

2014



## Connaught Hall

Dover Town Hall

### 4 Film Shows

Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th March 2014  
3.00pm & 7.30pm

**2013 Dover Film by Mike McFarnell**  
**1963 Dover Film by Ray Warner**

<b>Adults</b>	<b>£ 3.50</b>
<b>Senior Citizens</b>	<b>£ 3.00</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>£ 2.00</b>



Tickets can be purchased in advance from

- \* Dover Visitor Information Centre, Market Square, Dover
- \* 4 Harold Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1SF • Tel: 01304 201711

Tickets can also be purchased on the day

### Free programme

For a copy of the 2014 programme - available January 2014

Send a stamp addressed envelope to

The Dover Film Festival Society, 4 Harold Street, Dover. Kent CT161SF



## Stone Hall

**Pictorial exhibition of the work of  
Eddie Clapson, Press photographer**

Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th March 2013  
1.00pm to 8.50pm

**Free admission**

Organised by Dover Film Festival Society

# Connaught Park Pond

*At last the pond at the park has been refurbished  
and the fountain is working again.*



*Connaught Pond and Fountain*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**Sheila R. Cope Membership Secretary**

Our Newsletter distributors perform an excellent service for the Society and we are most grateful to them for saving us a considerable amount in postage, which as we all know to our cost, is always increasing. We must particularly thank Ken Palmer who has covered an extensive "round" for many years but has now been obliged to give up due to ill health. We manage to cover most areas of Dover unless they are particularly outlying and would welcome further help in the Temple Ewell area.

We number 459 and hope to welcome more new members at our autumn meetings.

Recent additions to our number include:- Mrs Y Miller (to whom we are grateful for volunteering as our Minute Secretary), Mr A & Mrs J Traylor, Mr R & Mrs S Knight, Mr J & Mrs M Cooper and Mr M and Mrs E Barker. We trust that they will all enjoy their membership.

# The Archcliff Fort Inn or The Archcliff Fort

Martin Atkins

A look at the life and times of  
one of Dover's lost pubs

In the winter edition of Channel Draught (Local branch magazine for the Campaign for Real Ale) we printed an account of a trip around the pubs of the old Dover Pier District at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The following is a more detailed account of what life might have been like in one of them drawn largely from local press reports.

*Up to about 1909 the inn seems to have been called The Archcliff Fort Inn and between 1909 and 1914 was spelt Archcliff and Archcliffe and after 1914 mainly spelt as Archcliffe. Ed.*

The pub took its name from the nearby fort which at one time dominated the area. It was a defensive measure dating from the time of Henry VIII and was largely demolished in 1927-8, although parts of it still remain. The formation of Bulwark Street in which the Archcliff Fort pub was sited commenced about 1800, but the origin of the pub itself is thought to be 1867. References to it as "Carter's ArchcliffeFort Inn", suggests that James Carter was the first keeper. In 1873 he handed over to Charles Parfitt.

*Extracts from the Dover Express and East Kent News*



Archcliff Fort Inn Bulwark Street 1900

## Friday, 19 May, 1874 Attempted Suicide

Samuel French, brought up in custody from the Union Hospital, was charged with attempting to commit suicide on the 18th of April last.

Charlotte Parfitt deposed: "I am the wife of Charles Parfitt, who keeps the "Archcliff Fort Inn." On the 12th of April, at about half-past twelve, prisoner came in and called for a pint of porter, and went into the parlour with two soldiers. They stayed there about 1½ hours, when the soldiers came out and asked if I would allow prisoner to lie down somewhere, and. I permitted him to lie down in the sitting-room. About seven or eight minutes afterwards I looked into the room and saw he had cut his throat. Dr. Colbeck and a Policeman were called, and prisoner was soon after removed to the hospital".

Police-constable Pilcher deposed: "On the 18th of April, about two in the afternoon, I was called to the Archcliff Fort Inn. I went to the front sitting room upstairs, and saw prisoner, who was being attended by Dr. Colbeck, lying on the floor with a wound in his throat and a large clasp-knife by his side."

Dr. Alfred Grandison deposed: "I am house surgeon at the Dover Hospital. On the 18th of April prisoner was brought in. I examined him and found he had been drinking hard for some time previous, being in a condition bordering on delirium tremens. I have no reason to suppose he is insane."

Samuel French informed the magistrates that he was a stableman from London, and was very sorry. "I was disappointed in getting work, and had more drink than was good for me, and did not know what I was about." He was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions, where, having subsequently found employment in the service of the Rev. Charles Oxenden, of Nonington, and expressing great regret, the Recorder's adjudged that: "you will enter into your own recognizance of £20 to come up for judgement when called upon, which means you will hear nothing further of the matter if you conduct yourself well

in the future."

*1874 seems to have been an interesting year for the Archcliff Fort.*

**Friday, 17 July, 1874**  
**Charge of Assault Against a Publican**

William Charles Parfitt, landlord of the "Archcliff Fort Inn," was summoned for assaulting Henry Knott. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Complainant deposed: "I am a labourer, and live at 37, Oxenden Street. On Saturday afternoon between one and two, I went into the "Archcliff Fort Inn," kept by defendant. I called for a glass of beer, and stood waiting for it, when defendant, who was behind the bar, without saying anything, up with his fist and struck me on the face. I asked him what he did it for, and he then took hold of my collar and ran me into the street. I did not say anything, but went to Mr.



*Archcliff Fort Inn 1874*



*Archcliffe Fort Now spelt with an e*



*Archcliffe Fort and Limekiln Street 1935*

Stillwell's office and got a summons for him."

Parfitt said in defence, that complainant came drunk into his house. When refused to be served, he began to use foul language, so he was ejected with gentle force. There being no witnesses the Bench could not say where the truth lay, and dismissed the case.

### ***Inquests***

At this time inquests were often held in pubs and two are recorded at the Archcliff Fort. Firstly, again in 1874, in December, of the drowning of a young crew member of the Trinity House Pilot Cutter, who fell into the Pent while crossing the dock gate at the Wellington Bridge; and secondly another drowning, this time in August 1980, of a soldier while swimming with his regiment at Shakespeare Beach.

### ***Tenancy***

The Parfitts appear to have left in the mid 1870s and tenancy details for the next couple of decades are scant. However from 1895 to 1901 the landlord was Mr. Frederick Buckingham whose death at Deal at the age of 70 was recorded in January 1909. For several years he was landlord of pubs in Dover, including the Archcliffe Fort, the Engineer and the Invicta. A former Metropolitan policeman who retired in 1882, he had at times been selected for duty at the Royal enclosures of various race courses, and spent many years guarding the Beckton gas facility from the activities of Fenians.

That the pub hosted inquests and had for a period a former policeman as landlord suggests that it might have been among the more reputable in a part of Dover not always considered to be particularly law



*Archcliffe Fort 1980 Barry Smith*

abiding. However, contemporary photographs would suggest a certain decline in status as World War I approached, many of the surrounding buildings appearing to have been demolished presumably to facilitate the expansion of the railways and other commercial developments.

In 1914 the business moved slightly when new premises were built a few yards distant on the site of a former shop. According to the *Dover Express*, a matter of just 10ft and really a technicality. Later it appears to have moved again. The *Dover Express* in February, 1924 reported the granting of an application from Messrs. A. C. Leney and Co for the removal of the licence from one side of the spur at the Viaduct to the other as a result of developments to railway services to the Pier.

This presumably, is the location that it occupied until it was finally demolished to make way for highway developments in the late 20th century. Leney was acquired by Maidstone brewer Fremlins in about 1930, which was itself taken over by Whitbread in the late 1960s.