

The  
Dover  
Society

# Newsletter

No. 83

July 2015



*The Buffs, East Kent Regiment under attack from the 1er Regiment de Lanciers de la Garde Imperiale, Les Polonais de Napoleon at Albuhera.*

This famous painting, titled "The Flag at Albuhera, 16 May 1811" by William Barnes Wollen was painted in 1912 and exhibited at the Royal Academy.



# 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

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On a sunny St George's Day the Reverend Dr John Walker conducted the Zeebrugge Raid commemoration. Our chairman Derek Leach paid our respects and laid a wreath on behalf of the Dover Society. A further ceremony followed at the WW2 memorial with the Mayor laying a wreath. Over 140 people attended these services including representatives of the Belgian government.

Attention is drawn to the Society outing to the city of Oxford and to the Christmas Feast/Lunch with a change of day this year to Sunday 13th December. Details of both appear inside the back cover. A booking form for each is included with this newsletter.

Heritage Open Days this year run from Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th September. This year a Town Hall exhibition features the Faversham 1300 Magna Carta. Full opening times of Dover events can be found on page 33.

Although we have not yet achieved our goal of 500 members we are getting ever closer. If you know of anyone who would like to become a member then bring them to a meeting. If you require a membership form then please contact either Sheila Cope or me. Contact details are inside the front cover.

If you would like to become involved in any of our work parties or various sub-committees please contact any committee member. We welcome your involvement.

With great sadness I must inform the members of the passing of Mrs Pam Taylor. For many years she helped in the production of the Dover Society newsletter as a proof reader. One of the most helpful people I have ever known, she will be greatly missed. Condolences go to her family.

Alan Lee

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## DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 84 will be Wednesday 2nd September 2015. 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. Copy on computer disc or by e-mail is acceptable. Pictures via e-mail must be as high a resolution as possible in JPEG. Please ring 01304 213668 to discuss details.

*Publication in the Newsletter does not imply the Society's agreement with any views expressed, nor does the Society accept responsibility for any statements made.*

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\* \* \* \* \*

## DOVER GREETERS

Dover Greeters are volunteers greeting visitors to Dover. We love doing it and invite you to come and try it once!

**Tel: 01304 206458**

# Jack Woolford Tribute

Derek Leach

Jack Woolford was born in Hartlepool, gained a State Scholarship to Cambridge and graduated with First Class Honours in History. After spending six years in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, he came to Kent and Dover where he was an Adult Education Tutor in History for the Universities of Kent and Oxford until he retired.



*Jack's 90th 07-06-07  
by John Marvin*

Like many who settle in Dover, Jack fell in love with the town – its past, present and future. It was, therefore, inevitable when the New Dover Group was founded in 1964 that he joined and later became its chairman. The Group soon boasted several hundred members. It was formed to act as a watchdog over the town's redevelopment, taking an active interest in town planning, history and archaeology and playing a leading role in lobbying for archaeological digs off the Market Square to save Roman remains from the York Street redevelopment. The Group also helped organise the 1965 Dover History exhibition in the Town Hall and was in the forefront of the campaign for a Dover bypass (Jubilee Way).

The New Dover Group was wound up in 1981, but when a small group suggested the formation of a new Dover civic society in 1988, Jack was the obvious choice as its first Chairman with ideas that enabled it to last and thrive. He saw the necessity for a social programme that the New Dover Group had lacked. On summer outings he

always made a speech thanking the organiser setting the right tone and standard. Jack remained chairman of The Dover Society for 10 years but continued as Chairman of the Society's Planning Sub-Committee, which scrutinises all planning applications, and represented the Society at meetings of the town council's Town and Environment Committee. Jack was made an Honorary Freeman of Dover in 2010 for service to the town.

He also played an active role in the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and was Chairman for many years.

You have heard about Jack's life - his academic achievements, his career in education and his passion for The Dover Society.

## **But what sort of man was Jack?**

As our first Chairman from 1987, over the next 10 years, largely due to Jack's efforts, the Society became Dover's highly respected civic and amenity society – a reputation it holds today with almost 500 members. Jack was also our Planning Committee Chairman long after he retired as Society Chairman.

Jack was a gentleman of the old school. A man of principle with a sense of humour. He would not speak at meetings until his raised hand caught the eye of the Chairman. He was a master of the English language both written and spoken, choosing his words carefully and with

telling effect, often with dry wit.

Classical music was a passion and Jack organised a number of successful concerts for us.

He loved a drink and always invited visitors to 1066 a glass of his home made brew - or something even stronger. Around his birthday he would bring champagne to our Executive meeting. Over the years he was always involved in the Society's physical activities despite his disabilities: relining Lydden Pond, planting trees in Lousyberry Wood after the 1987 hurricane, clearing litter from the Dour and the beach and maintaining Cowgate Cemetery well into his 80s where he always enjoyed a pint at the Mogul pub after a

hard morning's work, except on his birthday when it was champagne once again.

The Dover Society, he said in his latter years, kept him alive, but eventually not even his passion for The Society and Dover could defy *anno domini*. We shall miss you Jack.



*Jack's Birthday 2004 - Cowgate Cemetery*

## Dover Town Council Pays Tribute to Jack Woolford

— Terry Sutton —

Our former chairman, the late Jack Woolford, received a unique tribute at this year's annual mayor-making ceremony. It was the first time Dover Town Council has requested such a tribute during an official annual meeting of the council.

At the call by the mayor, one of our vice-presidents and an Honorary Freeman of Dover, Terry Sutton, provided the tribute reminding those present at the Town Hall that Jack, aged 97 at his death, was the town's oldest Honorary Freeman.

"Jack, like many others from the North of England, quickly fell in love with our town. He did something many strive to do but seldom achieve. But thanks to his long and honourable service, Jack departed Dover a better place than when he arrived here 69 years ago. Let us follow Jack's example and work for the betterment of our town," said Terry.

The mayor, councillors and the guests stood in silence in memory of Jack and others who had died in the previous 12 months.

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# MEMBERSHIP NEWS - SUMMER 2015

Sheila R. Cope Membership Secretary

Our numbers stand at 490 although a few subscriptions are still awaited. I am most grateful to those who pay up on time and without reminders.

If you are in a position to do so and an income tax payer, please consider completing the Gift Aid section of the membership form so that the Society may benefit from approximately 25% increase in the value of your subscription. Now that mailing costs are so high your Gift Aid will just about cover the price of the stamps if you are a postal member. This leads me to reiterate our thanks to all our local newsletter distributors whose sterling work contributes so much towards maintaining the low cost of our subscriptions.

In addition to the death of our former Chairman and founding father Jack Woolford we lost in March two other members who have served the Society faithfully, namely Barry Late and Lt. Cmdr. John Owen (Ret'd). Both had a Service background; Barry first came to Dover as a Junior Leader and John served in the Royal Navy. Both belonged to

the Cowgate team and Barry had been organiser for some time. They served on the executive committee of the Society and were concerned with several undertakings among which Barry was involved with painting "leopard" bollards in the town. John was project manager for several years and organised annual litter clearance competitions in conjunction with the Sea Cadets and other youth groups. He was also involved with the planting of Lousyberry wood and the restoration of Lydden pond. In conjunction with all their other admirable qualities we remember John for his loyalty and good nature, Barry for his wit and attention to detail. Both are sorely missed. We send our sincere condolences to Ann Owen and Jill Late and their families.

We welcome these new members: Mr R & Mrs D Stone, Mr R Costa & Ms I Betancourt, Mr J Simmonds, Mrs J Reynolds, Mrs B Hansom, Mr R & Mrs L Maclure, Mrs J Goodacre, Mrs N Goodacre, Mr K & Mrs L Biles and we hope that they will enjoy and be able to take part in our many activities.

## River Dour Partnership Jeremy Cope

I regret to say that Ray Newsam has resigned as Chairman. Ray showed commitment and a passion for the river but feels he must move on. We will miss him but we have to find a new Chair and find a group of three or four volunteers who are prepared to attend meetings, work on plans to develop the river and worst of all deal with the paperwork. The change in the relationship between the Environment Agency and groups such as ours means that, as in so many local matters, it is now up to voluntary groups to take things forward if they want to change things for the better. We are responsible for getting the river up to EU water standards. Funding has

changed and needs a drive to attract money to the Dour for our projects.

Since Ray's last report things have stalled, somewhat apart from the Dour Volunteers who, under the guidance of White Cliffs Country Partnership, clear the river of litter. They continue to do an excellent job attracting much commendation from passers-by.

I hope to be able to deal with progress on potential fish passes and other opportunities when I next report but it does call for volunteers prepared to make the necessary commitment.

# MARCH MEETING

First Speaker

## Some Peculiarities of Kent Churches

A Talk by Derek Leach

Reported by Alan Lee

After his retirement Derek followed in the footsteps of his local hero, Ivan Green, and between 2000 and 2008 visited every village in Kent. Armed with Pevsner he visited some 600 villages. Paying particular attention to the parish churches he made copious notes and took some 2,000 photographs. Of these he used about 50 to illustrate his talk.

He noticed some eye-catching early windows at Speldhurst, designed by

Victorian William Morris, they feature six angels.

The Otford hatchments are heraldic paintings. They were originally hung above the dead person's doorway. After burial they were then hung on the church wall until a memorial or tomb was erected, many were never removed. This custom has been around since about 1700.

A number of churches display royal coats of arms, a rare James II one appears at West Malling.



Heart Shrine Leybourne 1271

Memorial plaques abound. At All Saints Church, Biddenden one commemorates two local martyrs burned at the stake, in Bloody Mary's reign for standing by their faith, William Waterer (at Canterbury 15th January 1557) and Thomas Stephens (at Wye 16th January 1557). *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* quotes, they "were committed unto the fire, and there consumed to ashes, by Thornton, called bishop or suffragan of Dover, otherwise called Dick of Dover, and by Nicholas Harpsfield, the archdeacon of the said province." At Teston Rev James Ramsay and his black servant Nestor are commemorated. Nestor, who died before the rector is also commemorated in the name of nearby Nestor Court, a little cul-de-sac of modern houses a few yards from the church. Hothfield has a plaque to Sir Arthur Sullivan, composer of *The Lost Chord*, first played on their organ.

Numerous churches contain wall paintings, originally a means to get the biblical message over to the illiterate. Over the years these became more diversified. Unusually at Snargate is a painting of a ship, c1500, and at Challock Millenium paintings depict life in the village.

Wall items include, at Smarden, a wafer oven for baking unleavened bread for communion. At Leybourne two crowns given by Edward I in 1286. Also here is the heart shrine of 1271, the left casket contains the heart of Sir Roger de Leybourne, the right one, meant for his wife's heart, is empty as she remarried after his death and is buried elsewhere.

At Staplehurst is an Anchorite cell. Used by a priest who wanted to lead a life of isolation he would be given the last rites before being walled up for the remainder of his life. The opening or squint allowed him to still see the altar, a small exterior opening allowed food to be passed in and waste removed.

At Kemsing Derek came across the only tester, a sounding board, he found over an altar. While Cranbrook has a vertical baptistery, rare in an Anglican church and dating from 1725.

He found a rare altar tomb, for the Scott family at Brabourne dating between 1290 and 1562. At Cranbrook from the Middle Ages a Chrysom child. This is an effigy of a swaddled infant who died within the first few months of life.

At Hythe in the 13th century the chancel floor was raised to build an ambulatory (a vaulted passage) beneath the sanctuary. For centuries used as an ossuary (bone-house) it was found to contain about 8,000 thigh bones and 590 skulls from the 14th and 15th century.

A most unusual notice was spotted by Derek in the church at Teynham, this allowed the wearing of hats by men in the church.

Discovered at Acrise was the grave of the 34th Chief of the Clan MacKinnon, William Alexander (lands on Mull and Skye) was MP for Lymington and home was Acrise House. Another notable grave found, at St Mary in the Marsh, was that of E. E. Nesbit author of 'The Railway Children'.

Derek finished his talk with 'Pips graves' at Cooling. These 10 children's gravestones (all died between 1771 and 1780 and all under 17 months old) are arranged around their parents (Michael and Jane Comport) graves. The 3 gravestones together (died aged 1, 3 and 5 months) are the children of John and Sarah Anne Rose-Baker (daughter of Michael and Jane). The children all apparently died of ague (malaria). The graves are said to have inspired Charles Dickens to write 'Great Expectations'.



*Pip's Graves Cooling*

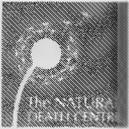
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## March Meeting - Second Speaker

# Channel Swimming

A Talk by Mike Read

Reported by Terry Sutton

Dover, because of its geographic position, has always been the centre for the international sport of swimming the English Channel.

Mike Read, who has swum the Strait 33 times was our guest speaker at St Mary's parish centre on March 16 when he claimed channel swimming injected some £5 million into the economy of Dover and Folkestone.

Mr Read, President of the internationally recognised Channel Swimming Association, commented it was a pity that locally there was not more active interest in the sport. He appealed for any volunteers who might like to join the team of official observers who went on swims to ensure crossings were completed correctly.

With his 33 successes (three from France to England) Mr Read is the CSA's "King of the Channel". But there are now two rival associations (the other is the Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation) and their Kevin Murphy has logged up 34 successful solo crossings. So Kevin also claims to be King of the Channel!

Since Captain Webb's pioneer channel swim in August 1875 the English Channel has been swum by around 1,426 people who have made nearly 2,000 solo crossings (some have done it more than once).

Mike Read, who screened images of his and other swims, told us how the sport was much more professional than when he started. Today there are more official safety



*Mike Read*

regulations while the French authorities were far stricter about what was going on in their territorial waters.

He also explained that today many swimmers went into the water from Samphire Hoe instead of the traditional starting off point of Shakespeare Beach.

The reason for this was to take swimmers, and their accompanying pilot boat, away from the normal approach route of the ferries heading for Dover harbour. Today, he reported, all the CSA pilots were based at Folkestone.

Mike also explained why, because of tides and currents, it was more difficult to swim from England to France than in the other direction.

Captain Matthew Webb's pioneer 21-hour swim would not be recognised today as a success under CSA rules because he went into the sea by jumping off one of Dover's piers. Today all successful swimmers must set off from dry land and walk clear onto dry land on the other side of the channel.



*Channel Swimming Association 1901*



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# The Dover Society AGM 2015

## Report by the Chairman Derek Leach

This is my 11th annual report. Some of you have had to listen to the report each year and still you come back for more!

### Membership

Our membership has risen to the highest number ever, 487 as we creep toward my target of 500. It does mean that you have to continue your membership as well as encouraging relatives, friends and work colleagues to join. Is there any business or organisation that can boast of not increasing its charges since 1996? It is also pleasing to see some younger new members. If you are new and want to be actively involved in The Society's work please have a word with me or any of the Executive. Our thanks as always go to our membership secretary, Sheila Cope.

During the year we lost Mr Jack Woolford, a Vice President and Mrs Sybil Standing, one of our founder members, as well as Mr Brian Powell, Mrs Jean Baldwin, Mr David Pennington, Mr Harry Hutchison, Mr Martin Fuller, Mr Jeffrey Steed, Mr Peter Terry, Mrs Daphne Davis, Mr Laurie Brooks, Mr Barry Late and Mr John Owen. May I invite you to stand whilst we remember all those members who have died in the past year.

### So what have we been up to?

When people ask what does The Society do, rather than trot out our formal objectives, I always say we are passionate about Dover's past, its present and its future. As always your Executive Committee has been very active on all

three fronts.

At a strategic level we continue to meet DDC Directors every 6 months to raise concerns and to hear about any progress on local projects, but let's get down to some detail.

### Planning and development

On the planning front Patrick Sherratt and his committee continued to keep an eagle eye on routine planning applications and making representations to DDC when necessary.

We have continued to monitor progress or lack of progress on the various regeneration schemes.

Public frustration at the lack of progress on DTIZ culminated in a special DDC Scrutiny Committee meeting where we were invited to speak. However, the blighted St. James area redevelopment moved forward significantly during the year with a number of commercial occupiers signed up and construction underway of a block of flats (hidden at the moment by very attractive hoarding which we lobbied for). Recently the Compulsory Purchase Order for the remaining properties was approved by the Minister allowing at long last the demolition of Burlington House, the County Hotel and the multi-storey carpark - Paul Watkins has promised within 6 months. Centurion House in Bench Street was also demolished where our pleas for trees and an attractive false facade to cover the exposed bare walls of adjoining properties

were accepted by DDC. As part of the redevelopment we have urged DDC to provide 30 minutes free parking.

The new Buckland polyclinic will soon be completed and our campaign to retain surplus land for much needed intermediate care beds moved a step nearer with the site earmarked for community use and the Clinical Commissioning Group considering the possibility (bearing in mind the big problem of hospital bed blocking).

The long standing problem of freight lorries queuing to get into the Eastern Docks along A20/Townwall Street, often causing gridlock to the town, came to a head this winter with the Channel Tunnel fire coinciding with the usual reduction in ferry capacity due to annual refits. Our regular Dover problem quickly became a county and national problem with the implementation of Operation Stack - only the 4th time since 2010. Now The Society, DDC, the Port and Community Forum, our MP, and KCC are making strenuous efforts and lobbying Government to find solutions in both the short and longer term. Operation Stack, designed for emergencies, is not the answer for Dover or anybody else. Already work is underway to halt lorries before the Aycliffe roundabout when Eastern Docks are full.

We have lobbied long and hard for the multi-storey car park to serve Dover Priory only to find that its planned capacity has been halved!

Whilst we welcomed the Western Heights masterplan for future planning guidance we applied to DDC for The Citadel to be put on the Community Asset Register to guard against any future sale by the government direct to a developer without any local opportunity to secure a future

sympathetic to its heritage. This would allow the local community 6 months to make a purchase offer, but, disappointingly, our application was rejected.

The Port of Dover's ambitious Western Docks Revival plan was generally welcomed although we pleaded for quality buildings and landscaping particularly when seen from the seafront and the Western Heights.

We supported the owner of Castle Hill House's objections to the introduction of a high pressure washing facility for cars and lorries affecting the Grade II\* property and were dismayed that the DDC Planning Committee approved the retrospective planning application against the recommendations of its Planning Department.

We have also pursued the loss of trees in conservation areas.

### **DHB: An eventful year for the port and community**

Relations between the local community and the Harbour Board continued to improve and develop during the year. The Port and Community Forum, which I chair, is proving a useful forum for the community, port authority, the local authorities and others to keep abreast of developments in the town and port and to raise concerns such as the Townwall Street congestion problem, the need to improve links between the town and the seafront and the need for a fulltime tourism officer for Dover town.

The Society was very well represented at the public workshops held by DHB regarding the proposals for the Western Docks, Community Directors and the Port Community Fund.

We welcomed the Minister's approval of a new Harbour Revision Order giving DHB up to date and flexible financial powers to allow joint ventures, the ability to borrow against its assets and to enhance DHB's contribution to town regeneration by the setting up of a Port Community Fund.

As PCF Chairman I was also involved in the selection of the first Community Directors of DHB and the Society was asked to nominate a member of the new independent Port Community Fund panel who will be responsible for spending the fund. Roger Knight agreed to be our representative and the first grants will be made during this summer. The Bluebird Heritage Trail group of the PCF which I chair has worked hard to produce a Heritage Lottery Fund application which is now with our HLF adviser for comment before formal submission.

#### **Refurbishment or making the best of what we already have in the town.**

Our campaign led by Patrick Sherratt to see the exteriors of dilapidated buildings improved under the local authority Section 215 powers continued to produce results, not only those properties receiving warning letters from DDC but also others making improvements before falling foul of the law. The building at the corner of Bench Street/Townwall Street is a good example of what a coat of paint can achieve. The issue of a warning improvement letter also appears to have resulted in the demolition of the former cinema.

Our Refurbishment Committee, chaired by Jeremy Cope, continues to make an impact. Our campaign for so-called zero tolerance of antisocial behaviour, litter dropping and litter clearance both in the town and on the A2 and A20 continues as do regular meetings with the Dover police

inspector.

Jeremy & Co have also battled with KCC to make a safe pedestrian route from the Bleriot Memorial to Langdon Cliffs and have convinced KCC that it still exists legally.

Sylvie Parsons had to abandon her efforts to brighten up Dover Priory Station with flower beds as the railway authority failed to maintain them as agreed. Sylvie continues to brighten up the town.

Several members of the Society are heavily involved in the Big Local project. With its business development plans approved, the £1 million of lottery money to be spent over the next ten years is now available to help improve the town and the life of its people. With so much money now involved The Society will pass on its role as the Dover Big Local 'treasurer'.

We, with others, complained to Morrisons about the abandonment throughout the town of their free trolleys causing them to reverse their policy.

We have also sought a complete review of the town's traffic system - speed restrictions, catering for pedestrians and the efficiency of the one way system.

DDC convened a meeting recently of DTC, KCC, Kent Highways, DHB plus the Society, Big Local and Town Team representatives to discuss the need for an effective town transport system for people living, working and shopping locally, bearing in mind the various developments around the town. One idea is to use one carriageway of York Street as a transport hub cum bus station only a stones throw from the town centre and the DTIZ area. The need for better access to the seafront was once again a priority. Hopefully this

initial meeting will be the first of several intended to improve communication between those who can make a difference to Dover.

### **Projects**

On the heritage front the success of Heritage Open Days in Dover continued with once again 10 properties open free of charge for the September weekend. Our long term campaign to restore the Town Hall to something like its Victorian splendour in partnership with DDC and DTC made some progress at last with the appointment by the Steering Group, comprising DDC, DTC and myself representing The Society, of consultants to make recommendations about the future use and management of the Town Hall, bearing in mind the need for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to restore the building. The report is expected at the end of April. Interesting ideas are emerging, but, of course, funding will be critical. The Society has contributed £1000 toward the cost of consultants from its Town Hall Fund.

Our gallant band of volunteers continued with guided tours of the building every Wednesday.

Another dedicated band of volunteers led by Jeremy Cope continued to maintain the whole of Cowgate Cemetery with their fortnightly work parties.

Taking the River Dour Group under our wing enabled the group to raise funds for river improvements. Ray Newsam and his team are pursuing several exciting projects. Ray would like more volunteers to help with river clean ups and also on the organisational side.

Members Denise Smith and Liz Dimech have formed a new group under The Society's umbrella, Dover Heritage

Volunteers, offering cruise passengers and other visitors guided walks around the town.

We erected yet another Society blue plaque in January, this time to commemorate the tragic River tram accident of 1917. Our plaque commemorating the dropping of the first bomb on England in 1914 was the venue for a short ceremony marking the centenary of the event.

### **More of the same**

Now I turn to regular activities which are part and parcel of The Society and perhaps taken for granted, but no less important.

### **Social programme**

Our winter series of meetings continue to be well supported and I thank Beverley Hall for making the hall arrangements and her happy band of kitchen helpers, Mike Weston our wine waiter and Denise Lee our Queen of the Raffle. Our summer outings, organised so well by Pat and Patrick Sherratt were well supported. Our pilgrimage to First World War cemeteries was so popular that a second trip was quickly arranged. Who could forget the September visit to the Walpole Bay Hotel at Cliftonville for a cream tea and tour?

Our Christmas Feast held in the Town Hall at lunchtime was a big success once again with over 100 attending.

### **Publicity**

Our Newsletter expertly edited by Alan Lee continues to be highly regarded and we are indebted to all the contributors, Jean Marsh our advertising manager, the proof readers, the envelope stuffers and all our distributors for their efforts. The excellent website, managed by Mike McFarnell keeps members up to date and helps to interest internet browsers not only in the Society but in Dover as well. Terry

Sutton's regular press reports also help to keep The Society in the public eye and we continue to provide a Dover Society article in the Dover Life magazine. We have resisted so far Facebook or tweeting!

### Representation

As usual I represented The Society at the moving St. George's Day commemoration of the Zeebrugge Raid and we also laid wreaths at the Remembrance Services at the Town war memorial and at The Society's plaque to the Unknown Warrior at the Western Docks. Several of us attended the moving Dove of Peace event at Christmas at the former Marine Station.

### Thanks

In my report I have mentioned a number of people, but have not thanked that essential backroom boy, our efficient treasurer, Mike Weston, who will shortly dazzle you with his annual accounts, and Yvonne Miller, who has the thankless task of taking the Executive minutes, and every other member of the Executive for their efforts. I must also thank our Audit Committee and all those members who have contributed in any way to the work of this great Society. That concludes my report of yet another very busy year.

I submit my report for your consideration.

## Retirement of our President Brigadier Maurice Atherton CBE



Maurice and Wendi Atherton Dov Soc AGM 2015

**M**aurice has decided that it is time to retire as our President. Maurice succeeded the Countess of Guilford in 1993 since when he and Wendi have taken a keen interest in all that the Society does and have supported the Executive in a

number of ways including hosting a lunch annually at their lovely home. Maurice will be difficult to replace, but I am sure you will continue to support us from the 'back benches'.

The Society would like to show its appreciation with this gift of a tree *Prunus 'Accolade'* [ornamental flowering cherry]

*Prunus 'Accolade' is an excellent flowering tree with a superb display of pale-pink, semi-double flowers that signal the arrival of spring. The colourful flowers appear even on young trees and mature trees can be absolutely smothered in pink blossom. The leaves are dark green in summer, with some orange/red autumn colour.*

Wendi was also presented with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Society by our youngest member Denise Lee.

# The Dover Society - Financial Report

An extract from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st. March 2015

The following extract from our accounts represents the statement of financial activities and the balance sheet. The supporting notes to the accounts are not reproduced due to lack of space. However, the complete accounts are available for inspection upon request to our Treasurer, Capt. Mike Weston [telephone 01304 202059] or Email [mike@weston71.freerve.co.uk].

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Newsletter Binders	264	285
Debtors and Prepayment	252	252
Shares gifted to Society	3,080	1,599
Cash at bank and in Hand	<u>117,019</u>	<u>38,422</u>
	120,615	40,558
<b>CREDITORS:</b> Amounts falling		
Due within one year	(1,396)	(1,376)
Money held on behalf of Dover Big Local	<u>(82,797)</u>	<u>(5,242)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>36,422</u>	<u>33,940</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>£36,422</u>	<u>£33,940</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	<u>£36,422</u>	<u>£33,940</u>

The Society's Funds are represented by:

The General Fund	23,864
Rolls Memorial Fund	50
Projects Fund	439
Publication Fund	3,363
Town Hall Fund	7,561
River Dour Partnership	1,145
	<u>£36,422</u>

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year Ended 31<sup>st</sup>. March 2015

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>General Fund 2015</b>	<b>General Fund 2014</b>
Subscriptions	2,694	2,566
Donations	47	163
Social Events	489	816
Gift Aid attracted by Subs etc to General Fund	534	546
Bank Account Interest	44	31
Surplus on Badges	8	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>3,816</u></b>	<b><u>4,123</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Members and Meeting expenses	69	(28)
Administrative Expenses	771	867
Newsletter Expenses	1,448	1,645
Other Items [including donations]	141	330
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>2,429</u></b>	<b><u>2,814</u></b>
<b>NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>1,309</b>
Total Funds Brought Forward	<u>22,477</u>	<u>21,168</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u>£23,864</u></b>	<b><u>£22,477</u></b>

Capt. M.H. Weston



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# April AGM Celebrating Wellington and the Battle of Waterloo

A talk by Rowena Willard-Wright  
English Heritage

Reported by the Merril Lilley



Rowena Willard-Wright

Following the AGM on 20th April our speaker, Rowena Willard-Wright chose an appropriate subject to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, 1815. This was of particular interest as it focused on Walmer Castle, one of our most popular English Heritage attractions with all its associations with the Duke of Wellington.

Leading up to Waterloo the Duke visited Deal many times and knew the town.



*The Duke of Wellington, by Sir Thomas Lawrence*

Following Waterloo he went into politics and became Prime Minister of the Tory party in January 1828. On 20th January 1829 he became Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and then resided at Walmer Castle for one third of every year.

Much has been written about the Duke and of his famous victory when he defeated Napoleon's armies at Waterloo. Our speaker outlined his exploits and career leading to the battle, including his successes in the Peninsula war and his progress through France and Spain.

She went on to tell us of the exhibition of Wellington memorabilia at Walmer Castle and its recent update and urged us to visit and see it for ourselves. Go to see the Duke's room and look at the wallpaper and carpets, as near as possible to its appearance as how the room looked when the Duke was there. It has his military camp bed which went everywhere with him. Wellington died at the castle and his room and the chair in which he died are as they were on the morning of 14th September 1852.

As well as the Duke's room there are two display rooms dealing with Wellington's life and legacy. Visitors can see pictures, models, busts, pottery, letters, relics,

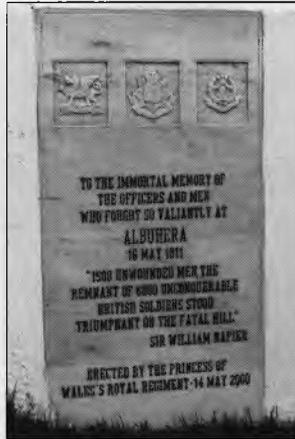
tickets, toys and games. The most well-known item is a pair of Wellington boots.

There is a mirror with a pincushion (1807) decorated with a single-sided copy of a medal commemorating the Battle of Talavera. Talavera is the setting for *Sharpe's Eagle*, the first book written in Bernard Cornwall's "Sharpe" series.

Among the medals is a bronze medal celebrating the Battle of Salamanca (1812) and the liberation of Madrid after which Wellington was created an earl and later a marquis, becoming commander of the allied armies in Spain.

In 1813 he won a silver medal celebrating Vitoria, the final battle of the Peninsula War, won when the Marquis of Wellington, he later became Duke. This medal was awarded at a Grand Military Festival held in Vauxhall Gardens in London under the chairmanship of the Duke of York, the commander-in-chief of the army. A grand dinner of a thousand gentlemen at two guineas a head began at nine in the evening. The Duke's party sat in a semi-circle in the rotunda with gold plate displayed behind them along with a bust of Wellington, the standard of the 100th French regiment taken in battle and the baton of Marshal Jourdan. Wellington was not there. He was far too busy fighting the war.

The toys in the display include a theatrical sheet of the Battle of Waterloo for Pollock's toy theatres (late nineteenth century), a game of Wellington's victories (c.1850s) and



*Memorial Albuhera*

a German tin flat toy soldier of the Duke on his horse Copenhagen (c.1910). Throughout the nineteenth century Wellington was idolised in children's books and games as the model military hero.

There are so many interesting exhibits I will not attempt to list them all. From the Great War there is a whisky jug, (1915) with portraits of Wellington and Kitchener who was Secretary of State for War (1914-1916). Comparisons between the First World

War and the Napoleonic wars and Waterloo were already being made, its legacy in memory of the victorious nation. Our speaker adds that on 4th August, 1914, Margot Asquith wrote in her diary, "I can truthfully say that this has been the greatest moment of my life and the greatest moment in British Politics since Waterloo".

### **The death of the Duke 1852**

One section of a display room features the death of the Duke. The bronze death mask, from a plaster cast by the sculptor George Gammon Adams, was made three days after the Duke's death.

While the funeral was arranged thousands of mourners, including the queen, paid respects to the Duke at Chelsea hospital where he was lying in state. The clamour was so great that three people died in the crush.

There is a ticket to the Duke's funeral where twenty thousand people assembled at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1852. A view of the cortege approaching the cathedral shows the carriage made from cannon captured at Waterloo, weighing over 18 tons and drawn

by twelve dray horses. There are other relics. A letter, describing the funeral, from George Campbell, 8th Duke of Argyll, to Lord John Russell. Velvet upholstery from the coffin. A piece of the pall, removed after the funeral by the Duke's butler, Christopher Collins. Commemorative items from 1852 include a Staffordshire figure of the Duke seated on a chair, an opaque glass bust of Wellington and an electroplated silver mourning brooch.

Although Rowena Willard-Wright entitled her talk 'Celebrating Wellington and Waterloo' in addition she told us much more about Walmer Castle. English Heritage has recently spent £80,000 on updating and refurbishment, the Duke's room, the display rooms and William Pitt's bedroom and library. There is so much for visitors to see in the new exhibition which should be a great attraction this summer.



Wellington's Campaign Bed



Wellington's Famous Boots



Death Mask

## Footnote from Merrill - Wellington at Waterloo in Fiction

### **Georgette Heyer. An Infamous Army.**

Wellington ... "Do not congratulate me! I have lost all my dearest friends ... I am quite heart-broken at the loss I have sustained" ... I have never fought such a battle and I trust I shall never fight such another. War is a terrible evil!"

### **The Spanish Bride.**

"At the last there was hardly a senior officer left standing". "Not the Duke?" "No he came through untouched. By Jove, it was as well he did so. We could not have done the thing without him. You know his way! Wherever the line was weakest, there he was, cool as if upon a field day. While we could see his hook-nose amongst us there was no thought of retreating!"

### **Cynthia Harrod-Eagles. The Campaigners, book 14 in the Morland Dynasty series.**

"I've brought the casualty list for my regiment sir", Danby said, "I wanted to offer my congratulations, sir. It was a remarkable victory—". Oh, don't

congratulate me!" the Duke cried out. "I've lost all my friends! Canning, Gordon—! Dear God! There's nothing more horrible than a battle won except a battle lost!" "But you did win, sir. It's all down to your account- every last man in the army knows that," said Danby. "It was the closest run thing I ever saw the Duke said "I don't mind telling you."

### **Bernard Cornwall. Sharpe's Waterloo**

Where Sharpe has to play a leading role! "Don't give them a chance to stand!" A commanding voice rose clear among the smoke and chaos. The Duke, cantering on his horse behind the victorious battalions, was staring intently at the fleeing French. Don't let them stand. Go forward ... the Duke's eyes had missed nothing and he was not graceless at this moment of salvation. "Mr. Sharpe I am beholden to you. That is your battalion now. So take it forward."

Bernard Cornwall's first non-fiction book, *Waterloo*, is now available in paperback.

# SOCIETY OUTING

## Portsmouth Historic Dockyard Saturday 16th May 2015

Wendi Atherton

An early (7am) start and a 3-hour coach ride took us to Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard, arriving just in time to avoid the usual Saturday morning queues for tickets, on a lovely sunny day. With so much to see, a conducted tour would have been impossible for over 30 people, so with the aid of a descriptive leaflet and plan, we were free to explore individually those attractions that most interested us. We personally made straight for the furthest away - the Mary Rose Museum, which proved to be a quite astounding exhibition, and a tribute to the imaginative use of modern technology to display and interpret, with plenty of interactive items to interest or amuse young and old. The entry is through timed air-lock doors, to preserve the atmospherically-controlled interior whilst conservation work is still being carried out.

The "Mary Rose" was Henry VIII's flagship, built in 1510, and he watched as she sank in 1545 - the cause of the sinking is still not proven, but one theory is that the ship had fired one broadside at approaching French ships in the Solent, and in turning to fire again, dipped her open gun-ports below the water and sank - shades of the "Herald of Free Enterprise" came to mind. Since the dramatic raising of the ship in 1982, kept under constant spraying with fresh water to prevent drying out, she has been on display to the public since 1983 under a temporary

cover; the new permanent museum opened in 2013 - the concept of which is based on an oyster shell, with the Mary Rose the pearl at its centre. The museum is on three deck levels, with three galleries running the length of the ship - only about half of the ship was preserved by being buried in the silt, and this is displayed through viewing windows in a dividing wall. After 'rinsing' the salt water out, the timbers were then sprayed with polyethylene glycol for several years, and now it is being air-dried through huge black fabric tubes suspended throughout the ship; the dividing wall is expected to be removed by 2017. The other side of the walkway displays some of the thousands of artefacts recovered, and presented in galleries as they were found - surgeon, carpenter, etc.

The Mary Rose Museum has won over 20



*The Mary Rose © The Mary Rose Trust*

awards for excellence in design, construction, exhibition, conservation, visitor experience, education and innovation, and received recognition on Saturday 16th May 2015 when it was awarded a Special Commendation at the European Museum of the Year Awards 2015.

After a snack lunch in the museum, the next visit was the HMS "Victory", sited right next door. Built in 1765 at Chatham, she was George III's largest battleship, and gained renown as Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar; she is the oldest surviving warship in the world, had a crew of 820 and 100 guns or more. She first saw service in 1778 at Ushant, was battle-scarred after the Battle of Cape St Vincent (1797), thereafter being fitted out as a hospital ship. However, by 1799 she underwent an extensive 3-year "Great Repair" to become a first-rate ship again, and ready for service with Nelson in the Mediterranean in 1803. At the Battle of Trafalgar she was severely damaged, but after emergency repairs at Gibraltar, limped home to Portsmouth, carrying Nelson's body preserved in a cask of brandy. She was moored in Portsmouth Harbour since 1812, and then in dry dock since 1922, where continuing conservation is undertaken - although we could visit all decks, there were one or two areas closed, undergoing restoration during our visit. One had to be careful to duck, especially entering and leaving the ship, and we were warned to watch our step - some parts are quite low, and some ladders quite steep (I needed to go down backwards!). The spot where Nelson was shot on the deck is marked by a brass plate, and where he died on the Orlop deck is the famous portrait by Devis of his death scene. HMS "Victory" is still a working ship and the flagship of the First Sea Lord.

Our final chosen visit was to HMS "Warrior" - built in 1860 and, at the time, was the largest, fastest and most powerful warship in the world, built to counter and outperform the French iron-clad warship "Gloire" launched the year before. She was the first armour-plated, iron-hulled warship (frigate), and signalled the end of building wooden-hulled ships, spanning the transition between wood, iron, sail and steam. She saw only 22 years' service before, with the swift developments in ship design, she was relegated to lesser rôles - as a *dépôt* ship and then floating workshop to an oil rig. She was saved in 1979 by a costly restoration in Hartlepool, having had a chequered career as "pride of the nation, a forgotten hulk, and today a national treasure to be preserved for posterity". There are three decks to explore, and some of the ladders only had thin ropes as handrails, which daunted me, but we managed to find at least one at each level with a solid handrail, though still steep and I needed to descend backwards. Down in the engine room, it was interesting to see the engines gently turning over (though I rather think no longer back-breakingly coal-fired!). The ship is now used as a "venue" for parties, weddings, balls, etc (to help pay for its upkeep), and was being prepared for a naval reunion dinner for 60 that evening, including the Lord Mayor! The flags flying from the rigging spelled out "Discover Warrior 1860" I learned (having worked out the "Warrior" bit for myself!). There are many more attractions to choose from within the all-in ticket scope, requiring more time and/or energy, and we did not make it to the "Spinnaker" for fear of vertigo!

A big thank you to Pat and Patricia for an inspired choice of where to go - it was a long day, but well worthwhile.

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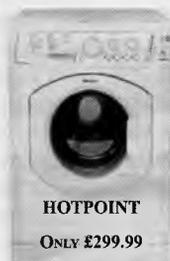
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# Change and Continuity at St Mary in Castro

Peter W Sherred —————

On December 4th 2014 a ceremony at St Mary in Castro attended by many military, church, and civic dignitaries including the Minister of State for the Armed Forces Mark Francois, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce, senior commanding officers from the army and the Chaplain General Dr David Coulter, marked the end of an era. The church, which had been the garrison church for the army, based at Shorncliffe, was decommissioned as a church dedicated to the army and passed into the care of the Diocese of Canterbury, albeit owned and cared for by English Heritage. The event marked the closure of 2 (South East) Brigade which was being amalgamated into 11 Infantry Brigade based in Aldershot Hampshire, and the Bishop of Her Majesty's Forces, The Right Reverend Nigel Stock, blessed and dedicated a plaque to commemorate 2 (South East) Brigade and to celebrate over a century of military service by the Brigade. The Bishop of Dover, in welcoming the church more fully integrated into the Diocese, gave an assurance that St Mary in Castro would remain a place of community service and would continue to offer welcome and a message of hope and reconciliation. The service also marked the final appearance of the last army chaplain based at the castle church, the Revd Daniel Merceron, who just two days previously had been inducted as a parish priest in the Diocese of Chichester.

As one era closed to be replaced by a new era in the life of this majestic church within the grounds of Dover Castle and nestled beside the Roman Pharos one person absent from the ceremony was the Revd John Chittenden, an Officiating Chaplain to the Forces with a

commitment to the church lasting nearly a quarter of a century and, thereby, a regular weekly visitor to Dover and a minister to the worshipping community served by the church. For the nonagenarian the sadness of the occasion witnessing the withdrawal of the army connection was offset by the assurances given by the Bishop of Dover in respect of the future purpose and use of the church.

Born in Purley Surrey in 1924 as an only child of his parents he and his parents moved to Redhill, when he was four years old, where he attended school. During the last two weeks of his schooling he recalls many people rescued from Dunkirk passing by the school building. Following school he took a job in engineering at a Technical School before taking a post as an office junior in a branch office of a large electrical contractor ASEA, the Swedish General Electric, the main contractor for the Southern Railway electrification. He became a qualified incorporated company accountant. During the war years, post Dunkirk, he became a member of the 8th Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment Surrey as a Local Defence Volunteer before being fully taken into service in the army between 1943 and 1947 serving in the Royal Army Service Corps which covered a range of activities.

Following his military service in the 1950s he felt a call to the Ministry after spending some years as a Sunday school teacher and through his attendance at his local church. He attended the London College of Divinity at Ford Manor near Lingfield, known as St John's College, being ordained deacon in Southwark Cathedral in 1958 and priest in 1959. The single 35 year old priest served his

curacy in St Mary at Lambeth where he remained as curate for six years. He was appointed the priest of St Michael's, Hawkinge and St Martin, Acrise at the behest of Archbishop Michael Ramsey in the early 1960s where he was to remain for the next 26 years during which time he took in also Swingfield parish.

It was in the early years of his ministry at Hawkinge that he encountered a Swedish influence in his life for the second time in the shape of a young lady who was to become his wife, Kirsten. She had come to England to improve her English skills and was staying in Acrise and although she returned to Sweden to college at Karlstad near Lake Vänern, the largest lake in Sweden and one of the largest in Europe, over the two years from 1965 the relationship flourished and John and Kirsten were married in St Luke's Church, Hawkinge in 1967 by the Revd Harry Hedley. Married for some 47 years the two live in retirement in Folkestone while their two sons have settled in the United States and in New Zealand respectively. Nils, who was born in 1969, followed his father's course into the ordained ministry and has recently been appointed to a parish at Armonk New York, where he lives with his wife while George, who was born in 1983, is currently the organist and Musical Director in St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin, New Zealand. While at Hawkinge John had to minister in two churches in the village - St Michael's being the original parish church outside the village on the Dover side and up a hill leading off the Alkham Valley Road and St Luke's which became established as the main church as the village expanded greatly and this church was located on the main road in the village. Each Sunday began with a 08.00 Communion Service at St Luke's followed by a Sunday school at 10.00 attended by 70 children and then an 11.00 Communion Service at St Michael's and in the afternoon a 15.00 service at St Martin's in Acrise. Kirsten took a very

active role in ministry with John in this benefice by being the Enrolling Member of the Mothers' Union as well as helping with the Sunday School and helping John in the many and varied ways that parish clergy wives do.

His military connection returned during his time at Hawkinge as he was chaplain to the ATC and through a verger at Shorncliffe, where the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were stationed, he was introduced to Shorncliffe camp where he ministered to the soldiers on the base. Having served the Argylls happily he was asked to become an Officiating Chaplain to the Forces based at the garrison church in Shorncliffe which dovetailed neatly into his retirement from parochial life in 1990. From there he began a long association with St Mary in Castro where he came over to minister from time to time before being based at the castle church where he has served for such a long period of time and under very many Chaplains who came and went over the years usually on a three year placement. Long-time Church Warden of St Mary in Castro Bob Joslin states "from his own military and clerical experience John was aware that the post of Senior Army Chaplain to 2 (South East) Brigade at Shorncliffe involved providing and supervising chaplaincy services to the Brigade of about 5,000 soldiers across Kent and Sussex - and sometimes very much further afield on active service - in addition to running the Dover and Shorncliffe Garrison Church in Dover Castle. He was aware that assistance was necessarily and regularly sought to cover the inevitable absences of the incumbent, not only to officiate at the Sunday services, but also to deal with any urgent welfare matters amongst the soldiers' families 'back at base'. John took to this challenge with alacrity and his usual good humour taking his part in services whenever he was required, quickly becoming the mainstay of the church, hardly missing a service for most of

the next twenty or so years". During his faithful and much appreciated ministry at St Mary in Castro, John has undertaken all manner of services his last one being a Battle of Britain Service but one of the most unusual being the leading of prayers for the Parachute Regiment of the French Foreign Legion who were on exercise with 1st Parachute Regiment. Asked whether he took the prayers in French John replies with a twinkle in his eye that was not necessary for the Legionnaires were an international body of soldiers and when he was talking with one "French" Officer and inquired where he came from he was told "Uxbridge"!

Despite being troubled with mobility problems, caused by difficulties he experiences with his legs, John still attends St Mary in Castro weekly with Kirsten and they both still actively play roles within the services from time to time, either leading prayers or reading the lessons. So, as the complexion of the church has changed, John and Kirsten provide an element of assurance of the continuation of the church's ministry

which is so valued by the dedicated members of the congregation and the many visitors who attend it. John's ministry has been appreciated by all who have met him and his infectious sense of humour and gentlemanly manner continue to inspire those who have had the privilege of knowing, or of having served with him. Bob Joslin states "he is loved by all his friends in the congregation who are most appreciative of his contribution to keeping the church on its feet, lively and welcoming, for many years. We all wish him well for many a long year yet". Tony Northey, a long term member of the congregation, adds "he is a good companion with an excellent sense of humour and a fund of light hearted good stories. His virtues as a priest are self-evident". Long may he and Kirsten continue with their tradition of service in this historic church which still retains its many links with the armed forces but which welcomes all comers to its services. The main Sunday service is at 10.00 and access is via the usual vehicular access to the castle for which there is no charge if attending the service.

## Zeebrugge Raid Commemoration 23rd April 2015



To commemorate VE Day  
at the WWII Memorial

# King John's Call to the Troops

Terry Sutton

Just over eight hundred years ago King John, at the Maison Dieu in Dover, commanded his earls, knights, barons and military tenants to parade in the town. The king's fear was about a build-up of forces in and around Boulogne under the command of the king of France. "I call you to Dover for the defence of our kingdom and the preservation of lives and property," stated the king's writ.

Even the king must have been surprised as a result of his call. The summons brought together at Dover such a multitude that there were not sufficient provisions and weapons for them. So the king sent many of them back to their homes.

Even so, according to ancient documents, more than 60,000 "well appointed" troops remained in the Dover area ready to defend their country. The threatened invasion never came and eventually most of the army was allowed to go home.

This was just one of the dramas in Dover during the reign of King John (1199-1216) who has been described by historians as the worst man known in British history.

He is said to have been profligate, profane, tyrannical, false and shameless, crafty and cunning in home and foreign policy, without insight or wisdom. But he was very



able in war.

As a result of his foreign and religious policies, at one stage, Dover was occupied by mercenaries under the command of the French who were trying, but who failed, to capture Dover Castle.

John succeeded King Richard I, known as the Coeur de Lion, after Richard was killed by an arrow wound while fighting in France at the castle of Chaluz near Limoges.

One of John's dirtiest tricks was to dump his first wife, Avise (Isabella)

of Gloucester, without cause in order to marry Isabella of Angouleme who he pinched off a French noble to whom she was engaged. Nice fellow!

But one of John's biggest mistakes was having a row with Pope Innocent III over who was to be Archbishop of Canterbury. John put forward his choice only to be stymied by the monks of Canterbury who came up with another nominee. So the two factions went to the Pope to decide between the two.

The Pope had other ideas and ensured the Canterbury monks selected a third nominee, Stephen Langton. This angered John who banished the Canterbury monks and refused to receive Stephen Langton. Instead he decided to get his own back by

plundering the Church. The Pope was not having that and in 1208 put England under an interdict ordering all church services to cease and ordered that no one could receive the sacraments, except when dying.

Still John would not yield and so in 1209 Rome decided to excommunicate the king which left him bereft of friends at home and abroad.

Life in England was now on the slide with John lashing out at the Jews, the Catholic clergy and even the barons who began appealing for help from abroad.

Diplomatic relations between England and Rome got so bad that Pope Innocent threatened to ensure that the crown of England should be transferred to Philip of France.

It was at this time, with the French preparing for an invasion with the Pope's blessing, that John at Dover's Maison Dieu called his warriors to East Kent to defend England.

By now John, with few remaining friends, was getting worried and he decided to make up with the Pope and the Church.

And here again Dover comes into the drama with the Pope sending a representative, Pandulf, to England to receive the king's apology.

Pandulf and King John met at Dover where he knelt before Rome's representative, paying the Pope homage and agreeing to pay an annual tribute of one thousands marks.

Where, in and around Dover, this unusual ceremony took place is unknown. Some believe it was at the "Templar" church (the outline of which is still to be seen) on the

Western Heights, others say it was on the hills above Temple Ewell while a few suggest it was at the St John chapel at Swingfield.

This ceremony, naturally, angered the English nobles who considered it a slight on the English nation. And who had to contribute to the annual tribute to Rome.

One of the clauses in the agreement was that Stephen Langton should be the Archbishop of Canterbury who at a grand meeting at St Paul's produced a charter of Henry I and called on John to keep to the previous promises made.

Ganging together the barons, headed by Stephen Langton, in June 1215 forced John at Runnimeade near Windsor to agree to the Magna Carta.

This important document, with 63 clauses, ruled that the king could not impose special taxes without the barons' consent, freemen could not be imprisoned except by law of the land and that everyone had the right to justice.

Once again King John failed to keep his Magna Carta promise and this led to the 1215-16 war with the barons who invited Louis, eldest son of Philip of France, to arrive with an army to fight John and become king of England.

Louis, the Dauphin, agreed, and in May 1216 he invaded and fought his way to Dover where, after a long siege, failed to capture Dover Castle.

He and his sappers tried and were partially successful in undermining parts of the castle walls and they might have been successful but for the fact that King John was taken ill and conveniently died at Newark Castle in October 1216.

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# Heritage Open Days in Dover

Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th September 2015

## Plus Magna Carta Exhibition in the Town Hall

10am to 4pm from 10th to 19th September except Sunday 13th

Once again The Dover Society is coordinating arrangements in Dover for Heritage Open Days, organised by English Heritage nationally every year. This event celebrates England's fantastic architectural heritage by encouraging free access to buildings that are usually closed to the public or would normally charge an admission fee. Dover has a great wealth of historic buildings, but few are normally open to the public such as Dover Castle and are not free. This year 8 buildings will be open to the public free of charge.

**1 Dover Town Hall formerly the Maison Dieu:** Founded by Hubert de Burgh, then Constable of Dover Castle, in 1203, the primary purpose of the Maison Dieu 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. A chapel was added by Henry III, which was adapted in the 19th century as a court. More buildings were added over the centuries. In 1536 the religious house was suppressed by Henry VIII, becoming 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 town. The Council Chamber was added in 1868

and the adjoining Connaught Hall was opened in 1883.

**1a The free Magna Carta Exhibition,** celebrating 800 years since King John agreed to the 1215 charter, will include the Faversham 1300 Magna Carta.

**2 Maison Dieu House:** this fine Jacobean house in Biggin Street is the oldest domestic building in Dover. It was built in 1665 as the Agent Victualler's residence close to the Maison Dieu, which Henry VIII had requisitioned as a store for the Navy Victualling Office following the Dissolution. In 1834 it became the residence of the commander of the Royal Engineers in Dover before becoming a private residence. The Kingsford brewing and milling family and the Mummery family who owned the Stembrook tannery lived here during the 19th century. Bought by the Corporation in 1899, the house became council offices until after the Second World War when it became the public library. Following the move of the library to the Discovery Centre, the premises were purchased and beautifully restored by Dover Town Council for its use. The town's regalia will also be on show.

**3 St. Edmund's Chapel:** this tiny cemetery chapel in Priory Road was consecrated by St Richard of Chichester in 1253 in memory of his friend, St. Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury 1234-45, and was probably used as a cemetery chapel for the Maison Dieu close by. Hidden for many years by development around it and used as a workshop, it was revealed again following

war damage to the surrounding buildings. The chapel was restored and reconsecrated in 1968.

**4 Dover College: the remains of St. Martin's Priory:** built in the 12th century, it was suppressed in 1535 as part of Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries. The site was then leased for farming and most of the buildings fell into disrepair. Fortunately, the grand Norman refectory was used as a barn and survives today. Dover College opened on the site in 1871 when the refectory and gatehouse were restored and the king's hall became the college chapel. Part of the cloister also survives. The entrance is from Effingham Crescent.

**5 Church of St. Mary the Virgin:** this prominent building in Biggin Street, dating from Saxon times, was built originally by the secular canons of St. Martin Le Grand, but was rebuilt by the Normans. At the Dissolution it was saved from demolition when Henry VIII granted it for use as a parish and civic church. Unfortunately, because of its weak foundations, it was rebuilt in 1843, although its original arches and columns were reinstated. The magnificent tower survived this restoration.

**6 Bell Tower of St. Mary the Virgin:** in the gallery of this Norman tower visitors will see how the bell ringers operate and in the clock chamber they will see the clock workings and various artefacts.

**7 Unitarian Church:** this brick-built

octagonal church sitting above York Street was constructed in 1820 and its worship area reflects the shape of the building. The origins of the church go back to 1643 to a local community of Baptists who established a meeting house in 1655, but were persecuted following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. In 1692 Samuel Taverner made part of his house available for worship and part of the garden as a burial ground. Freedom of belief and form of worship as a Unitarian Church was agreed by members in 1916. Following Second World War damage, the chapel reopened in 1952. There will be an art exhibition as well as refreshments.

**8 Grand Shaft Staircase:** this unique triple staircase was started in 1804 and finished in 1807. It connected the barracks and fortifications on the Western Heights through the 250 foot high cliff to sea level, Snargate Street and the Pier District, enabling troops to move quickly up or down its 140 steps within the cliff plus another 59 into the barrack yard. In 1812 a Mr Leith of Walmer rode a horse up the staircase for a bet. The entrance is in Snargate Street.

**9 St. Radegund's Abbey:** this premonstratensian abbey founded in 1191 was visited by several monarchs. Following its Dissolution in 1538, the great abbey church was demolished and the remaining buildings with its lands were leased to tenant farmers by the monarch. Today the refectory is the farmhouse surrounded by abbey ruins. A gatehouse and a guest house survive.

————— *Opening times will be:* —————

- 1 *Town Hall/Maison Dieu - Guided tours Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm*
- 1a *Town Hall Magna Carta Exhibition - 10am to 4pm 10th to 19th September except Sunday 13th*
- 2 *Maison Dieu House - Saturday 10am to 4pm*
- 3 *St. Edmund's Chapel - Saturday 10am to 4pm*
- 4 *Dover College - Guided tours only at 11am and 2pm on Saturday and Sunday*
- 5 *St. Mary the Virgin Church - Saturday 10am to 4pm*
- 6 *Bell Tower of St. Mary the Virgin - Saturday 1.30pm to 4pm*

- 7 Unitarian Church - Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm  
 8 Grand Shaft Staircase - Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm  
 9 St. Radegund's Abbey - Guided tours on Sunday 10.30 to noon and 2.30pm to 4pm

Publicity leaflets are available from the Visitor Information Centre (now located in Dover Museum), Dover Town Council Offices (Maison Dieu House), Dover Town Hall and Dover Library. To find out about other buildings open in the region call 020 7539 7921 or visit [www.heritageopendays.org](http://www.heritageopendays.org). Local contact for more information: Derek Leach on 01304 823926 or email [derekriverdale@btinternet.com](mailto:derekriverdale@btinternet.com)

# Refurbishment Committee

Jeremy Cope

## The Upper Road pathway from Bleriot Memorial to Langdon Cliffs.

I am very pleased to report that Kent Public Rights of Way have installed new steps that will take out the dangerous blind corner along Upper Road. Mike Weston, Barbara Little and I cleared the pathway besides Upper Road of overhanging branches, brambles and other vegetation which now makes it so very much safer. Kent will now cut back twice a year the section from the foot of the steps to the cliff edge path. This means that we can have a safe and attractive walkway around the Castle with a branch off to Langdon Cliffs. The Society will need to fund raise to secure proper signs but this will need to be done with cooperation of and help from District and Town Councils, English Heritage and National Trust.

## Litter and dog fouling.

Alan Sencicle was so very diligent in working for a cleaner Dover and that included voluntary litter collection. Alan has decided that he will no longer take part in our committee - we are very sorry to see him go and will miss him.

We continue our input into ideas for improvements to Dover's road system. We deal with the town whilst Pat Sherratt and the planners cover the A2/ A20. An email

shows Kent Highways looking at alternative ways of dealing with speeding along Barton Road/ Maison Dieu Road and in particular problems at Five Ways. Highways are also looking at Dover's bus network but the Society's view remains that these measures should be part of an overall traffic strategy to provide a proper balance between vehicles and pedestrians. This should include a re-assessment of the one way system. Thankfully Beverley Hall continues to provide us with a very welcome dose of traffic expertise.

Jenny Olpin and John Cotton continue to liaise with Chief Inspector Barlow with a variety of concerns including, traffic, anti-social behaviour and drug use. Do remember we can bring your concerns to the Chief Inspector's notice.

Sylvie Parsons has made great efforts with planting schemes in Dover in the Market Square, Priory Station and at the rear of St Mary's. As with all voluntary work our aims are often thwarted or only partially successful. Sylvie has decided to withdraw from these voluntary tasks and concentrate on the many other demands upon her time. We are sorry to report this but hope that Sylvie will find time in the future for some of her imaginative ideas.

# Planning Committee

Patrick Sherratt

Since my report in the March Newsletter I am sure you will have read the good news that the Department for Communities & Local Government has supported the Compulsory Purchase Orders that are required to proceed with the DTZ (St James's Development). Last September I attended the 2½ days of the public enquiry and I was amazed that this important regeneration project was in fact being held up by one person, the owner of the County Hotel, who purchased the hotel in 2002 at a time when the entire DTIZ area had for some years been identified for regeneration development. The challenge of the CPO by the County Hotel has in all probability delayed the project by some two to three years, very sad that a speculative land/property investor is permitted to hold a town to ransom. Latest information is that demolition work will start in September this year.

As I indicated in the March newsletter that it was expected the clothing giant "Next" would be the tenant for unit 7A and this has since been confirmed. However the associated planning application (DOV/14/01110) is still awaiting the required planning decision despite being lodged with DDC Planning since late last year, I hope not another DDC administrative error? Likewise revised plans for the Travelodge Hotel are still awaited and if hearsay is confirmed will NOT have the communication/TV Screen mast.

I hope you have seen the new car park being constructed off Bench Street. The area between the River Dour and York Street will eventually be re-built but could, based on the DTIZ experience, be several years away. Therefore when the car park was planned

we made strong representation to DDC that it should reflect quality and not replicate the Russell Street car park experience of a "temporary" car park for some twenty years without suitable landscaping and quality fencing. Our requests have been met and DDC are to be congratulated for listening and taking action of our request.

We were surprised to learn that the DDC Conservation Officer (Clive Alexander) has now retired. We have for some time been pressing for improvements to our Conservation Areas within Dover that have declined although our action with Section 215 activity has seen a significant improvement over the last three years. At this stage DDC have not appointed a Conservation Officer and we feel if this position is not maintained could see a further decline in the Conservation Areas as well as listed buildings in Dover.

This brings me to the former "Hooked on Books" shop opposite the town hall. It is a Grade II listed building within a Conservation Area. To my horror the Victorian shop-front was recently removed and a modern full length plate glass window installed. No planning application was made and would not have been permitted had such application been made. We have therefore advised the Senior Enforcement Officer at DDC who is now in contact with the owner/tenant of the property. It does seem that Letting Agents/Owners may not be advising tenants of their legal obligation in respect to listed buildings and special requirements within Conservation Areas. We await with interest the outcome.

Many members will have seen the request

by the Soup Kitchen Volunteers to re-locate to Pencester Rd Car Park. Our Planning Committee was far from happy with this location and whilst recognizing the important work carried out by the volunteers could not support the location, indeed it was felt that an indoor location should be sought. This was accepted by the Full Executive and the letter to DDC with regard to this application can be obtained from me or viewed on the DDC Planning website under application DOV/15/00321.

We were at the forefront with regard to the traffic congestion of the A20 in Townwall Street that greatly affected businesses and residents. Following Dept. of Transport meetings a "temporary" control of lorries proceeding to the docks from the A20 was introduced. At peak times lorries are held on the A20 beyond the Aycliff roundabout and

only called forward when there is space within the docks. This avoids the lorries queuing, blocking junctions, in Townwall street and Snargate Street. Linked with this is a 40mph restriction from the Roundill Tunnels at Folkestone to Dover. By the time this newsletter is published it is most likely that a decision will have been made to make the controls permanent but with variable speed limits rather than a permanent 40mph that has been in use during the trial period.

Certainly there has been less congestion during the experimental period that has seen the restriction of lorries entering Dover when the docks are at capacity on ten days in the last 4 weeks. The Dover Society has supported the continuation of the controls beyond the initial 12 week period and the introduction of variable speed limits in place of the set 40mph.

## Dover Society Outing to Oxford Saturday 5th September 2015

Patricia Hooper-Sherratt

Visit this beautiful city with its wonderful history and architecture. The Ashmolean, is free to enter, has an extensive collection of worldwide Art and Archaeology acquired since 1683 from ancient Egypt to 20th C. Antiquities, paintings, coin room, ceramics etc. Research and teaching are based in several museum departments. Enjoy the spectacular views from the dining room if you take lunch in this rooftop restaurant. On the lower ground floor is a really lovely shop and café. The cakes and pastries are baked fresh daily, a nice bowl of soup or sandwiches.

There are many eating places in Oxford, including in the Town Hall which is also the Tourist Information Centre, where you may pick up maps of the City or any other information. There is a café over the river where many of the students work. Other places to visit are the Bodleian Library, it is

£1.00 to enter the Divinity School where you may walk around freely, or for a full extended tour of one hour cost of £7.00 book on the day. Tours are 11.30; 13.00 and 14.00hrs. This is well worth paying for, you will see where the students are allowed to research, but, no books are allowed out of the hall. The Bodleian Library is home to one each of every book that has ever been written. Of course there are many other colleges, some are free entry, others, such as Christ Church charge an entry fee. We are planning to give you between five and six hours of free time in order to visit some of the many attractions.

**Cost £26.00** Pick-up points 07.00 The Railway Bell; 07.05 Hollis Motors; 07.10 Frith Road; 07.15 Brook House Car Park  
To book contact: Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Castle Lea, Taswell Street, Dover. CT16 1SG  
Tel: 01304 228129

# Footprints (Community Rooms)

**Kathleen Wilmarsh**

The first Footprints meeting was held on 14th May 2013. It has taken two years of preparation and hard work to bring this project to fruition. Footprints has been made possible through the grants listed below and the skills, time, dedication and love of all our volunteers and the generosity of

The Beacon Church congregation.

The Methodist Church (Canterbury & East Kent Circuit)

The United Reform Church (Southern Synod)

The Methodist Church (London Mission)

Donations from members and friends of the Beacon Church and Christian Centre.

## **Our Mission Statement**

*"Footprints is an arm of the Beacon Church which seeks to address the needs of the local community, especially in relation to loneliness through the provision of community activities and programmes that are appropriate to combat deprivation, poverty and inadequacy in all forms. Footprints seeks to welcome all and exclude no one"*

Footprints had two opening events Thursday 5th May and Tuesday 11th May. Invitations sent to agencies and friends to view our new refurbished Footprints by the Beacon Church, London Road, Dover.

## **Footprints Projects**

**English Language Class** (Grant: Kent County Council)

Wednesday 10.15am - 11.15am aimed at helping those whose English is their second language to be able to feel more confident when accessing essential services. Free drop in service. We have had referrals from GP's and the job centre.



## **Friendly Friday**

Open to all Friday's 12.30pm - 2.30pm a warm welcome, light lunch, friendly folk, fun and chatter, silly games, no charge, donations welcome. Drop in and out service.

## **Beacon Craft Group**

Thursday's 10am - 12 noon, a natter over a cup of tea and friendly fun creating crafts for all.

## **Food Bank**

Dover Food Bank (run by Christians Together in Dover). Tuesday's 2pm - 4pm and Friday 5pm - 7pm for people in an emergency situations. Referral by authorised agencies only.

## **Family Craft Club**

Started on the 16th May 2015

Saturday's 1pm - 2-30pm (term time) for children and parents to come along and have fun learning new crafts and making things together.

## **Youth Coffee Bar**

Started 16th May 2015. Particularly for teenagers 11-17 year olds to come along and meet their friends, play board games, table tennis in a safe environment. Soft

refreshments and a tuck shop.

### **Reading and Story Telling Club** (Grant Dover Town Council)

Thursday 3.30pm - 4.45pm (term time) this club is designed to help children aged 5-9 to read and enjoy books! To develop their comprehension and reading skills.

### **Coffee Mornings**

Tuesday's (1st and 3rd of each month) 11am - 12 noon. This is a drop in cafe style project. All the community is welcome. Chosen Charity coffee morning on the 2nd of each month (need to book)

### **Cooking on a Budget**

Short 4-5 week course to enable people to stretch limited resources and provide healthy food - and more of it! To help develop skills to resource, prepare and cook nutritional meals for the family.

### **Other Proposed Projects**

a) English Homework Checking Service -

The aim is to help children whom English is their 2nd language with their homework

b) Activities for Alzheimer's Patients and their Carers - The aim is to have activities for the patients combined with a carers support group.

c) Rev Project - Working with young people who have a passion for motorcycles and Christianity

d) Professionals Lunch Club - The aim is to provide a light lunch every six weeks for professionals in the community to meet up and network.



**"Together we can make a difference"**

*There are no strangers here, only friends you have yet to meet!*

## **COWGATE CEMETERY**

Jeremy Cope

With Barry Late's sad death I am taking back my role as reporter of the Society's work at the old Cemetery. We are on top of the maintenance work at present but looking at the vigour of the growth it makes me realise there is a very thin line between being on top and falling behind. Whatever, Cowgate is a rather special spot well worth a visit, quiet with semi untamed trees, shrubs and greenery.

We use strimmers to cut the grass, alexanders and other greenery but I suppose it is a token of our efforts that one of our Stihl machines stopped working and could not be repaired - worn out with use. Replaced but the cost cleared our Project Fund.

We are always on the lookout for volunteers and if you would like to join our happy band do please let me know. Working sessions are from 9.00 am to noon and subject to weather and holidays we have two sessions a month, usually the first Thursday and the second Saturday in the month. My contact details are on the inside cover of this newsletter.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Saturdays</b>
July	02 Jul 15	11 Jul 15
August	06 Aug 15	22 Aug 15
September	03 Sept 15	12 Sept 15
October	01 Oct 15	19 Oct 15
November	05 Nov 15	14 Nov 15
December	03 Dec 15	12 Dec 15

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## *Confederation of the Cinque Ports Commemorate Decade of Service of Lord Warden*

*Peter W Sherred - Surrogate Judge Confederation of the Cinque Ports*

On 12th April 2005 Admiral the Lord Boyce was installed with all due ceremony as the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle in succession to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother who died in 2002. The Installation began with a church service at St Mary in Castro located within the walls of Dover Castle and concluded at a meeting of the Court of Shepway in the grounds of Dover College followed by a formal banquet in the historic Maison Dieu in Dover.

In April 2015 Mayors from the five Cinque Ports of Hastings, New Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich, the two Antient Towns of Rye and Winchelsea and the associated Cinque Ports' limbs gathered together at Walmer Castle, the Lord Warden's official residence, along with the Registrar and Seneschal Ian Russell, who organised and arranged the event, and other Officers of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports to mark the tenth anniversary of the installation of Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL.

During the course of a Reception hosted by the Speaker of the Cinque Ports, the Right Worshipful the Town Mayor of New Romney, Councillor Roger Joynes JP, the Lord Warden was presented with a framed pen, ink and wash map of the original Cinque Ports, Antient Towns and limbs (past and present) with a photograph of the Lord Warden superimposed on a painting of Walmer Castle, the work of well-known local artist Denys LeFevre FRSA of



*Denys LeFevre at Walmer Castle*

Ramsgate, as a gift from the Confederation. English Heritage (who maintain the Castle) also presented the Lord Warden with a fine wooden stand for his ceremonial sword. The sword was a gift to Lord Boyce from the Confederation in 2005 and is on display in the dining room of the Castle, while the map is on display in the Sackville Room on the ground floor of the Castle. Denys and his wife Barbara were introduced to the Lord Warden at the Reception who thanked him for his illustrated map. The Lord Boyce indicated he was very taken with the drawing and pleased that it would complement the new displays at Walmer Castle helping to tell the story of the history of the Cinque Ports.

Those attending were privileged to be given a preview tour of the re-ordered Wellington rooms in the Castle prior to their general opening for the public to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

# The Story of Bruce Lilley 1928 - 2014

## Part 3

Bruce and Merril Lilley

### CHAPTER FOUR

## The Post War Years

Before Christmas I was off again, on the Churruga out of London. We left on 5th December, 1946 and I stayed with the ship until 6th July 1947. In this time we made a number of short trips, returning to London after each one, which suited me very well as I could pop home and visit my mother. All these trips were to Mediterranean ports. We went to Palma in Majorca several times to pick up cargoes of food, including potatoes, oranges, onions, grapes and walnuts. The grapes were always shipped in little barrels, lined with sawdust. The oranges were packed in boxes and other produce in bags. On each visit we were in port for a couple of days only. Majorca in 1946 and 1947 was very poor, the economy having suffered through the Spanish Civil War and the Second World War. Whenever we were alongside in Palma we were besieged by people (probably gypsies, I think) carrying small tins and begging for any scraps from the galley. There was little for us to do ashore. The city had nothing to offer in the way of food or entertainment. The same was true in other Spanish ports in the post-war period. I remember going ashore from the Churruga in Valencia and going into a café where a small orchestra was playing. As we sat there with our cervercas I noticed that the musicians were attired, (valiantly) in evening dress, no doubt unearthed from pre-war storage. The elbows and knees of their



suits were shiny with age and use, but they played with as much aplomb as if they were in a concert hall. The Churruga was a coal-burning ship and when it was in port at night the boilers were shut down and the crew had to manage with oil lamps. Once, when we were berthed in London and I had gone to my mother's flat for the night I returned to the ship the following morning and, not seeing the cook about, I went to his cabin to call him. He had failed to adjust the wick of his oil lamp correctly and he and his cabin were covered in Black soot.

It was while I was serving on the Churruga

that I was promoted, on 12th March, 1947, to the position of Assistant Cook, which meant a rise in salary and status. It also meant more responsibility and more actual cooking! The heat for cooking was all from coal, of course, for ovens and hot plates. The pots and pans were all made of heavy iron. The crew had three meals a day, with two sittings at each meal. Breakfast was at 8am or 9am, dinner at 12 noon and 1pm and tea or supper at 6pm, or 8pm for the last watch, who got the 'Black pan'. All meals were substantial - they needed to be. At breakfast there would be porridge and a fry-up of whatever was available, eggs, bacon, sausages and tomatoes. Dinner, the main meal was always a roast, with whatever vegetables were available. On short trips like those we made to the Med. fresh vegetables were always in season. On long trips like those I made on the Coombe Hill, we would run out of fresh and have to use dried peas and beans. The number of crew obviously depended on the size of the ship and might vary from 30 to 80 men. I should mention that the conditions in the galley and the quality of the food varied greatly from ship to ship, depending on the shipping company which ran the line and, thereafter, on the amount allocated for stores and how this was used. The chief steward on a ship ordered all the supplies and he and the cook worked out the menus. As assistant cook I had no say in any of this and did as the cook directed.

Mostly I liked what I did and developed my own way of cooking certain dishes. After a time I became good at bread-making, which was, at the time, all done by hand and I was delighted when my loaves were praised by the crew members. Often a large passenger ship might have about ten assistant cooks and we all shared the cramped quarters, each man having his own locker, so there was little privacy. But we had our own, 'glory hole', steward who brought us tea in the morning and again when we were off in the

afternoon. In the evening after work we would go in the crew's 'Pig and Whistle,' for a drink and entertainment by any of the crew members who liked to put on shows for us.

On my next ship, the Roxburgh Castle, I was taken on as Assistant Cook and Baker. But that trip lasted only six or seven weeks. Then I went to a ship called the Rhone, where I am listed as Cook, but this lasted only four weeks. My job as Assistant Cook lasted for the rest of the 1940s. There were many short trips in these years and it is difficult to remember each one in detail. I rarely went back to a ship once I had signed off. I was on the Eros for three voyages, from November 1947 to March 1948, sailing to the West Indies, then on the Fort Ellice for six months. The assignment on the Fort Ellice was an unusual one. To begin with I went with some other seamen out from Southampton as a passenger on the SS America to New York. On the SS America we were treated as passengers and waited on. We all assembled in the Board of Trade office in Ensign. We had to fill in forms to say we would not try to overthrow the US government or engage in any un-American activities. There was a complete crew of about 48, a motley collection of all nationalities and temperaments. For this rough old crew old crew to be waited on was a new experience. It took six days to get to New York and the whole idea of being treated as passengers was so unreal. Some of the men had no pyjamas or dressing gowns and slept in their underwear. When we got to New York we were sent by coach to Baltimore where we were to board the Fort Ellice to take her to India. The Fort Ellice was a Canadian-built fort ship, constructed during the war as a Lease/Lend ship. After the war she was handed back to the Americans and then bought by the Great Eastern Steamship Company. Our job was to deliver her to India, picking up cargoes on the way. Our first cargo was coal which we

loaded at Newport and took to Italy. From there we proceeded to Aden, where we loaded salt to take to Calcutta. This was one of my most difficult trips. The crew consisted of this rough collection of men from various nationalities and the cook had a severe drinking problem. By the time we got to Aden he went mad and had to be put ashore suffering from DTs, leaving me in charge of the galley for the rest of the voyage. I was glad to get to Bombay. Once the ship was safely delivered we had to wait for the company to arrange our passage home. We lived in a seaman's mission in Bombay for a couple of weeks. There were cages for rats under each bed. Finally we were flown back to England in a DC6, a flight which took three days.

In 1948/49 I was on three different ships which took £10 immigrants to Australia or New Zealand. In each case the voyage took about six weeks out and the same back so we were away for four months each time. These were large ships which took about one thousand immigrants. Many of them were ex-servicemen and their families, seizing the opportunity to start a new life and answering the call for new settlers in these two countries which had lost so many men in the Second World War. The ships had their usual crew but, in addition, engaged catering staff to feed the immigrants. I was an assistant cook in the latter category and found it an enjoyable posting, for each time, when the immigrants had been landed in their various destinations our team had no work to do on the voyage home apart from providing our own meals. The regular galley crew were quite separate and we had our own galley. It was like being on a cruise, lazing on the deck and reading much of the time.

In those post-war years ships calling at



*Atlantis*

Australia and New Zealand often returned home short of crew members who had 'jumped ship' and stayed behind. After so many months had elapsed if a man kept out of trouble and found a job he could apply to stay in the country. These deserters could find work in the sugar fields, on the sheep stations, in the bush or at the docks. The countries were so short of workmen. Some got work in the lead mine at Mount Isa, a job which was dangerous but well paid. Another option was travelling around in the bush shooting rabbits and earning so much for each. In the Northern Territory jobs could be had cutting sugar cane, which was cut with machetes and then the stubble was burned off. These workers lived in tents and all their food was supplied. They had no pay until the end of the season with an amount deducted for any tabs they had run up during that time. As time went on the British shipping companies, alarmed at the number of men they were losing in this way, asked the Australian government to stop allowing the these deserters to stay in the country. Ashore, seamen could always find jobs to do in or out of the docks. Mostly these were hard jobs in rough conditions. At four o'clock, it seemed, all work stopped and the workforce repaired to the nearest pub for the 'six o'clock swill', which meant they drank non-stop from four 'til six o'clock when the pubs closed, by which time the sawdust-covered floors were awash with beer. This



*Ormonde*

was hardly surprising as the ale was dispensed by pumps! The pubs were very noisy places with the radio blaring non-stop the whole time they were open. When the Atlantis was berthed in Wellington in New Zealand 56 of the crew 'jumped ship' and disappeared into the mountains. We sailed without them. When the ship left a crowd of Maoris came to the dock and sang 'Now is the Hour, for me to say Goodbye'. Apparently they always did this and never failed to raise a tear.

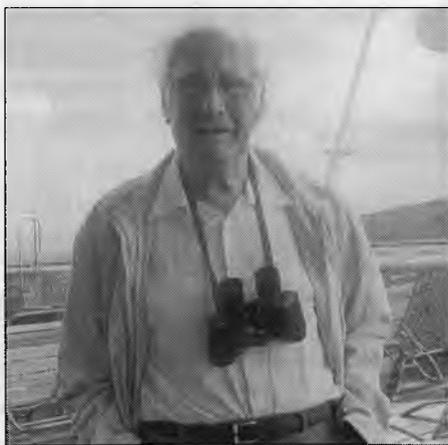
On 5th April 1949 I was aboard the Ormonde, with another load of immigrants for Australia, stopping at Freemantle, Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney. Then by September I was on the Esperance Bay, this time with 500 immigrants and some general cargo for London, including wool and beef. We got back to London on 19th January, 1950

These trips made a lasting impression on me and gave me a view of a totally different view of the Antipodes. I must admit I was tempted to join the 'deserters' but family ties led me back to England.

Between two assignments to Australia I had a very different posting, which was a complete contrast to my previous ones and another experience I will never forget. In July 1949 I was sent to join the Sarmaria. At

this time it was the largest Sam boat in the world. I remember the trip quite clearly because our assignment was to take a ship load of people from Bremerhaven in Europe to Canada. They were all refugees and displaced persons leaving Europe hoping to start a new life in the New World. Many of them were confused and apprehensive. Some had very few possessions and one of the saddest things I witnessed was the time

there was an accident as the ship was loaded. A crane was hoisting the luggage on board when a hook slipped and several bundles of possessions fell into the sea and were not recovered. Those who lost their bundles saw all their worldly goods disappear in a moment. Our passengers seemed to look forward to every meal we served them. Each morning I stood behind a huge pot as they filed past me to receive a large scoop of porridge. It was a terrible journey. All the assistant cooks were berthed right in the stern of the ship which was cold and damp with a lot of vibration from the ship's propeller. After a while we complained and were given an extra blanket each which did not help much.





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are now available at £5.25 each

Contact the editor at:

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Dover, CT16 2NL**

**Tel: 01304 213668**

**Email: [Alan.Lee1947@ntlworld.com](mailto:Alan.Lee1947@ntlworld.com)**

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# PROGRAMME 2015

*Guests are welcome at all meetings except the Annual General Meeting which is for members only.  
You may pay on the night before the AGM and attend the meeting.*

July 18  
Saturday

**Battle Abbey, Battle Town and Eastbourne**

We will visit the Battle Abbey Battlefields. £14.50 Admission: English Heritage members Free, Non E.H. Members £6.50 (will be collected on the coach). Audio tour guides are available. Hands-on indoor exhibition, feel the weight of 1066 armour and weapons. You can wander into Battle. Home of Yesterday's World (entrance £3.00 for Senior Citizens). After this we will travel on to Eastbourne.

Pick-up times: The Railway Bell 07.45; Hollis Motors 07.50; Frith Road 07.55; Maison Dieu (Brook House) Car Park 08.00

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

September 5  
Saturday  
£26.00

**The City of Oxford** [Full details are on page 37]

Visit to the beautiful city of Oxford with its wonderful history and architecture. The Ashmolean, the Bodleian Library & Radcliffe Camera, the Divinity School, Christ Church and many more colleges. You will have between five and six hours of free time in order to visit some of the many attractions.

Pick up points 07.00 The Railway Bell; 07.05 Hollis Motors; 07.10 Frith Road; 07.15 Brook House Car Park

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

October 19  
Monday 7.30

**Speakers: Jon Iveson**

"William Burgess, Dover Painter"

**Jon Winder**

"Kearsney Parks Project"

November 16  
Monday 7.30

**Speakers: Chief Inspector Stephen Barlow**

"Policing Dover"

**Phil Eyden**

"Archcliffe Fort in World War I"

December 13  
Sunday  
12.30 for 1pm  
£24.00

**Christmas Lunch/Feast**

Our luncheon is on Sunday this year and will take place in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu. As usual, there will be a three course meal with coffee and mints. A welcome drink is included. Other drinks may be purchased at the bar. There will be musical entertainment and our end of year raffle. Please make sure you complete the booking form with your choice of menu. More details in the next newsletter.

**To book: Complete the enclosed form and return with your payment  
to: Beverley Hall, 61 Castle Avenue Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 01304 202646**

*All indoor meetings are held at St. Mary's Parish Centre  
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