

Locally we welcomed the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme in the London Road Conservation Area (left hand side), but objected to Lidl moving into the MFI site as being out of character in the Castle Street conservation area. With Buckland Paper Mill closing down, the Society applied for the listing of the mill's Crabble Hill facade and the clock tower, but it was refused. Residents of Victoria Crescent received a Society award for the exterior refurbishment of their properties.

Budge Adams paid a Newsletter tribute to Philomena following her death in October 1999. The Society later celebrated her life and contribution to the Society by donating an annual art prize to Dover Girls' Grammar School where Philomena had taught. It was first awarded in July 2002 when the winner, chosen by her peers, was presented with £25 art materials. The school was presented with a memorial plaque and two of Philomena's paintings donated by members.

As part of the Millennium celebrations sixth formers were invited to enter an essay competition. The topic was 'Discuss ways in which Dover town could build upon its historic past to benefit the town in the next century'. In December 1999 the winner, Amy Packman of Dover Girls' Grammar School, was presented with a £50 book token and £100 of books for the school.

2000

Accounts of Dover's elaborate Millennium celebrations on 31 December and 1 January appeared in the Millennium issue of the Newsletter in April. Surprisingly, Jack Woolford's talk in January, entitled The First Millennium, was his first to the Society.

Millennium Plaques



Two years previously, Terry Sutton's suggestion to commemorate the Millennium by providing and erecting a number of commemorative Society plaques was agreed, but soon hit insurance problems. Undaunted, Sheila and Jeremy Cope set about producing 10 plaques costing £225 each. Their efforts were rewarded when the first two were erected in February 2000: in Taswell Street, commemorating the first bomb to be dropped in Britain on Christmas Eve 1914 and on the TSB/Lloyds Bank (now Dover Gateway) building in Castle Street, celebrating the last shell to fall on Dover during the Second World War. The Town Mayor did the honours in Taswell Street and the Chairman of DDC in Castle Street. Others followed commemorating: the town's instruments of punishment, use of the old Market Hall as a temporary mortuary for those killed in the 1918 Zeebrugge Raid, William Burgess (painter and author), Philip Yorke (Lord Chancellor), Lord Warden Hotel (used by Napoleon III), the Bronze Age Boat discovery site and Charles Dickens who lodged in Camden Crescent.. The tenth plaque commemorating the site of Dover's public gallows was finally erected in 2002 on the Eagle pub after resolving a number of difficulties. When all the plaques were in place an accompanying plaque trail leaflet was produced. Financial assistance and practical help came from DDC, DTC, DHB, Lloyds/TSB and an anonymous donor.

November saw the launch of *Collected Memories of a Century* as part of the Society's Millennium celebrations. Merrill Lilley, Budge Adams and Derek Leach created Triangle Publications in order to publish this book of memories of Dover previously published as articles in the Newsletter. Whilst the Society provided no funding, any profit was for Society funds. It was a sell out.

Society members also bought three flagstones at £145 each for the Millennium path around the new Pencester bandstand, which was finally completed with 100 flagstones in 2001. Each stone was inscribed with an historic Dover event.

The Society acted as a catalyst to bring together interested parties in an attempt to improve the London Road area and offered congratulations to the owner of the former Buckland Wesleyan Church which he had restored and opened as the King's Hall.

Some members were invited to the opening of the purpose-built Bronze Age Boat gallery containing the excavated and preserved portion of the 3600 year old boat. The Society had donated £1250 to the trust fund set up to save, restore and maintain the craft.

A flood of consultation documents from KCC and DDC deluged the Planning Committee and Executive. One gave three options to be considered for the St. James' area redevelopment: either inclusion of a factory outlet or a superstore or a mixed development of high quality housing, restaurant and pubs - the last being favoured by the Society. The eventual DDC planning brief did not stipulate a superstore but that's what emerged as an essential anchor tenant! There was also a strange proposal for a funicular railway from Maison Dieu car park via an underpass to cross Maison Dieu Road, up

Godwyne Road to a tunnel under the castle moat, but the Society preferred a glazed lift from the sports centre up the castle cliff. As always, many grand ideas, but came to nothing.

Cowgate Cemetery



John Owen retired as projects leader after many years and many successful projects. With nobody prepared to take on the role, Barry Late agreed to coordinate projects with different leaders for each. A brainstorming session produced ideas for new projects - sponsorship of roundabouts and flower beds, restoration of the Gateway gardens fountain and even renovation of rundown properties. These ideas were soon overtaken by the Cowgate Cemetery project. This was prompted by two articles on Cowgate in the Newsletter - one by Paul Hadaway of the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership and the other by Derek Leach, following a guided walk round Cowgate led by member Martyn Webster. The Society was challenged to help with maintaining the closed Victorian cemetery as a haven for wild life, but also respecting it as a burial ground. Following a site meeting with WCCP we agreed to take on the maintenance of one of the eight sections, although once a power strimmer was employed progress was much quicker and by 2002 the Society was maintaining four sections. Two teams of volunteers each working once a month were formed with a third team to record all the (legible) headstones except the 400 previously recorded

by Mrs De Bourbel. Whilst DDC held a full list of burials there was no plan. 7624 bodies were interred from 1837 with up to 12 bodies per grave. Even fallen headstones were lifted temporarily to expose well-preserved inscriptions. In 2003 the Society provided the historical text for an interpretation panel at the cemetery and contributed £100 toward the cost. By 2004 the whole two acre cemetery was being maintained and the recording of inscriptions was completed after 3 years. In addition maps of the eight plots were made with the location and grave number of each recorded headstone. In addition the information was donated to the museum and a second book of maps was presented to DDC. The Kent Family History Society also made the information available on microfiche. The incredible maintenance project, coordinated by Jeremy Cope, continues.

Although a closed cemetery, the final burial occurred in 2006 when William Ebenezer Petchey, the last surviving member of the family of sextons who had maintained the cemetery for three generations was interred in the family plot.

2001

Budge Adams project



2001 started sadly with the death of Budge Adams in January at the age of 91. At his 90th birthday celebrations he said that his best present was having his driving licence

renewed for another three years, but sadly he did not make full use of it! The Newsletter contained tributes by the Chairman and both Vice Chairmen - a good man with a deep and lasting love of Dover who loved to look back but was also forward thinking; a man of strong views who expressed them. Budge maintained that he needed to live until he was 120 to do all that he wanted to do; it was not to be, but he had a jolly good try!

Budge's collection of over 100 books, maps and memorabilia plus more than 2000 slides were donated by the Adams family to the Society. This became quite a project. First, everything was catalogued over one winter. Then, in order to make them available to the public, the books and maps went on permanent loan to the library and the slides to the museum. Many of the slides were taken by Budge whilst others were borrowed and copied. Society volunteers, Bob Hollingsbee and Derek Leach, then scanned the slides onto the museum's database. The final stage was to publish a selection in book form as a tribute to Budge. Dover Tribute appeared in 2003. It proved immensely popular; members received a free copy and the public bought the rest within three weeks, making a reprint necessary, which also sold out.

DHB produced a highly controversial Westport project plan to cope with the expected increase in traffic by 2015. This was to be to the west of the Admiralty Pier with the loss of Shakespeare Beach.

At the 2001 AGM Jeremy relinquished the Chair after three years and Terry Sutton took over. Bill Naylor replaced Leo Wright as secretary who retired after 10 years at the age of 85. Hugh Gordon took over projects and Jack was made a Vice President.

Triangle Publications, now without Budge, decided to publish another book, entitled *Dover and the Monarchy 1066-1688*, based