

OCTOBER MEETING

First Speaker

William Burgess - Dover Painter

A talk by Jon Iveson Curator Dover Museum

Reported by Alan Lee



Dover Castle ad 1642, William Burgess 1847

William Burgess was born in Canterbury in 1805, (the 1851 census

gives it as 1806) and died in 1861. He was a painter, drawing master, author and illustrator.



St Martin le Grand, William Burgess [Dover Museum]

In his early years William was apprenticed to his uncle, a coach and carriage builder. William did a lot of the paintwork and liked to paint in the Egyptian style.

Since about 1818 William had worked with his close friend and artist Thomas Sydney Cooper. In 1827 he persuaded William that they should tour Europe, France in particular. After a year, leaving Thomas in France William returned to England and ended up in Dover. He then married Harriet a girl from Deal. They had a house in Woolcomber Street before moving to 14 Stembrook.

Whilst living here he specialised in paintings that captured events of the day. To supplement his earnings he taught oil and watercolour painting from an address advertised as Shakespeare Place. This was

the name of the alley that ran past his property from Castle Street to Stembrook.

He wrote, illustrated and produced his own book. He also travelled around the country painting various commissioned works.

Throughout his talk Jon showed his audience a large number of images to illustrate just some of the many paintings by William Burgess, a very prolific artist. A number of his works are held at the District Council offices and at Dover Museum, while some are on display around the district.

There is a Dover Society plaque on the wall at Stembrook commemorating William Burgess. He was arguably Dover's most famous artist.



Travellers on Country Lanes, William Burgess



*Army Wagons Beneath Dover Castle. William Burgess
[Dover Collections]*



Militia on the Western Heights, William Burgess [Dover Harbour Board]