hollingsbee

Full of interesting local items from old newspapers and other records.

**Any comments/feedback on our websites
e-mail doversociety@hotmail.com**

JACK HEWITT MBE

Below is printed the text of the speech by our chairman Derek Leach on the dedication of the Jack Hewitt bench at noon on Friday 18th February 2011.

The bench was paid for out of money acquired by Town Centre Management for River Dour improvements. When TCM folded the balance of the money was transferred to Dover Town Council to be spent with approval of The Dover Society.

The bench is situated by the side of the River Dour near to the Riverside Centre off Maison Dieu Road

Jack Hewitt MBE. Who was he? What sort of man was he? Why honour him today?

He was born in 1912 in Crafford Street where his father ran a bakery. Thwarted in love when his one and only girlfriend ditched him for somebody else, he never married. Instead, he gave a lifetime of service to others mainly, but not only, through his very many years in the scout movement, which he joined aged 12 and in the Order of St. John (over 70 years). In both organisations he held high office locally and was held in high esteem nationally. He was invited to a royal garden party, received the MBE in 1996 and in 2002 Maundy money from the Queen in Canterbury Cathedral. His 29 years in the County Ambulance Service also enabled Jack to serve through his paid work, which he loved and for which he was commended several times. Raising money for charity was a regular activity and it was easy for him - nobody could resist his collecting tin.

Jack also travelled widely all over the world, both as a courier for many

years for Raymond Cook Tours and as a seeker of unusual experiences. These lasted all his life from flying across the Channel as a young man to taking a hot air balloon ride on his 80th birthday and a trip to the Arctic on his 90th!

My book about his life is packed with amusing anecdotes, some of which are hard to believe, but Jack assured me that they were true. He was a cheeky chappie and often got away with murder to have his way or to do what he thought was right.

An early example was a visit to Binfields, a grocer at the bottom of Crafford Street. Jack would go there in the hope of being given some broken biscuits. On this occasion Jack was told that there were none. Whereupon Jack kicked over a biscuit tin and said, 'You've got some now!' His cheekiness often got him into hot water during his RAF years and he was promoted to Corporal and demoted several times. He was also a cheerful chappie, often about town giving a cheerful word to everyone he met, always beginning, Greetings! His laugh was unmistakable!

Jack died, aged 92, in 2004. Dover did him proud. His death and his funeral made the front page of the Dover Express and the Mercury. A guard of honour of scouts and St. John Ambulance Brigade members welcomed him to a packed congregation at St. Mary's which

included the Mayor and the Leader of DDC. As the hearse pulled away afterwards the mourners, including those lining the route, applauded. Jack would have liked that and he would appreciate this event today because in addition to all his other qualities he was a showman.

Regeneration . . . Jeremy Cope

Since my last report we have been facing up to two significant developments on a national scale that will impact upon us locally. They are government cuts to local authority funding and the Localism Bill, with its aim to give power to the people over their localities. Both matters represent considerable threats to us but at the same time they offer opportunities.

First the cuts

Dover has suffered from a lack of proper control of standards in new buildings, maintenance of old buildings, litter control and anti social behaviour. The great fear is that a lack of funds is the perfect excuse for doing nothing to uphold standards. The Society sees a way forward in the use of volunteers to help monitor lapses and in maintenance work - Cowgate is a good example as is the work of the Western Heights Preservation Society at the Drop Redoubt. However, volunteering on its own is not enough. There must be a positive response and support from local government if volunteers are not to be disheartened. An excellent example of such co-operation is the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership with its volunteers led by its professional staff. Anyone who has worked on the Dour can see what can be done with the right organisation and will.

The Society has responded to the Localism Bill with a submission on the original green paper and the discussion at the meeting held on 17th January reported elsewhere in this issue. The Society awaits a response from District Council on its original submission, a copy of which was sent to them by Charlie Elphicke our MP. Again, possibilities but only if..

Matters we are pursuing

There is a meeting due between Derek Leach and KCC on the ARP post. We are pursuing the matter of upkeep of the planters in Dover Town Centre. Roger Marples has information from Kirk Alexander of White Cliffs Countryside Partnership on the possibilities and problems of the footpath on the north side of the Castle - sounds interesting. We continue to pester DTC about the public toilets and have still to get a response from KCC Highways on plans for Dover's street trees despite reminders. Members of our committee continue to chase property owners about the state of their properties. Sheila and Jim Pople have a promise from Stagecoach to repair a damaged and dangerous signboard on their Pencester Road premises - top marks for persistence.

* * * * *

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HAROLD SNELLER

of Sneller & Co

By Derek Leach

This is the transcript of part of a conversation with Harold recorded by Derek Leach in 2001.

'I was born on 1st June 1917 at 5 Millais Road, Dover and lived there until I went into the army in 1939. I went to Sunday school rather reluctantly. I was baptised into the Church of England but I went to London Road Primitive Methodist Sunday School which was just round the corner from us. I escaped as soon as I could.

The biggest fright I had was appendicitis. I was carted off to the old Royal Victoria Hospital and was operated on. There was no pre-med in those days and so you went into the operating theatre with all these people in white coats and then the mask was put over your face and you were chloroformed - it frightened the life out of me!

I went to Barton Road and then the County School - in those days you could start at age 8 but you had to pay; however, I got a scholarship later and just missed Matriculation with seven credits and one pass. The Boys' County School moved from Frith Road to Noah's Ark Road while I was there. The girls, who moved into Frith Road when we moved out got the best deal with the school in the middle of town and easy to get to, whereas the new boys' school was right at the top of Tower Hamlets

and difficult to get to. I went by bike, nearly everybody did. The bike shed was just inside the Astor Road entrance and you still had to walk up the steep slope to the school itself. Going home we all raced down Astor Avenue and the police used to take our names!

I started in the family firm in 1934 after I left school at 17. I worked in the office and also did some relief driving. We worked long hours. Father had always been up at 6am because the horses had to be fed and saw no reason why I shouldn't be up at six either. We didn't finish until 6 o'clock and we worked Saturdays. The horses had to be fed on Sundays as well.

My grandfather started the business in about 1877 with a horse bus service, from Buckland Bridge to the S.E.R. station on the Western Beach, sometimes returning after 1½ hours. The horses must have worked blooming hard. My great grandfather married Mary Cottle and she seems to have brought a butcher's shop into the family in Tower Hamlets - occupied later by Carlsden Properties. My grandfather extended the building in 1877 and stabled six horses there. He must have already been in the carrying trade, starting small and building up.

The first major contract my father got was Dover Corporation refuse collection in 1932 which went on for a long time. We supplied the vehicles and drivers with the Corporation supplying the dustmen and the tipping facilities. Alongside that, we did general haulage. We were never long distance hauliers. We did a lot of work for Mears Brothers working for the Harbour Board.

The change from horses to motor vehicles was gradual with the first vehicles in the 1930s and the last horse going in 1951. When Father got the Corporation contract he needed more garage space and rented space at the steam laundry in Tower Hamlets Street where Castle Harris were later (and now new housing). When the war came in 1939 both buildings were requisitioned and the business moved to Townwall Street.

I had joined the Territorial Anti-Aircraft battery in the summer of 1939, the AA batteries and Coastal Defences were called up very abruptly on 24th August, and I wasn't demobbed until 24th January 1946.

My father was killed by enemy action in the Market Square in 1942. The army let me have three months compassionate leave and the business was turned into a family company with my mother holding the majority of the shares and the rest held by my sister Kath (Bill Hopper's wife) and myself. I ran the business after the War when we moved to Cherry Tree Avenue to a site that had been a corn merchants.

I had a peaceful war really. I was

selected for radar training which was super hush-hush. Training was chaotic. We used the old seaplane sheds on the seafront and then we were sent to Iwade on the road to Sheerness. It was pretty primitive, sleeping on the floor and only cold water. We were taken into Sittingbourne once a week to have a bath in the public baths. That's where I saw my first radar set, but in this corner of the country there were no aeroplanes about that we could use for training. We moved to Kingshill Camp on the Hoo Peninsula - an old pre-war militia camp quite a civilised camp with huts and beds - the first time I'd had a bed in the army. Then it was back to Dover where I did see action, in the ack-ack battery on the Western Heights above Farthingloe, right through the Battle of Britain. On one occasion we saw an enemy aircraft but were told not to fire because the RAF was about to engage it. It came down at the bottom of the cliff and the pilot was taken prisoner and brought back to camp. He was in full dress uniform and so was taken to the Officers' Mess to be fed, but when an instruction book was looked up, they discovered he was only a sergeant and so he was kicked out of the Officers' Mess! Then I was posted to the Thames Estuary and afterwards to West Wales.

We closed the business in 1980. We packed up the lorry business first and concentrated on vehicle maintenance because we had our own workshops. It didn't take off. I think we were all too old to start a new business. So we closed the business and sold the site.

Harold Sneller died in 2005.

One of a series of articles
covering the lives of Dovorians of international renown.

Terence Lewin

- from Maison Dieu to the Falkland Islands

by Lorraine Sencicle B.A. (econ) hon

On 19 November 1920, Terence Thornton Lewin was born in Moray House, Maison Dieu Road but due to a clerical error, he was registered as a girl! Nonetheless, by the time he was 11 he was attending the all boys, Judd School, Tonbridge and went on to marry and father three children. However, his claim to fame came from a totally different quarter but, sad to say, he has not received recognition in the town of his birth.

On leaving school, Terence wanted to be a police officer but as the outbreak of WWII was imminent, he joined the navy instead. During the war he served on H.M.S. *Ashanti*, was mentioned in dispatches three times and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. When peace returned Terence stayed in the navy and rose through the ranks, from second commanding officer of the Royal Yacht *Britannia* in the 1950's to First Sea Lord in 1977.

Knighthed, Sir Terence was appointed the head of all three Services - the Chief of Defence Staff - the top ranking member of the armed forces. Much of his time in that position he was fighting increasing cutbacks in defence expenditure and this included the withdrawal of the navy from the South Atlantic.

He was six months off retirement when,



© Alan Sencicle

on 19 March 1982, a group of Argentineans announced that they had captured South Georgia, in the south Atlantic, for Argentina. On 2 April, Argentina occupied the Falkland Islands, but the feeling in Government was to let them have them. After all, it was said, there was nothing there but sheep and a few islanders - a legacy of British colonialism.

Sir Terence, however, felt otherwise and made this clear. The Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, much to everyone's surprise, took his advice one-step further and set up a 'War Cabinet', which of course included Sir Terence. According to his biographer, Admiral Hill, he and Mrs Thatcher, "... really clicked, once they learned to trust each other."

The 'War Cabinet' sent out two separate task forces, one surface force and the other nuclear-powered submarines. At

the head of the surface task force was Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward who was increasingly concerned that his force was in danger. He made it clear that this came from three separate contingents: an aircraft carrier battle group to the north, Exocet missile-armed frigates in the centre and to the south the gun-armed cruiser, the *General Belgrano*, accompanied by two Exocet-armed destroyers.

Woodward was authorised to take action against any Argentinean forces he thought were threatening him but was not able to command the submarines to help without going through the 'War Cabinet'. Further, neither contingent could attack unless they were within the Total Exclusion Zone (TEZ) declared by the UK on 30 April. This was a circle of 200 nautical miles (370 km) from the centre of the Falkland Islands and at the time, both contingents were outside.

As the *Belgrano* steamed towards Woodward's task force, the Rear Admiral contacted the 'War Cabinet' for permission to allow the submarine *Conqueror* to attack. Sir Terence went straight to see the Prime Minister, who was at Chequers, and persuaded her to order the sinking of the *Belgrano*. The *Conqueror* torpedoed the *Belgrano* on 2 May, 36 nautical miles (58 kilometres) outside the TEZ.

Three hundred and twenty-three members of the *Belgrano's* crew died with 700 men rescued from the open ocean despite cold seas and stormy weather. Controversy followed, particularly in the UK, where it was argued that the *Belgrano* was sailing away from the TEZ. Further, although

international law stated that in times of war, the heading of a belligerent ship has no bearing on its status, the Falkland's conflict was not technically a war.

Two days after the sinking of the *Belgrano*, HMS *Sheffield* was hit by an Argentinean Exocet missile, which led to an inferno killing 20 crew and severely injuring 24. The Falklands struggle was to rage until Argentina was forced to surrender on 14 June. On 20 June the British retook the South Sandwich Islands and declared hostilities to be over. By that time 3 Falkland Islanders, together with 255 British and 649 Argentine members of the armed forces, had been killed, over half of the latter due to the sinking of the *Belgrano*. Since then much of the islands are no-go areas because of the minefields that the Argentineans left behind. However, in 1994, the Argentinean Government stated that the sinking of the *Belgrano* was a 'legal act of war' but still claimed sovereignty over the Falklands.

Following the Conflict, the proposed cutbacks in the surface fleet were abandoned and replacements for many of the lost ships and helicopters were ordered, plus more Sea Harriers. Sir Terence was given the task of restructuring the Armed forces, for which he was created Baron Lewin of Greenwich. He died on 23 January 1999 when he was cited as being, "*one of the greatest military leaders of the late 20th century.*" Yet there is nothing in Dover in recognition of him.

This article first appeared in the Dover Mercury and the Dover Society would like to thank them for the use of this story. Editor



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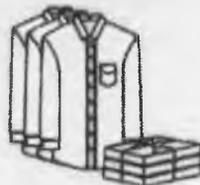
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I/We could sometimes give practical help with the following (please tick boxes)

Social events Writing for newsletter

Projects e.g. clearance, surveys, photography

Any other interests or expertise

PROGRAMME 2011

Guests are welcome at all meetings. At the Annual General Meeting only members can vote.

APRIL 18

Monday 7.30

Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Charlie Elphicke MP: "First 12 Months"

JUNE 14

Tuesday

£14.00

**Refreshments
not included**

The Palace of Westminster

A guided tour of the House of Lords and House of Commons, this may change if either House is sitting. We will be met by our local MP Charlie Elphicke, if he is not required elsewhere. Opposite is the Jewel Tower which offers free entry, on the same day, for visitors to Parliament. Approximate times are 1½ hours on the tour and 3 hours free time. Close by are Westminster Abbey, the Churchill War Rooms, National Gallery, St James' Park and the Embankment. Alternatively, enjoy a meal in one of London's restaurants.

Pick up points:

07.45 The Railway Bell; 07.55 Frith Road; 08.00 Brook House Car Park.

**To book contact: Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Castle Lea, Taswell Street,
Dover CT16 1SG. Tel: 01304 228129**

SEPTEMBER 9

Friday

£14.00

**Refreshments
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The Geffrye Museum

Housed in restored 18th century almshouses period rooms, chronologically arranged, show English domestic interiors from 1600 to the present. These include Jacobean, Georgian, Victorian and 20th-century rooms with furnishings and objets d'art from English homes. The museum architecture and gardens attract much attention. The design centre highlights the latest works from contemporary British designers. There is also a cafe/restaurant. Pick up points:

08.00 Frith Road; 08.10 Brook House Car Park; 08.25 The Railway Bell.

**To book contact: Georgette Rapley, 61 The Gateway, Dover CT16 1LQ.
Tel: 01304 211026**

OCTOBER 17

Monday

Speakers: To be arranged

NOVEMBER 21

Monday

Speakers: To be arranged

DECEMBER 10

Saturday

7.00 for 7.30

Christmas Feast

This year the feast will be held in St Mary's Parish Centre.

**To book contact: Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Castle Lea, Taswell Street,
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Please book as early as possible. Non-members are welcome on all Society outings.

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