

Walking along Crabble Avenue they heard the crash. Father and a policeman were first on the scene. Mother knocked on a door in Crabble Road, handed over Lillian to whoever opened the door and ran to help. What a lucky escape for Lillian who lived until she was almost 99!

Much of the blame fell on the tram driver, Albert Bissenden, who tried but failed to stop the tram and jumped clear before it crashed. He had been discharged from the wartime army because he had suffered a nervous breakdown and had only passed his tram driving test 19 days previously. At the inquest, many possible causes were explored, for instance, that the tram capacity was 48 but there were over 70 people on board - not uncommon apparently - but the decision of the coroner was 'death by misadventure' due to the inexperience and lack of judgement of the driver.

£13000 was paid out by the Corporation in compensation and the council rates had to be increased by 1/6 in the £ (7.5p) to pay for it.

So the brief wording of this plaque conceals what was a tragedy for many individuals and their families. Let us spend a moment in silence to remember this incident and its consequences.

Crabble Tram Accident - 19th August 1917

A detailed and complete article on the tram accident can be read on The Dover Historian. Privately owned and run by Lorraine Sencicle with her husband Alan this web site contains a large collection of historical articles from the town of Dover, England. All are well researched, well written and interesting articles. There are also articles on the many Dovers throughout the world. I highly recommend a visit to The Dover Historian, to do so go to <http://doverhistorian.com>

Editor

Please help... Magna Carta!

As part of the 2015 celebrations of the signing of Magna Carta 800 years ago an exhibition including Magna Carta is touring the country. It is hoped to bring the exhibition to Dover for the month of September, probably in the Town Hall. Dover Museum would be responsible for the arrangements, but we shall need quite a few volunteers over the month to 'mind' the exhibition. Could you please give a few hours in September?

If so, please contact Derek Leach on 823926 or email derekriverdale@btinternet.com and he will put you on the list and give you more information during the year.

Friends of Dover Museum

The Friends have now changed both the time and venue of their meetings which should prove more attractive to both existing and potential members.

Meetings are now taking place at The Silver Screen Cinema, Market Square, Dover CT16 1PH, on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30 pm. There is usually a talk with slides or film about a local historical subject.

There are various categories of membership - for example, senior joint membership is £20 - and visitors are always welcome, admission £3.

For further information please contact
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