

Refurbishment Committee Jeremy Cope

Here are some of the matters with which we are involved and work to take forward:-

The Upper Road path from Bleriot Memorial to Langdon Cliffs. Kent Public Rights of Way have done their stuff and the pathway is being kept maintained. Our only task now is to raise funds to have the pathway properly signposted. I am on the lookout for a volunteer.

You will be aware of the new street lights that KCC Highways have installed. We are concerned that the lampposts used in the town centre (a conservation area) are not appropriate. Following enquiries to Dover Town Council and Dover District Council we have been directed to Kent Highways as the body that makes the decision on the lampposts to use. I await details of the criteria that are used for conservation areas and shall be sending off a reminder shortly.

We have received a positive response from East Kent Hospitals to our idea of information panels in the reception area of the new hospital. Our idea is to set out the history of the site in providing welfare to Dover starting with the workhouse (a very old fashioned idea of welfare) to the old Buckland Hospital to the new building. Should be interesting.

We have also expressed a concern on the Lindemann Plaque on the seafront. The cover has been renovated but it is not clear if the brown discolouration arises from the acrylic cover or the monument itself. We await details.

Jenny Olpin and John Cotton continue to have regular meetings with DCI Barlow to raise the Society's concerns. Do please let us know of any problems concerning police matters that you wish to be raised.

The noise from Dover Music Festival caused some members considerable discomfort. In dealing with such a matter one has to recognise that there is a very different reaction across the generations. One of our committee described the opposite reaction of his grandson who did not object to the sound. If we complain we need to offer sensible alternatives or there is a strong possibility we will not be taken seriously. Jim Pople is taking this forward for the Society.

I am very pleased to say that Alan Sencicle is now taking part in our committee, an invaluable person to pester the authorities on litter, drainage of our roads and improvements to our railway's fares system and its service.

The Confederation of the Cinque Ports the Registrar and Seneschal

Peter Sherred

On 21 May 2016 an event bestowing a significant honour upon Dover will take place when the Right Worshipful the Town Mayor of Dover will assume the rôle

of Speaker of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports. This honour comes round every seven years and Dover's Mayor will be the leading civic dignitary of the ancient



*Ian Russell at Dover Castle.
Photo by Melvin Pett of Winchelsea*

organisation which until 2006 boasted one of only two Speakers in the United Kingdom - the other being the Speaker of the House of Commons. Since 2006 the number of Speakers has risen to three with the addition of the Speaker of the House of Lords. Dover's Mayor will hold the position until 2017 when the Speakership will transfer to Sandwich. During the twelve months Dover's Mayor is the Speaker he or she will be supported by and receive advice from the Registrar and Seneschal of the Cinque Ports who is appointed by the Lord Warden. So who and what is the Registrar and Seneschal of this organisation of towns and ports embracing the coastal region of Kent and East Sussex? The present holder of the post Ian Russell MA (Oxon) MSocSc (Birmingham), a retired lawyer living in East Sussex, has been an Officer of the Cinque Ports since 1991 first as a Joint Solicitor appointed by the Confederation and latterly as the Registrar and Seneschal from 2005. In 2016, therefore, Ian will commemorate a quarter of a century of service to the organisation. His immediate predecessor, Ian Gill, was formerly the Town Clerk of Dover and his predecessor, James A Johnson, was also the Town Clerk of Dover.

James A Johnson, who was a towering and controversial local government figure in

Dover, was appointed Town Clerk in September 1944 taking up office on December 1st 1944 having been previously Deputy Town Clerk of South Shields. Mr Johnson was appointed Coroner in which post he developed a formidable reputation for his rigour and in 1964 he conducted the twelve day Christine inquest which made national headlines in reports written by celebrated local journalist Terry Sutton MBE. As Coroner he made determined efforts to unravel the mystery of the death of a 32 year old London stock car driver who drowned after sailing from Ramsgate in the "unseaworthy" yacht Christine. In his capacity as Registrar and Seneschal in 1966 he was involved in the organisation of the ceremony for the installation of Sir Robert Menzies the former Prime Minister of Australia as Lord Warden in succession to Sir Winston Churchill who died in 1965.

Ian Gill took over the post of Town Clerk in 1968 upon the retirement of his predecessor and proved to be a less controversial figure. During his tenure in office as Registrar and Seneschal from 1979, when he was appointed to the rôle, he was responsible for the organisation of the ceremony for the installation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, as Lord Warden in August of that year following the death of Sir Robert Menzies. Upon the death of the Queen Mother in 2002 Ian Gill's last major task before his retirement was to oversee the installation of the current Lord Warden, Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Boyce, in 2005 and in which he was ably supported by his Joint Solicitor colleague who was to succeed him, Ian David Arthur Russell. Ian Gill had been included in the Honours list marking the Queen Mother's 100th birthday when he was made a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order having previously been appointed a Lieutenant of the Order.

Ian Russell, 66, was born in Erith in Kent and attended primary school in Dartford before attending Dartford Grammar School between 1960/67. He attended Pembroke College, Oxford between 1967/70 where he read Law completing his academic education at Birmingham University between 1973/74 where he obtained a Master's Degree in Local Government Management. He married Marcia, who had been a neighbour of his and had attended Dartford Grammar School for Girls, in Dartford in 1969. Ian and Marcia have two children, Stuart married to Sarah, and James married to Alyson, both married sons have children. Ian also has one elder brother.

Ian had a distinguished career of 30 years' public service in local government law and administration starting in 1970 when he was articled to the Town Clerk of Reading County Borough Council. After attending the College of Law at Guildford to secure his legal professional qualifications he was admitted a Solicitor with Reading County Borough Council before receiving promotion to Assistant Town Clerk with Reading Borough Council (after the 1974 Local Government re-organisation). He subsequently served as Assistant City Secretary with Portsmouth City Council for 8 years. He then moved to Hastings Borough Council in December 1990 first as Borough Secretary (and Solicitor to the Council) and then as Director of Central Services, where he remained until retirement in 1999. During this period he was supported by two Assistant Secretaries (one legal, one administrative) and oversaw approximately 40 members of staff within his department.

During his service in local government Ian had professional experience in a wide range of legal matters from conveyancing to the conduct of planning appeals, from housing

matters to court work in addition to increasing administration commitments and he was the Parliamentary and Local Government Elections Returning Officer for Hastings. His association with the Confederation of the Cinque Ports began while he was with Hastings Borough Council when in 1991 he was appointed a Joint Solicitor to the Confederation joining Ian Gill. He assumed responsibility for the day to day administration of the Confederation in 1994 upon Ian Gill's retirement as Chief Executive of Thanet District Council. He was appointed Registrar and Seneschal by Warrant in 2005 in succession to Ian Gill upon his retirement from the post.

In the 25 years of his service with the Confederation Ian has worked with and for many of the Confederation's Mayors, Town Clerks and other Officers and has been responsible for meetings of the Standing Committee offering advice and carrying out the resolved decisions of the Confederation. In particular he has been engaged with specific aspects of the Confederation's life such as raising funding from member towns and others to enable the publication of two editions of the Confederation Visitor Leaflet. He was involved in the establishment and maintenance of the Cinque Ports' website for which he provided all the copy and photographs and which he now maintains personally. He took the lead in the organisation of the installation of the current Lord Warden in April 2005 in conjunction with the Armed Services, English Heritage, Dover District Council and Dover College among others to bring about a complex but successful occasion in Dover. Ian was engaged in the many aspects of settling the installation rituals from its commencement in Dover Castle and St Mary-in-Castro to the Court of Shepway in the Close of Dover College and finally the Banquet at Dover Town Hall all taking

many months of planning. He has presided over a number of "special events" organised by the Confederation such as the celebration of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee including the commissioning of a Loyal Address from a calligrapher in Sandwich. Also with the first of 250 specially commissioned bone china tankards, which were formally presented to the Lord Warden at a ceremony at Dover Castle before the Lord Warden, the Speaker (Roger Neaves of Winchelsea) and Ian (as Registrar and Seneschal) delivered both to Her Majesty's Private Secretary, Sir Christopher Geidt KCB, KCVO, OBE at Buckingham Palace. The Jubilee commemoration also included the distribution of the remaining tankards by sale through the Confederation and a range of local outlets - The Queen being the recipient of No 1 and the Lord Warden No 2. His most recent event was the organisation of the commemoration of the Lord Warden's decade of service to the Confederation marked by a presentation of a specially commissioned map of the historic Cinque Ports at Walmer Castle in April 2015. Ian had commissioned the map from well-known local artist Denys Le Fevre of Ramsgate. At the same event English Heritage presented the Lord Warden with a stand for his ceremonial sword which had been presented to him upon appointment by the Confederation and organised by Ian. On the relevance of the Confederation in the 21st century Ian comments "England has historically been and remains a maritime nation and this has influenced both the local and the national character. The Confederation of the Cinque Ports helps to foster and maintain the influence of this local and national character and generates considerable visitor interest in the history of the Confederation which adds to the economies of the various Cinque Port towns."

After the who, the what - what is the Registrar and Seneschal? Ian indicates that in theory the Registrar runs the Court of Admiralty of the Confederation which still retains Admiralty Jurisdiction concurrent with the Admiralty Court in London. The Court also has Chancery Jurisdiction but Ian does not recall it being exercised. The title of Seneschal probably originates from the 11th/12th century and related to a High Steward in charge of the day-to-day affairs of a medieval baron. The Seneschal became responsible for running the civil side of the activities of the Lord Warden. In his Warrant, from 2005, Ian points out this is emphasised by the fact he is appointed, among other things, as the Clerk of the Castle of Dover. Of his rôle as Registrar Ian comments "The Registrar's rôle, as I perceive it to be, is to support the Lord Warden for the time being and to support the objectives and aims of the Confederation, in particular by exploiting tourist initiatives. This in addition to the legal and administrative rôle of the post." He is supported by the current Joint Solicitor, Christine Barkshire-Jones, who is the Solicitor to Hastings Borough Council.

Ian will be seen in Dover in 2016 as the town hosts the Speakership and in particular he will be on parade in his legal attire of wing collar, tabs, gown and wig in the procession that accompanies Speaker's Day held in October each year when all the Mayors, Town Clerks, distinguished guests and the other Officers will descend on Dover for the traditional procession to the church of St Mary the Virgin, Cannon Street, for a service of celebration of the continuing life of the Confederation. Of his long period of association with the Confederation, more latterly as Registrar and Seneschal, Ian says "I have very much enjoyed the special and unique rôles I have been privileged to experience. It has been a fascinating journey into the unique local

history of the Confederation and its constituent parts and it has enabled me to meet many interesting local people and to participate in some memorable local and national events".

Ian is widely respected throughout the Confederation and in particular by his fellow Officers of the Confederation who recognise in him a hard-working, committed, loyal and wise colleague who carries his exalted unique position in a modest and unassuming manner and whose presence and commitment in and to the Confederation is second to none. It is a great privilege to know and work with him. Perhaps the last words however should be given by the current Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle, Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL who was

appointed in 2004 and is the only naval officer to have occupied the position apart from Admiral Robert Blake during the 17th century. "The Cinque Ports are enormously proud of their long and distinguished heritage, and are always prepared to work together to nurture it. However, given that the key players - the Speakers and Mayors - mostly change every year, it is vital that there is someone to provide a continuity and coordinating function. This duty lies naturally with the Registrar and Seneschal and the Confederation is most fortunate in having as the current incumbent of this post Ian Russell: a person whose knowledge of the subject is second to none and who is prepared to devote, with great conscientiousness and wisdom, a significant amount of his time to ensure that the Cinque Ports remain a strong entity now and in the future."

The Story of Bruce Lilley 1928 - 2014

Part 4

Bruce and Merrill Lilley

CHAPTER FIVE

The Fifties

1950 started with a number of short trips during which nothing memorable occurred. In February I did a standby job on the Highland Prince as a relief while the regular cook was on holiday. However I was the cook in charge of the galley which was a good experience for me and a slight increase in salary. Generally speaking a small ship might have a cook, two assistant cooks and a galley boy. Larger ships could have up to ten assistant cooks. A position as second cook and baker also had a higher salary. My standby job was followed by two

trips to the Eastern Mediterranean, as assistant cook on the Sycamore, a small ship which carried cargo and twelve passengers who were mainly government employees. We loaded guns in Cardiff and ended up in Beirut, having stopped in Cyprus and Egypt. My next trip on the Vasco was also to the Med. I had a longer trip to Cuba on the Lord Codrington at the end of the year. It was a lousy ship with chain steering and bad conditions for the crew. We took general cargo to the southern states and loaded grain to go back to Antwerp. When we got