

cross was painted on the front door as a warning. Guards were set up outside the houses bearing the cross to prevent anyone escaping while, in some parts of the country, nurses were hired to take food to the infected and their families. Those who were infected usually died in agony two or three days later. The town council ordered the burning of bonfires in parts of the town in the hope that the smoke would wipe out the infection. Dogs and cats were rounded up and killed.

Historians say that the villages of Lydden and Hougham had their populations decimated.

Carts, sometimes hauled by bullocks, carried the bodies to the graves that, at first, were dug in the town's cemeteries. But as the death toll grew the bodies, covered in sackings, were taken to the mass grave on the Western Heights near where Channel View Road is now.

It is reported that more than five hundred bodies were buried in a succession of pits there in a few weeks. One estimate suggests that nearly one thousand Dover people died from the plague during this terrible time. Not surprisingly the names of those who perished were not recorded as the authorities were overwhelmed.

The plague was in Dover in 1638 when Thomas Day was mayor of Dover. It was he who in 1649 had to tell the town's inhabitants that their king, Charles I, had been executed.

In many parts of the country town councils followed the example of the Privy Council and ordered closure of all inns and lodging houses.

The order to kill cats and dogs made matters worse because the rat population, probably the cause of the problem, grew and so did the number of fleas they carried.

Up On The Downs

We will be running a Get Up On The Downs Festival from 25th July to 9th August. It will include a variety of events from walks to art workshops to nature safaris and much more! To make sure you don't miss out sign up to our newsletter www.uponthedowns.org.uk or contact - Up on the Downs. c/o Dover District Council, Council Offices. White Cliffs Business Park. Dover CT16 3PJ. Tel: 01304 872138 E-mail: uponthedowns@dover.gov.uk

Coming soon to a venue near you!

Are you interested in meeting rockpool rock stars, sending drones into space, night-time walks in search of bats, cycling through rolling hills, or practicing yoga on the Downs? These are just a few of the ways you can get involved this summer during

our Up on the Downs Big Summer festival to enjoy our countryside and heritage!

Green Project Grants

These available for certain projects. Main grants for over £1,000. Small grants for less than £1000. Be sure to read the guidance notes before you apply. An introduction and guidance document has been produced to provide more detailed information about Landscape Heritage Grants. All successful grant applications will help us to achieve the scheme aims and objectives and, where applicable, will contribute to positive actions towards the scheme Landscape Character Areas.

It is recommended that you talk to the Landscape Heritage Grants Officer at Up on the Downs before making an application on 01304 872158.