

slaughter and bravery of those taking part. He revealed that in secrecy an area of The Freedown at St Margaret's-at-Cliffe was used as a Raid training zone.

Colonel Gelder screened images of the massive big gun defences that the enemy had built to defend Zeebrugge and revealed that some young stretcher

bearers, not permitted to carry guns, were armed with cutlasses.

Winding up his most interesting talk, the speaker reported that so many bravery awards were to be made in the aftermath of the Raid that the distribution of Victoria Crosses was decided among the Raiders by ballot.

Society Member Receives Top Rotary Honour

Peter Sherred

The Rotary Club of Dover has recognised the exceptional and outstanding service contribution to the town of Dover by a member of the Dover Society. An activist and campaigner, John Morgan of Barton Road, Dover, received a top Rotary award when made a Paul Harris Fellow by the club. Other than Life Membership the award is the highest honour a Rotary club can bestow on an individual and it takes its name from the recognised founder of the international movement, Paul P. Harris, a Chicago lawyer who formed with others the first Rotary Club in Chicago on 23 February 1905 so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful, lifelong friendships, and give back to their communities. The award, given sparingly, recognises an outstanding ethic of 'Service above Self' by an individual.

John Morgan, 71, is a born and bred Dovorian the son of John and Lily Morgan. His father was Deputy Headteacher at St Martin's Primary School and his mother a housewife. Following birth in December 1946 in the former Royal Victoria Hospital John subsequently attended Shatterlocks,



John Morgan, collecting rubbish

Barton and Castlemount schools in the town leaving secondary education in July 1963. He joined the local solicitor firm of Lewis and Pain in October 1963 and qualified as a Legal Executive in 1971. He was to remain with the firm, in its many name incarnations, for some forty-eight years retiring in December 2011 having

become one of the most respected members of the local legal profession. With a significant focus on conveyancing his knowledge and experience were often sought by other members of the profession. In his last years at work the firm's name became settled as Bradleys and he operated from their offices in Castle Street.

Not only had he been employed by the same firm for just shy of 50 years but John has been actively engaged in town and community life for decades. He is a former school governor having served for a period of twelve years and as a member of The Dover Society he has served as a committee member and been active with the team reclaiming and maintaining Cowgate Cemetery. He has also been engaged in the delivery of the Newsletter to local members

of the Society and assiduously attends meetings of the Society. He has been a very active anti-litter campaigner who is often to be seen in working parties in different locations in the town at various times of the year helping to keep our local environment clear of the rubbish discarded by thoughtless or uncaring people. Quite voluntarily each year he litter picks in three local cemeteries to keep them free of litter and he has frequently joined with members of both the local Rotary clubs on their targeted litter picks in such places as St Mary's Primary School playground and Harold Street, at Green Lane on the Buckland Estate, and Shatterlocks Primary School as well as regularly and quite independently clearing litter from Old Charlton Road. He has been involved with the River Dour Association and, subsequently, with the White Cliffs Countryside project helping to ensure the River Dour, which flows through the town, is cleared of rubbish deposited in it.

Being a lifelong member of the local Conservative Association John has had an abiding interest in local politics and has been a regular party candidate in elections for our local authorities mostly standing in seats deemed unwinnable but where he nonetheless flies the party flag. One day maybe the plan will back-fire and he will find himself elected which could, of course, necessitate a speedy by-election! He devotes some of such spare time as he has among his other activities and interests attending Barton Road Primary School where he assists young pupils with their reading.

For these and his many other activities undertaken quite voluntarily and without recognition or reward President Dave Smith of the Rotary Club of Dover told John his nomination for this special award was agreed unanimously by the appropriate members of the club. The award was presented at a regular meeting of the club at

which John had been invited as a guest but without knowledge of the proposed presentation and he was clearly taken by surprise at his recognition for, quite unusually, John was momentarily rendered speechless but soon recovered to express his gratitude to the club for the honour given to him by the Rotarians.

John, a lifelong bachelor and long-time resident of Barton Road, enjoys music, hill walking and sport in particular tennis, cricket and squash. He was involved with the River originals Tennis Club and has been chairman of River Tennis Club for many years. He is also a player of tennis with Barham Tennis Club. John does not drive but is often to be seen bicycling throughout the local area.

Also present at the meeting where the award was presented were two of his former professional work colleagues Reg Hoare, another long-term associate with Bradleys, and myself. Having known John for decades with his affable nature and knowing of his service commitment to the town his award was more than well deserved. All three meet once a month for lunch within the town or elsewhere to maintain friendship and to put the world to rights. These regular 'Last of the Summer Wine' lunches were used as the ruse by which John was encouraged, by his two former colleagues, to attend the Rotary Club lunch at which his presentation was made.



Peter Sherred, John Morgan PHF & Reg Hoare