

This was examined with great excitement and compared with their images. Here indeed was a Christian of no mean order, who carried about him an effigy of the Abyssinian patron saint, a talisman against evil and full access was permitted.

On Weld Blundell's return the expedition left Addis Abbaba leaving Captain Harrington and his man, McKelvey, to their 'interesting' existence and headed for the Blue Nile. Koettlitz described in detail the differences between the Shangalla and Galla people they encountered. One being a race displaying almost European features, the other being a truly black African race with totally differing customs within the same country. The Shangalla people were heavily tattooed with gashes to their entire bodies; they carried fearsome weapons but were constantly suppressed by native Abyssinians.

They crossed the Blue Nile at Famaka and made contact with a remote outpost of the Anglo-Egyptian army continuing still with their caravan of mules, porters and specimens to Rosaries and then by gunboat

to Sennaar where they were met by Colonel Lewis, the hero of the battle of Dakla. It took another ten days in a cramped boat to reach Khartoum and Omdurman, arriving on 1 June 1899. They were lodged in the Kaleefa's palace, visiting the Omdurman battlefield before heading by boat and train to Cairo.

The expedition returned to London with a considerable specimen count. Altogether 303 bird species were taken including 16 new to science, numerous species of animal and insect, plants and geological samples. These included a new mollusc species named after Dr Koettlitz - *sepia Koettlitz*. The plants and insects Koettlitz gathered were sent for further study to the Royal Geographical Society and Edinburgh University, his weather records to the Scottish Meteorological Society. The expedition was regarded as a success by the great scientific establishments in London and Edinburgh. But Dr Reginald Koettlitz was destined for colder climes - the Antarctic continent beckoned, he was due to head south with Scott as a member of the Discovery expedition within a year.

COWGATE CEMETERY

Jeremy Cope

If you are a gardener you will, no doubt, have noticed that vegetation growth this year is very vigorous. The cemetery is no exception but despite this we have made good progress with mowing the grass and pruning the trees. I can report that we found lesser spotted orchids in three places, the first time we have seen orchids for several years. It is a lovely spot with a grand outlook on Dover, shortly to be enhanced with the removal of Burlington House.

My sincere thanks to our band of volunteers. Deborah Gasking is currently using the White Cliffs Explorers website to

try and recruit more volunteers. If you are interested why not give it a try? My phone number is on the front inside cover if you would like to have a chat. Sessions last from 9.00 am to midday. Our preliminary (weather dependent) timetable to the end of March 2016 is as follows:-

Month	Thursday	Saturday
November 2015	5th	14th
December 2015	3rd	12th
January 2016	7th	16th
February 2016	4th	13th
March 2016	3rd	12th