

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 97

March 2020



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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

Brief details of the Society outings and the meeting dates for 2020 are in the programme inside the back cover. Full details and the booking forms for the outings are printed on the centre pages of this edition.

A small number of our members meet up for a meal at 6pm before each of our meetings, with that evening's speakers normally being present. If you would like to be included in this friendly get-together, please contact the editor for further details. You will be most welcome.

Do you have a little time to spare each month as the Society is still in need of willing helpers? A number of the committee members have been heavily involved in the work of the Society over many years and are in their 70s and 80s and are at a stage when they need others to take over their roles. If the Society is to have a future we need the committee to have some younger members with the interest and time.

Also needed are volunteers to take a more active involvement in any of our sub-committees, projects, events, meetings and submitting articles and reports for the newsletter. If you are interested then contact Derek Leach, Jeremy Cope or any committee member.

All resolutions and nominations for officers and committee members should be submitted in writing to must reach the Secretary, Jeremy Cope, by Friday 1st April 2020. Nominations must be supported by a proposer, seconder and the written consent of the potential candidate. Details on page 23.

Alan Lee, Editor

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DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 98 will be Wednesday 3rd June 2020. 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 to be submitted in JPEG and not imbedded in the text of the article and must be in as high resolution as possible. 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

OCTOBER MEETING

————— First Speaker —————

The District Tourism Strategy

A talk by Christopher Townend

Reported by Terry Sutton

Tourism in Dover is thriving and benefits to the local economy are growing.

This was the message hammered home to a well-attended Dover Society meeting by Christopher Townend, the district council's strategic tourism manager, who was appointed a year ago. At the October meeting, Chris explained his role and detailed a tourism plan he was about to present to Dover District Council's cabinet, which is increasingly appreciating the importance of the tourism sector in the economy of White Cliffs Country.

According to independent research, it is now estimated that tourism is worth £282 million (£281,968,200) to the district's economy. The research, commissioned by Visit Kent, claimed the industry supported 17 % of total employment in the district while, for the town of Dover, tourism created 7% of all jobs.

One of the interesting details revealed by Mr Townend was that day-trippers to Dover spent, on average, £30 to £42 but, if they could persuade the visitor to remain overnight, the spend increased seven

times to around £210. It was also reported that the average cost of accommodation offered by providers was £71 per night.

Mr Townend spoke with passion about the attractions White Cliffs Country offered visitors to Dover, Deal and Sandwich and along the coast. Key publicity drivers attracting visitors highlighted the district's heritage, landscape and the many pursuits offered.

He also emphasised the growing importance of advertising on the web and offered no-cost digital facilities to accommodation and events providers. He was congratulated on the graphics that accompanied tourism attraction leaflets about Deal, Sandwich and Dover.

Looking ahead he reminded his audience about the benefits to the district that are likely to be accrued with the 149th golf Open Championship at Royal St George's, Sandwich in July 2020. The international event, he said, was expected to attract at least 200,000 visitors (including 500 journalists) as well as providing the region with international publicity.



The Bridge at Kearsney Abbey



Damage to the Cliffs East of Dover

OCTOBER MEETING

————— Second Speaker —————

Dover and the Zulu War

A talk by Phil Eyden – Reported by Alan Lee

About three years ago Phil was invited by Marianne Slater to look at the old Western Heights Garrison Church baptism logs prior to them being moved to the National Archives. He then spent several months transcribing the 2,000 plus entries. Having completed this task he decided to research some of the entries.

He was amazed to discover that the 2nd Battalion 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot had been stationed at the Citadel. From 1873 their regimental depot was at The Barracks, Brecon. It was not until 1st July 1881 that, under the Cardwell reforms, the regiment became known as The South Wales Borderers.

On arrival at the SE Railway's Town station, at Dover, on 26th July 1875, the 2nd Bn had been on manoeuvres at Aldershot, they consisted of 29 Officers, 490 men and 100 woman and children. They formed up and with a band playing they marched up the hill to the Citadel. On this march Cpl Jordan Checketts, a 29 year old, complained of chest pains. Sgt John Lines, later to be killed at Isandlwana, obtained permission for him to fall out. He sat down near to the parade ground, had a fit and died 10 minutes later. The inquest, at the Albion Inn, Hawkesbury Street returned the verdict, "Death from Heart Disease, accelerated by the exertion of ascending the hill leading to the Heights."

On 25th August 1875 the regiment held a reception at the Citadel for Capt Webb who had, earlier in the day, become the first person to successfully swim the English Channel.

On 21st June 1877 they departed for Chatham, then on 1st February 1878 they entrained for Portsmouth and the next day boarded the troopship Himalaya and sailed for Natal, South Africa.

During his research Phil identified some 30 names from the 2nd Bn 24th of Foot. These included some who were immortalized in the 1964 film Zulu (the actors names appear in brackets):

Pte William Jones (Richard Davis). Born 1840 at Evesham, Worcestershire and suffered chronic rheumatism all his life. His wife accompanied him to South Africa but became ill during her pregnancy and she and the child died during childbirth. Along with Pte Robert Jones he was awarded the Victoria Cross (V.C.) at Rorke's Drift. They defended the hospital and managed to remove 6 of the 7 men to safety through a hole they had cut into the wall. In later years, penniless, William sold his V.C. for £5. For the rest of his life he suffered hallucinations of being attacked by the Zulu's at the battle at Rorke's Drift. He died in 1913

Quartermaster Edward Bloomfield (Peter Vaughn). Born 1835 he was in charge of supply of the reserve ammunition to Charles Pope's 'G' Company, 2nd Bn, 24th of Foot. Reluctant to give this out, as it had been earmarked for Chelmsford's force, he was killed on 22nd January 1879 while handing out cartridges at Isandlwana.

Sgt Joseph Ledworth Windridge (Joseph Powell). Born at Birmingham in 1841.

Originally was in the 5th East Kent Rifles (K Company), as a Colour Sgt he took part in the annual rifle contest at North Fall Meadow 13th September 1875. He was promoted then demoted a number of times, mainly through excess drinking. On 2nd October 1875 was a witness at the trial, in Dover, of Pte Allan Chadwick charged, and found guilty, with selling his regimental clothing to a local man, George Rye, he met at the Marquis of Granby. After deserting Chadwick was arrested wearing civilian clothes.

On 14th May 1877 he married Helena Catherine Rawlinson at Trinity Church, Strond Street, Dover. Re-enlisted in the 2nd Bn 24th of Foot and was a Sgt in 'B' Coy at Rorke's Drift, in charge of the defence of the buildings and guarding the stores. Awarded the King's South Africa Medal with clasp. He died in 1902.

Lt Gonville Bromhead (Michael Caine).

Born in 1845. Whilst at Dover recorded as organising cricket matches. In charge of 'B' Coy 24th at Rorke's Drift. Following the battle promoted to Captain and in 1883 Brevet Major. Along with John Chard, Royal Engineers, received the V.C. for outstanding leadership. Bromhead died from enteric (typhoid) fever in February 1891 at Allahabad in India.

Capt Arthur George Godwin-Austen.

Born 1844. Was the Officer Commanding 'B' Coy, 24th Foot. Shot in the loins during the 9th Xhosa (Frontier) War, August 1877 to February 1878. After he was invalided back to England Lt G Bromhead took over his command. He died in 1939.

Col Sgt John Alfred Tigar. Was in hospital at the time of Isandlwana, which no doubt saved his life. As soon as he recovered he received a commission, later promoted to Major, and returned to his unit 2nd Bn 24th. He was one of a party who returned to Isandlwana in March of 1879. The sight of the terribly mutilated bodies of his comrades,

hovered over by birds of prey, haunted him for the rest of his life. In WW1 he served as a Major in the Army Service Corps depot in Cardiff. His Army career lasted for 47 years.

At least another 9 men who were stationed at the Citadel were killed at Isandlwana.

Other soldiers identified from the Western Heights Garrison Church baptism logs by Phil included;

90th Regiment of Foot (Perthshire Volunteers) (Light Infantry)

Quartermaster Joseph George Newman.

He was severely wounded at the Relief of Lucknow, India Mutiny, November 1857. Commissioned Lieutenant January 1872 he was at the Dover Citadel 1873/74. Took part in the 9th Xhosa (Frontier) War including actions at Waterkloof and Perie Bush. In the Zulu War fought at Khambula (26th March 1879) and at Ulundi (4th July 1879). He died in 1919.

58th (Rutlandshire) Regiment of Foot

9th February 1878 arrived Grand Shaft Barracks from Shorncliffe, On Sunday 23rd February 1879 the regiment attended their last church service, at the Western Heights Church, wearing their new white helmets. At 7.40am the first contingent of 3 Officers and 110 men marched out of the barracks, down the Grand Shaft and formed up in Snargate Street. It was snowing as they marched up Beach Street to the station platform to catch the 8.20am train to Portsmouth. The remainder of the regiment, 26 Officers and 796 men followed the next day. They all embarked on the troopship Russia and arrived at the Cape, South Africa on 7th March 1879.

On 3rd April, they were part of the relief column that reached Eshowe and lifted the 2 month siege and on 4th July took part in the Battle of Ulundi, Cetchwayo's capital. Cpl J Thomkinson of the 58th was killed and 10 others wounded. This was the last battle of the Zulu War and resulted in a total of 18

British killed and 1,500 Zulu's killed.

The regiment remained in South Africa for the 1st Boer War (Transvaal Rebellion) 16th December 1880 to 23rd March 1881.

Phil then mentioned a small number of people, connected to the regiments, who are buried in St Mary's Churchyard. Then went on to talk about 6 ex-pupils from the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover who died on active service. They were;

J Jackson 2nd Bn 3rd Foot (The Buffs) probably in the Xhosa (Frontier) War 1878.

Col Sgt Frederick Henry Wolfe 1st Bn 24th Regt killed at Isandlwana.

Pte William Gregg 1st Bn 24th Regt killed at Isandlwana.

Pte Charles Samuel Lowe 1st Battalion 24th Regt killed at Isandlwana.

Pte Richard Lowe 1st Battalion 24th Regt killed at Isandlwana. (Brother of Charles Samuel Lowe).

Cpl William Henry Morris 2nd Bn 24th Regt killed at Isandlwana.

Phil ended his most interesting talk with a Michael Caine quote "Not a lot of people know that."

Rorke's Drift was known as kwaJimu "Jim's Land" in the Zulu language. It was a mission station and the former trading post of James Rorke, an Irish merchant.

Lieutenant John Chard (1847-97), commanded part of No 5 Field Company, Royal Engineers. There were also a few Natal colonial troops at Rorke's Drift.

The Zulu force was led by Dabulamanzi kaMpande (1839-86). He was King Cetshwayo's half-brother and had commanded the Undi Corps at the Zulu victory at Isandlwana the day before.

Editor

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NOVEMBER MEETING

————— First Speaker —————

Port of Dover Update

A talk by Doug Bannister CEO DHB

Reported by Terry Sutton

What keeps Doug Bannister, chief executive of Dover Harbour Board, awake at night? Not worrying about Brexit but what's going to happen to cross-channel traffic in the 50 years ahead.

Mr Bannister listed the possible changes that could revolutionise the operation of ferries between Dover and France where, today, a dozen ferries were operating.

The possible changes, he suggested, included climate change, cutting back on petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles (including lorries), crewless ships, tourists not taking cars on the ferries but chartering a vehicle once on the Continent, and other changes not yet evident.

Mr Bannister revealed that future major work on the reconstruction of Dover's western docks is set to be delayed until the directors of Dover Harbour Board see the impact of Brexit on the Port of Dover.

He reported stages one and two of the multi-million task of providing a cargo hub at the western docks were virtually completed and stage 3A, on the Marina Curve, was expected to be finished in six to nine months' time.

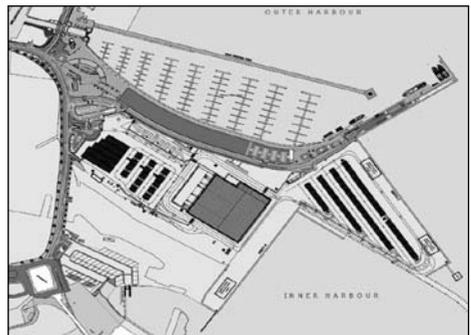
But the completion of the overall project calls for the reclamation of the Granville Dock, the Wick Channel and tidal harbour by controversially using infill from the Goodwin Sands. This is the final stage 3B of the reconstruction work.

He told a questioner at the meeting that the port "will wait for the post-Brexit environment before going ahead" with the final stage.

In his talk Mr Bannister told another questioner he was looking at the possibility of the revival of the rail link to the western docks, to carry container cargo, but pointed out there was a problem over the height of the rail tunnels.

He poured scorn on the government's Brock scheme for delayed trucks that would entail lorries "taking the scenic tour" to Manston in order to get to Dover.

He admitted the changing date of Brexit had resulted in a "drop in traffic" on the ferries at Dover and explained why it would be impossible to immediately switch ferries from Dover to other ports if there was Brexit congestion here.



Marina Curve Stage 3

NOVEMBER MEETING

Second Speaker

Oxney Court

A talk by Christine Waterman - Reported by Terry Sutton

The tree-hidden acres of Oxney Court, near St Margaret's, were, around 1911, a prime site for the mining of first class coal, the Dover Society was told at our November meeting. But mining never went ahead, otherwise hundreds of miners would have moved into St Margaret's.

Former Dover museum curator Christine Waterman spoke on the Mysteries of Oxney Court and told us that the mining rights were included at one stage when the land and mansion were offered for sale. At that time there was road access from St Margaret's into the estate.

Miss Waterman listed the families who, over the centuries, have lived at Oxney Court and told us that the current residents were a Russian family. They bought Oxney in 2012, she said.

There was evidence, she explained, of Bronze Age burials in Oxney's acres, where in 1872 there was a population of a dozen.

Around 1066, with the arrival of William the Conqueror, the D'aubervilles owned Oxney, with the Jeken family tenancing the property for 200 years from 1551. Wealthy Deal mayor John May bought and extended Oxney mansion in 1812, until he got in financial difficulties. He had made his money during the Napoleonic Wars. Other owners followed, with the mansion badly damaged by fire at one stage.

There was a great deal of interest from the packed audience in the yarns about Oxney and the haunting of the nearby Dover-Deal

road. These including reports of a "grey lady" who boarded a bus but was never seen again, a Dover masked highwayman hanged in 1757 near the spot where he had held up carriages, and other mysteries including the death in 1942 of an escaped Italian prisoner of war said to have suffered from shock.

After being destroyed by fire in the First World War, the house sat in ruins until 1998 when it was rebuilt. Now with its crenellations and towers faithfully restored, Oxney Court is a substantial classic gothic-style Grade II Listed house.

In 2012, James Clague Associates (JCL) were engaged to assist an overseas client with the purchase and set-up of Oxney Court. Since then JCL have designed and project-managed a number of additions for the family.

The first project was a first-floor extension over the flat roof at the rear of the main house. This provided an additional en-suite bedroom with exquisite joinery and unique bathroom design and was completed in only seven weeks.

Since then, other additions have been an oak framed external kitchen, an entertainment area, a new cinema room with a whole house entertainment system, the conversion of a barn to a gym, installation of a new internal kitchen, upgraded heating and hot water systems and an adventure playground.

The result is now an estate which is of an exceptionally high quality, with all the facilities suited to comfortable family living and entertaining.

Editor

JANUARY MEETING

————— First Speaker —————

Lees Court Estate Finds

A talk by Keith Parfitt – Reported by Alan Lee

The assembled members of the Dover Society were given an in-depth insight into recent Bronze Age finds in Kent by Keith Parfitt from the Kent Archaeological Trust.

In 2018 Lees Court Estate, Bradlesmere near Faversham saw several hundred acres of farmland being surveyed by more than 100 people.

This followed on from the discovery, in 2017, of five hoards close together. One hoard alone was found to contain 16kg of bronze,

Wood's Court Field was ordinary looking but led to the discovery of three hoards of Bronze Age materials.

Hoard I was unearthed as a clay pot which contained hundreds of fragments from the Wilburton-Wallington (metalworking) phase of the Bronze Age dated between c. 1140 BC and c. 1020 BC.

This raised the question: Who had placed it there and why?

Hoard II was uncovered some 170 yards away and about 1 foot down yielded many fragments of charcoal and a sizable lump of copper. This was dated a couple of hundred years later around 800 BC to 900 BC.

Hoard III was uncovered just far enough away from hoard II to be classified as a separate find. Broken up Bun Ingot, named because it is rounded one side and flat the other, and pieces of tin, was identified. This is common with the Ewant Park phase of the late Bronze Age c. 800 BC to c. 700 BC.

Bronze, a mix of copper and tin, neither of which is found in the county, has been discovered on 70 to 80 sites in Kent.

The closest large mines of copper are in Llandudno, North Wales, here the Great Orme is the largest pre-historic mine in the world with 5 miles of tunnels.

The closest large tin mines are in Cornwall. Some, like the Levant Mine, reached out for 2.5km under the sea, at a depth of 640m. Wheal Roots Tin Mine Workings are found at The Poldark Mine of today. This is the only complete tin mine in Cornwall open to the general public for underground guided tours.

Keith surmised that as there was a lack of roads these materials would have been carried to Kent by boat. Dover had this capability as shown by the Bronze Age Boat c. 1550 BC.

In September 2019 the archaeologists returned to the site and excavated a trench to link hoards I and II. About halfway they excavated a section 6 feet deep and 20 feet round. This gave up pottery and hundreds of more bronze fragments. A large loom weight with a circular hole was one of the major finds here.

The majority of Kentish Bronze Age settlements lie in the North or the West of the county.

Of the some 6,000 archaeologists in Britain about 1,000 are now working on the route of the proposed HS2.

JANUARY MEETING

Second Speaker

Dover Greeters

A talk by Denise Smith – Reported by Alan Lee

I would like to extend many thanks to Denise Smith who stepped in at short notice to replace the advertised speaker.

Denise began by outlining a bit of the history that led to the setting up of the local organization.

Dover Greeters are part of an international greeter organisation. Started in New York and called the Big Apple Greeters, they used volunteers who loved where they lived to show visitors some of that fabulous city.

Kent decided to become part of that idea to help encourage visitors attending the 2012 London Olympics to visit Kent, which is, after all, only a very short journey from Stratford.

With money from Interreg Europe and Kent County Council they set up Kent Greeters using a volunteer recruitment and training system. They then spent quite a lot of money on showing the Kent Greeters the best places to visit throughout Kent. It was an exciting time and the volunteers in Dover, Deal and Sandwich as part of this organization then became the White Cliffs Greeters.

Unfortunately, not long after the end of the London Olympics the funding ran out. Dover Town Council then encouraged us to continue, giving us the uniforms and helping us with publicity. So the Dover Greeters was born. The Town Council did originally have an idea that part of the Greeters duties would be to identify serial smokers throwing cigarette butts down and to look out for owners allowing their dogs to foul the footpaths and public areas. Luckily both those ideas were lost along the way.

The Dover Greeters now meet visitors in the town, on the seafront or meet visitors from the cruise shuttle buses when they arrive in the Market Square. They

offer a free map, a smile and a 'Welcome'. They suggest and direct people to interesting places to visit, to help them get the best experience and to make the best of their limited time in the town. Small groups are offered free tours or guided heritage walks, in the town or on the seafront noting interesting places and telling stories of people who have formed Dover's history over the centuries.

The Greeters also work with The Dover Society in providing guides for visitors to the Maison Dieu.

Dover Greeters now are very careful about who they recruit as their lovely volunteers. The team in place today is very positive about Dover and they go out of their way to encourage visitors to want to come again and explore our unique historic town.

There really is never a dull moment as the volunteers regularly meet for social/training days and to visit other sites. They like to swap stories on the questions asked or on comments made. One favourite is when a lovely young lady, much struck by St James' Church, declared "but this building is older than New Zealand". Another was, years ago, when an elderly American interrupted Denise was talking about the arrival in Dover, after 23 years of exile, of Charles II. He enquired "Sorry, Chuck 2 who?"

Some of the most popular questions are often about where English food can be purchased, fish and chip, sausages and mash and Eton mess being the favourites! Denise was once asked where musket balls could be bought but she had to explain we don't seem to specialise in them in Dover anymore!

Do you love Dover and like meeting people to help them enjoy their visit. A lot of history is not needed, you learn as you go and the hours are flexible. Interested; Then contact Denise on Tel: 01304 206458.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS Sheila Cope

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE (if you do not pay by Standing Order)

£10 joint for two members at the same address, £6 single membership.

Standing Order payments are always most welcome.

An increasing number of members now wish to pay by bank transfer and so here are The Society's bank details. Only the sort code and account number are essential but it is helpful to use your membership no. as a reference. (Just phone or email me if you have lost it). Barclays Bank, Dover Branch, Ashford Group
Sort code 20-02-62 Acc. No. 80864803

We now have a membership database set up, although it still needs tweaking. I shall continue to run the paper records alongside for some time yet.

We number 466, approximately the same as this time last year. In spite of our marketing efforts, which we hope to increase, our new members always seem to balance our leavers.

Unfortunately we have recently lost Jim Francis who with Mary regularly

supported our events in the past. His 4 part autobiography "Going to Sea" appeared in nos. 74, 75, 76 and 78 of our Newsletters. He was a valued town centre newsletter distributor.

In addition to losing our former President Brigadier Maurice Atherton and also Jeremy Fox, both mentioned in November, the following members have also died: Mrs Pamela Sayers, Mrs Shirley Dowle (see Shirley's memories of old Dover in Newsletter no. 11), Mrs Roberta Emms, Mr Leon Vaughan, Mr Mike Sharp, Mrs Audrey Wood and Mr Leonard Southwood. We send condolences to their friends and families.

Welcome new members include: Alain Black, Mr Ben & Mrs Michelle Harding, David & Kim Burton, Rhian Pamphilon, Clive Pilcher, Mr Andrew & Mrs Danie Page and Mrs Janet & Mr Paul Dagsys, Mark Kerr and Joan Idris.

COWGATE CEMETERY Jeremy Cope

With winter our working sessions are very much subject to the weather. However we manage to work most of our programme with the result that the cemetery looks fine for the time of year. And to cheer us up nature has prompted the primroses to make a start - the first are coming into flower and it will not be long before we see the usual lovely display.

If you would like to join our happy band then please contact me on 01304 211348 or email jeremyclope@willersley.plus.com. We usually work the first Thursday morning and the second Saturday morning in the month but this may vary according to the weather and holidays.

Planning Committee

Patrick Sherratt

By the time this report is published in March the weather may have turned to a more seasonal note. This winter we had so much rain and I am sure with climate change our weather cycles will alter.

Anyway, a very happy New Year to all.

Two members of the Planning Committee have resigned, and my thanks go to Beverly Hall who has contributed to the Committee for just under seven years, Adeline Reidy has also resigned, having served for just over one year.

With two vacancies on the Planning Committee, if you are interested in joining us kindly contact Graham or myself.

Dover Western Docks Revival (DWDR):

We all wait to see if Phase 3B is delivered. In DHB's latest DWDR Newsletter it states "Designated as a port-centric hub this aspect of the DWDR development involves the reclamation of the two marinas, Tidal Basin and Granville Dock, along with the Wick Channel. Programing will not be determined until post Brexit on October 31st 2019". As mentioned in my report in

the November Newsletter, Geest have moved their operations back to Portsmouth and the commercial/financial viability of Phase 3B is possibly under review. On the positive side, new general cargo has been secured and recently Stage 3A, the paving area around the clock tower and along the new Marina Curve, with the objective to have completion later this year when the new marina is expected to open. Heritage assets, listed items removed from the former Prince of Wales Pier, will be incorporated in this scheme.

There is no information in respect to the proposed retail/catering/hotel development originally mentioned to be built on the Marina Curve, this will possibly be in conjunction with a developer and the delay could be difficulty in finding a developer, based on the current economic profile of Dover.

The programme of Cruise Ships visiting Dover has just been announced with 101 scheduled ship visits. The new Berth 4 in the DWDR has only two ship visits. We wish the 2020 season well.



3 Cruise Ships, Courtesy of DHB

DTIZ (St James Development): For more than one year, nine units (4 retail and 5 catering) have been empty. I have sought DDC help to ensure the owner (Legal and General) comply with the landscaping maintenance, as already many of the green areas are bereft of the plants that were part of the planning condition of this development.

St James shopping centre is currently running a competition for small businesses, with a prize of one of the empty units free for a limited time. We wish all participants good luck in this competition.

The socio-economic profile of Dover does not assist in attracting new business investment and a well-maintained site is of paramount importance if new business is to be drawn here.

Castle Street/Biggin Street: We continue to support change of use of upper floors in Biggin Street and Castle Street from business to residential, provided the residential property is of good quality and delivers above the minimum *Conversion to Flats* guidelines prepared, but not adopted, by Dover District Council. We do, however, object to HMO applications as there are too many such in Dover. Currently with permission to house 492 people in 43 properties, Dover now has more HMO residents than either the higher populated Margate or Ramsgate, with Margate housing 219 and Ramsgate 186.

Reports have indicated the high number of HMOs in Thanet that have experienced anti-social activities, with Thanet District Council adopting a stricter control. Has this led to the recent increase in applications for HMOs in Dover?

I would emphasize there is no objection to

well-run establishments such as Porchlight and Outreach and the only concern is with establishments not controlled by such organisations.

Conservation Areas: Derek's team have completed the draft appraisal for Dover Town Centre Conservation Area. The prepared Dover Street Appraisal is still awaiting DDC Cabinet approval.

Dover Grammar School for Boys. (DGSB) Planning Application KCC/DO/01955/2019t: This application was in respect to the construction of a new school on ground below the existing school, with demolition of the current building.

In my nine years as Chair of the Society Planning Committee, this has been one of the most difficult discussions as several Society members, mainly older and ex pupils of DGSB, naturally have fond memories of the existing school and its unique design. However, the building is not a listed building, a factor that would carry weight in any planning decision. Furthermore, the building is in poor repair, possibly due to lack of maintenance by KCC. One of our Committee members is a retired teacher and drew attention to the current facilities that are not fit for current educational requirements. We also took into account that the Old Pharosians' Association (Members are former pupils and staff of DGSB) supported the application.

We were greatly concerned that, if planning application was refused, the school would be built at "Dover New Town" (Whitfield) and another important facility lost to Dover. If this occurred KCC would dispose of the land at profit, as was the case on surplus land at Buckland Hospital, where a profit of £1million to KCC was

placed in general funds for the county rather than benefitting Dover.

Of interest the two KCC Councillors for Dover (Cllr Collor and Cllr Beresford) made no written comments in respect of this important application.

Planning consent was granted with a condition of seeking Historic England's (HE) assessment for listed building status. The HE report concludes *"While certainly of local interest, Dover Grammar School for Boys does not have sufficient claims to special architectural interest to meet the criteria for listing"*.

Personally, I was deeply concerned whether full transparency took place as we, as well as other people making written comments, were not advised of the planning meeting when the application was to be discussed at KCC and a planning decision made. Therefore, I contacted the Leader of KCC (Cllr Gough), suggesting the matter be called to scrutiny. Whilst being acknowledged, I received no actual response. Further correspondence, copied to the Leader of Opposition (Cllr Bird) at KCC, resulted in Cllr Bird referring the matter to the Monitoring Officer at KCC with a copy to the Chair of Scrutiny (Cllr Booth). Cllr Gough then eventually replied, having referred the matter to KCC Head of Planning Applications who states, *"the planning application was considered and publicized in accordance with the legislative requirements"*.

As the failure to notify the date of the planning meeting had not been resolved, further correspondence to Cllr Gough brought the response, *"In light of your comments, however, I have asked the Head of Planning Applications to revise the acknowledgement letter that is sent out when comments are received so that this is clearer*

and to consider if there are other ways in which your concerns regarding notification could be addressed more positively in the future".

Former St Mary's Care Home: An application for a 43 room "Bed and Breakfast" establishment was strongly opposed by the Society, as such an application was possibly a back-door method of securing a large HMO housing in excess of 80 people, which would have been the largest HMO in Dover. Following a large number of community objections, the applicant withdrew the application.

I am delighted that an application from a different applicant seeks to convert the property to flats (4 with 1, 3 with 2 and 5 with 3 beds). Two new houses built adjacent to existing houses in the grounds at the rear of the building would give a total of 4 flats with 2 beds and 3 with 3 beds. We have supported this application although we are concerned as to the lack of on-street parking in the area. Sadly, current planning policy concludes that if there is sustainable public transport (which there is in Dover) and adequate cycle storage, this precludes the applicant from providing "off-street" parking. This may be appropriate to inner cities but, in my view, should not be applicable to urban/town situations where, despite providing cycle storage, many of the residents will not have cycles or use public transport, but are car users.

The Citadel: I feel it appropriate to give the latest regarding the Citadel. As previously reported, The Society sought to have the Citadel listed as a community asset but this was refused by DDC. Therefore, we asked English Heritage to take ownership, but they declined. They could only consider taking ownership, if the Ministry of Justice donated the Citadel

together with a dowry for its upkeep.

In 2018 the 33-acre site was placed at auction through Savills. As there was no sale, I contacted the Director responsible for the sale of the citadel and received a reply: *"The sale is progressing so not yet sold"*. I also contacted the Ministry of Justice who replied, *"I can confirm that the former Dover IRC is sold subject to contract"*. Upon contacting DDC confirmed *"We are aware that, following a public sector procurement process, we are expecting that an announcement may be made in the near future."*

This would suggest that, if purchased by the prospective developer, in due course planning details will be available. Due to the importance of this site, we are hopeful that full pre-planning consultation takes place with the community and we shall be keeping a very careful eye on proposals for

the development of this important historical site.

Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's) and deprivation levels in Dover:

I reported in some detail in the last Newsletter and some items have been mentioned in items above. Graham and I will be doing some additional research and hope to produce a factual document in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Of interest, a planning application in Dover for a one bed house was refused by DDC as not providing adequate accommodation. The applicant appealed against this decision and the Planning Inspectorate over-ruled the DDC decision. This type of decision by the Planning Inspectorate does little to encourage DDC to adopt a policy of good quality housing in Dover.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Dover Society AGM 2020

Derek Leach

Once again my annual report to be presented formally at the April AGM is with your March Newsletter, which means that I can only cover up to the middle of February 2020. Anything new of import in March or early April I shall add verbally at the AGM.

As always, your Executive, sub committees and volunteers have been very active trying to conserve and promote our heritage, improve the quality of life for those living now and participating in all that is going on to regenerate our town for the future. We are still heavily involved in various project groups and forums such as the Port and Community Forum, Town Hall Refurbishment Steering Group, DDC's Local Plan Advisory Group, Dover Town Neighbourhood Plan Group, Dover Community Network, Coastal Communities Fund Team and White Cliffs Country Tourism Association. Our occasional meetings with DDC Directors to air concerns and discuss developments continue as do meetings with the local police chief.

Passionate about conserving and promoting Dover's past

The Town Hall Refurbishment Project has seen a considerable amount of detailed work during the year with many technical surveys undertaken to provide the detailed plans for the Heritage Lottery Fund. Most exciting was the paint conservators revealing that William Burges's original 1883 decoration of the

Connaught Hall, Mayor's Parlour etc. is still intact under the present emulsion. Samples are left exposed for you to see. The detailed plans will be submitted to HLF by June 2020 and we shall know in September whether the HLF grant is confirmed. If so, this will allow the delivery of the project to start in earnest. The downside will be that the building will have to close for up to two years probably from September 2021. A significant benefit will be that the Museum will have to move its storage from the very unsatisfactory conditions of the old cells to a much better facility elsewhere. Our Town Hall guided tours continue with our dedicated band of volunteers - more are needed.

As usual we welcomed many visitors to Dover's Heritage Open Days weekend in September with 10 buildings open free of charge. The Bluebird Heritage Trail guide booklets continued to be popular with cruise passengers and other visitors.

Passionate about making the best of what Dover already has

The River Dour Partnership operates under the Society's 'umbrella' and at last our campaign to restore the Barton Path Edwardian railings has succeeded. In addition, the River Dour Centre, using the former Buckland Bridge toilet building, has opened. There are now 32 voluntary River Wardens, River clean-ups continue and more volunteers are always welcome. The excellent maintenance of Cowgate Cemetery by Society volunteers

goes on with fortnightly work parties. If you like fresh air and good company why not join them?

Our Refurbishment Committee continues to lobby to improve the appearance of the town regarding cleanliness, litter, state of pavements and antisocial behaviour. A safe pedestrian route between the castle and the cliffs still eludes us and we are pressing the need for public toilets. We were pleased to see the replacement of part of the paving in Biggin Street and the improved floral displays. The number of empty shops and their neglect is of great concern. The 'plastic free Dover' initiative was welcomed. With others we lobbied about when cross Channel traffic is disrupted Dover is often gridlocked by freight lorries taking any route to get to and from the docks. Adeline Reidy's initiative to get signage improved was welcomed.

Following consultation and our submission to DDC regarding its proposed Dover District Tourism and Visitor Strategy, the strategy was published with its aims of protecting and enhancing what we have, promoting what we have and producing more visitor opportunities. We welcomed the contents, but having had similar initiatives in the past, we await delivery!

Passionate about the future of Dover

The redevelopment of the Western Docks progressed during the year with the new bridge over the Navigation Cut opening as well as the new pier, which is proving very popular and our concern about the lack of any seating is being addressed. The new cargo terminal also opened and we await the opening of the extended marina and the Marina Curve Pier in 2020. With continued economic

uncertainty over Brexit, DHB has not yet started on infilling the Granville Dock and Tidal Basin.

The St. James area redevelopment still has several empty units and we have expressed concern about the lack of care and maintenance of the limited tree and shrub areas.

Dover Town's six wards are now all within the top 20% of deprived wards nationally compared with only two in 2010, despite the current DDC Core Strategy aiming to have none! Our campaign to limit the number of houses of multiple occupation (HMOs), usually one bedroom flats, continues. Dover has a much higher incidence of HMOs (41 with 465 residents) than Folkestone or Thanet. We are also concerned about the rarity of DDC inspections of HMOs. Whilst we support making use of empty floors above ground floor shops, any conversions to flats should meet 2006 national space guidelines, which DDC has so far failed to adopt. Despite DDC assurances in 2018 that we could expect more Section 215 actions forcing owners to improve the external appearance of their properties, it has not yet happened in Dover.

Our Planning Committee and its dedicated Chairman, Patrick Sherratt, continue to monitor planning applications and comment when appropriate. We have welcomed an application to convert the former St. Mary's Care Home into apartments rather than the previous bed and breakfast facility proposal. We await developments regarding the Farthingloe/Western Heights revised proposals and have learnt that the former Immigration Removal Centre at the Citadel has been sold subject to

contract but to whom and for what purpose is unknown. We were pleased to see that the former Kearsney Manor Nursing Home is being put to good use as a centre for those with learning difficulties. DDC was congratulated on its redevelopment plans for the William Muge and Snellgrove buildings in Harold Street/Leyburne Road.

Whilst, on balance, supporting the controversial application to replace the Boys' Grammar School with a new building, we have complained to KCC (the planning authority in this case) for a lack of transparency in making it better known to the local community.

Regarding Conservation Area Appraisals, our team submitted our draft Dour Street area report to DDC in July, but to date it has not been considered by cabinet and we are concerned about an apparent lack of enthusiasm on the part of some councillors for conservation areas. Despite this, we have also completed and submitted to DDC our draft report on the larger and more complex Town Centre area centred upon Biggin Street and Cannon Street.

Society matters

Our Marketing Strategy subgroup has made progress with the aims of retaining all our faithful, existing members, but also to appeal to a wider age group, promoting the Society and making the Society more inclusive and transparent to members. Our updated website (thedoversociety.co.uk) is proving popular and we are using our Facebook page to advertise events etc. All our Newsletters are now available to view on the website.

Disappointingly, membership has dropped from the 470s to 460s this year.

Please encourage relatives, friends and work colleagues to join. It's good for Dover and excellent value. Our thanks as always go to our membership secretary, Sheila Cope.

Now, as usual, I must mention our bread and butter activities, which are part and parcel of the Society and easily taken for granted, but no less important.

I represented The Society at the moving St. George's Day commemoration of the Zeebrugge Raid. 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. 2020 will be the centenary of the arrival of the Unknown Warrior at Dover and we hope to commemorate the historic event.

Our winter series of meetings continue to be well supported and I thank our band of kitchen volunteers, including Dover Greeters (we could do with more volunteers for this occasional rostered task), Mike Weston, our wine waiter, and Denise Lee, our Queen of the Raffle. Our Christmas Feast and Wine and Wisdom evening were again well supported. Rodney and Doreen Stone organised successful summer outings and the holiday to York and Harrogate was very enjoyable. Thanks also to Alan Lee for arranging our pre-meeting meals for guest speakers. I have found the speakers for many years and it would be good for somebody else to take on this task – have a word with me about it!

Our Newsletter 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. Terry

Sutton's regular press reports help to keep the Society in the public eye. Behind the scenes Mike Weston continues to cook the financial books; thanks also to Yvonne Miller, who has the thankless task of taking the Executive minutes and to every other member of

the Executive, subcommittees and groups for their contributions.

Finally, can I urge you strongly to consider standing for our Executive Committee? Some of us are well past our use by date!

Dover Society Christmas Lunch

December 2019

Denise Lee

On 1st December, somewhat earlier in the month than is usual, a well-attended Dover Society Christmas Lunch was held in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu. Society members and their guests were warmly welcomed with either mulled wine or fruit punch.

Entertainment was provided by Quadlibet: Peter Cox, bass, Belinda Lewis, soprano, Richard Pond, tenor, Jane Farrell, alto and Peter Giles, conductor and pianist. During the meal they sang a varied selection of about twenty carols, with everyone joining

in for *Good King Wenceslas*, *The Holly and the Ivy*, *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* and, one of the all-time favourites, *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*.

At the end of the proceedings Derek, our chairman, thanked all who were involved with the planning and organization of the event. He then thanked the efficiency and friendliness of the serving and kitchen staff for contributing to the smooth running of the excellent meal on the day. Derek also gave thanks to Quadlibet for providing top class entertainment for all who attended.



Quadlibet Dover Society Xmas Lunch 1 Dec 2019

I would like to thank the individuals who most generously donated a prize towards the raffle; we ended up with a total of seventeen. I would also like to thank everyone who supported the raffle by purchasing tickets. This meant that we were able to raise over £200.

A good time was had by all. We look forward to the 2020 lunch with great anticipation.

AGM

A reminder to all members

The Annual General Meeting this year will be held in St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover at 7.30pm on Monday 20th April.

Resolutions for discussion and nominations for officers and committee members should be submitted in writing to

Hon Secretary: Jeremy Cope
53 Park Avenue, Dover. CT16 1HD
Tel: 01304 211348
E-mail: jeremycop@willersley.plus.com

All resolutions and nominations must be received by Friday 1st April 2020

Nominations should be supported by a proposer and seconder and the written consent of the potential candidate.

As this is the last of the winter meetings until October and the most important meeting of the year all members are urged to attend.

River Dour Partnership

— Deborah Gasking —

Brilliant news! The River Dour Centre at Buckland Bridge will be officially opened this spring. It has been airing its wings in the lead up to this, having already been used for training our local Green Gang attendees (White Cliffs Countryside's nature programme for families and children) as well as our newbie River Rangers. Speaking of whom, these volunteer Rangers are already in action

walking the river in sections, noting any problems and talking to people about the wonder of our beautiful river.

The regular clean ups of the river by a bunch of wonderful and conscientious volunteers, will be commencing end of March, beginning of April. So our beautiful river will look perfect for the summer.

Kearsney Manor

Derek Leach

With the recent closure of Kearsney Manor Nursing Home, its sale and reopening by Channels and Choices as a centre for looked after children with learning difficulties providing a school for those fostered and a residential home for others, it seems an appropriate time to make use of Joe Harman's research some years ago into its history.

The estate was originally known as Kearsney Court and dates from William the Conqueror's time. Soon after 1070 it was listed as part of the Barony of Saye held by Dover Castle. The property eventually came into the hands of Thomas Biggs in 1788, who sold 11,000 acres to Peter Fector in 1792 for £72,000. Peter's son, John, decided to move over the road and built a new mansion, which was completed in 1822 and named Kearsney Abbey even though there had never been an abbey on the site! The original Kearsney Court was not named Kearsney Manor until 1880, although a Manor Court was summoned for Kearsney in 1830.

Mrs Fector Senior was living in the house in 1843, but the family sold the estate for £57,000 in 1844 to Mr. E. C. Jones. He sold Kearsney Abbey in 1870 to Joseph Churchward for £10,500 who owned the mail packet service between Dover and the French ports. According to the 1881 Census he had moved from Kearsney Abbey to Kearsney Manor where he died in 1901.

By 1908 the Manor was a private boarding school called Les Dames Augustines du Précieux Sang. The chapel was built in 1913 and the property converted into an Augustinian convent in 1924. Later, a

nursing home and maternity unit were added. The French nuns retired to France in 1981 and another order took over.

The lake was the mill pond for a corn mill on the site leased by Mr Pilcher from John Fector. Apparently the mill did not work after March 1902 and by 1935 was demolished. The name Kearsney Court survives, but is now the name of the once grand house, now partitioned into separate homes that overlooks its former gardens (including Russell Gardens) laid out by Thomas Mawson, a leading landscape designer of the time. It was built in 1900 for Alfred Leney, the Dover brewer, but was purchased almost immediately by Edward Barlow, managing director of Wiggins Teape at Buckland Paper Mill. In 1927 this property was sold and became a private mental convalescent home. During WW2 it was commandeered by the War Department as was Kearsney Abbey.

It is great that Kearsney Manor is, once again, being put to such good use.



Kearsney Manor and Chapel © Tersons



Application for Membership

Annual Subscription: Individual - £6
 Joint membership - £10
 Payable on 31st March

Name & Title

2nd Name & Title (joint membership)

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Postcode

Telephone Email

Please make cheques payable to the Dover Society and send to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Sheila Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 IHD. If you prefer to pay by bank transfer or standing order the details are: The Dover Society, account no. 80864803, Barclays Bank, Dover, sort code 20-02-62

Gift Aid

The Gift Aid Legislation allows us to reclaim basic tax rate on your subscription and any donations. To do so, The Dover Society will provide your details to HMRC. Please state that you are happy for us to do this by signing the declaration below. This will come into effect from the date of signing and you can change your mind and withdraw consent at any time. (You must be a UK taxpayer and pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax we re-claim on your subscription or donation.) For joint membership, the first named is asked to sign as the taxpayer.

I wish/do not wish* the Dover Society to benefit from the Gift Aid. (* Delete as applicable)

Signed: Date:

Data Protection

The Dover Society holds personal data i.e. names, addresses, email and telephone contact details electronically. We will only use them for sending Newsletters, related local information and news about our projects and forthcoming events. Telephone numbers will be used when quick contact is necessary relating to subscriptions or clarifying booking details for an event.

You can change your preferences or withdraw consent at any time by contacting us at: secretary@thedoversociety.co.uk.

I consent to my data being held and used in this way by The Dover Society.

(*Please tick box)

If you have a preference for how we contact you, please let us know.

Signed: Date:

Practical Help

I/We could sometimes give practical help with the following (please tick relevant sections)

Social events Writing for newsletter Projects e.g. clearance, surveys

Photography Any other interests or expertise

EXMOUTH AND ATTRACTIONS IN DEVON
7th to 11th September 2020
THE DOVER SOCIETY

In association with Leo’s Pride Coaches and Sellindge Gardeners’ Association

Iain Robertson of Leo’s Pride is organising this short break for The Society in combination with the Sellindge Gardeners. The trip includes:
Return coach travel from Dover, with Iain present throughout as manager. Expected to leave Dover at 8am and arrive back at about 7pm
Half board at the Royal Beacon Hotel, Exmouth
Day visit to Exeter, with guided tour
Cruise on the River Exe with cream tea
Visit to the Donkey Sanctuary at Sidmouth, the best known such sanctuary
Entry to RHS Garden at Rosemoor
Train trip from Totnes to Buckfastleigh

Cost. £399 per person. Single Room Supplement £88 per person.

NOTES

- 1. Members will be bound by the standard Terms and Conditions including those relating to cancellation charges.
- 2. There is a non-returnable deposit of £50 per person.
- 3. There are a limited number of single occupancy rooms. Early booking is advisable.
- 4. Contacts. a) The Society will not be involved with arrangements, but Iain, phone 07842 124094 would be glad to hear from Members who are interested.
 b) Please contact Rodney Stone on **randdstone29@gmail.com** or phone 01304 852 838 with expressions of interest, questions, Terms and Conditions form.

Please send booking forms with deposit to Bahia, 10 Lighthouse Road, St. Margaret’s Bay Dover, CT15 6EJ.

Name/s.....

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Tel.

Address:

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.....

Email address.....

THE DOVER SOCIETY

**DENBIES VINEYARD and BOAT TRIP with CREAM TEA Tuesday
21st April 2020**

- *Tour of Vineyard by Land Train
 - * Visitor Centre, Art Exhibition and Gift Shop. Time for Lunch (not included in cost)
 - *Afternoon River Trip by Horse-drawn Boat, with Cream Tea
 - *Depart Dover about 8.30am. Arrive back about 7pm. Pick-up points to be confirmed,
 - *£43 per person (for any cancellations a refund will be at the discretion of the Committee)
- Please contact Rodney Stone on **randdstone29@gmail.com** or phone
01304 852838 with expressions of interest, questions, Terms and Conditions form.
Please send booking forms with payment to Bahia, 10 Lighthouse Road, St Margaret’s
Bay, Dover CT15 6EJ.

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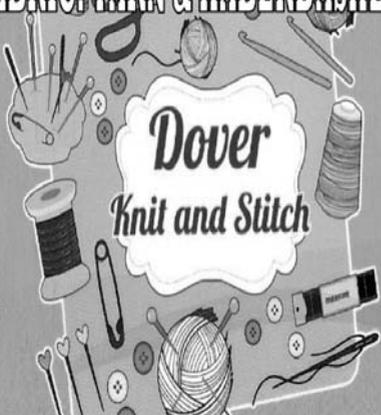
BRIGHTON

Saturday 13th June 2020

- *At your Leisure. Pointers to particular attractions will be given for those who need them
 - *Depart Dover about 8am. Arrive back about 7pm. To be confirmed, with pick-up points
 - *£24 per person (if a member has to cancel any refund will be at the discretion of the Committee)
- Please contact Rodney Stone on **randdstone29@gmail.com** or tel: 01304 852838 with
expressions of interest, questions, Terms and Conditions form. Please send booking forms
with payment to Bahia, 10 Lighthouse Road, St Margaret’s Bay, Dover CT15 6EJ.

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Come and have a browse and discover why it's called

“Curiosity of Dover”

Advising the Public in the Event of an Invasion

Derek Leach

(From the Joe Harman Collection)

Don't panic! This was the title of a pamphlet issued in 1941 by the Ministry of Home Security as notes for Air Raid Wardens, to help them answer questions from the public. Here is a summary:

If asked what to do if fighting breaks out locally and the order to 'Stand Firm' is received: Keep indoors or in your shelter. If you have a trench, get into it. If at work, carry on as long as possible until it is too dangerous. If on your way to work, finish your journey if possible. If you see an enemy tank or some soldiers, do not

assume that they are in control - they may be an advance party or stragglers.

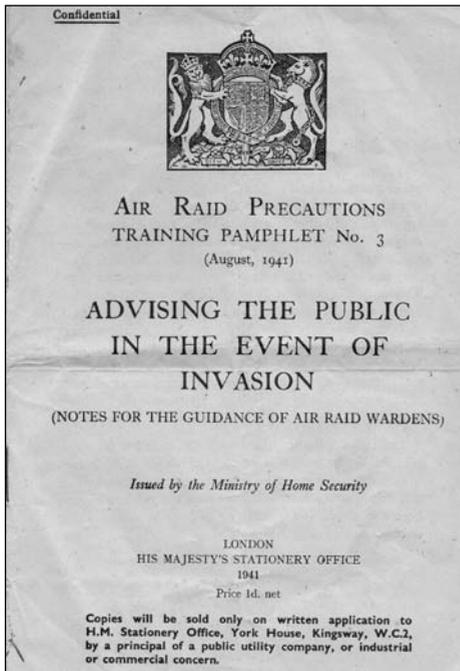
If some way from the fighting, carry on as normal with work, shopping, taking children to school, etc. until told not to. Do not try to move elsewhere or take unnecessary journeys - roads must be kept free for troop movements. Bus and railway companies will try to maintain essential services. Cyclists and pedestrians can use roads to get to work until told not to.

The public must know and trust their Air Raid Warden for help and advice. ARP Wardens will normally take orders from the police, but at times from the army or Home Guard.

The public can avoid fake orders by knowing their local policeman and ARP Warden. Using common sense, you can usually tell whether somebody is British or not. If in doubt, ask a policeman or soldier known to you. Don't encourage people to be so suspicious that they won't take orders from anybody.

If the local church bell is rung, it is a warning to the local garrison that troops have been landing from the air in the locality. Church bells will not be rung all over the country as a general warning that invasion has happened. If a church bell is heard, people should stay where they are, under cover if possible.

Instructions will be given via the wireless as far as possible and via the press, loudspeakers, leaflets and posters.



WW2 Pamphlet 1941

ARP Wardens should tell people where to find official posters or news bulletins.

Do not buy extra food. The government has made arrangements for food supplies. Food stocks are already around the country, ready for local distribution if necessary. Food stocks should be hidden if the enemy is near.

Normal news services and newspapers: If not available temporarily, do not listen to rumours or pass them on. Avoid, if possible, using the telephone or telegrams.

Do not put your vehicle out of action unless told to do so by the police, ARP

Warden or the military, except when in danger of being seized by the enemy. Destroy your maps. (Details are given on how to put a vehicle out of action).

If you bury money or valuables, make sure there is no sign of recent digging in the garden.

Defending yourself: You have the right of every man and woman to do what you can to protect yourself, your family and home.

People should give all the help they can to our troops. Do not tell the enemy anything. Do not give them anything. Do not help them in any way.

	
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The Girl from Montego Bay

Dover Welcomes its New Bishop

Peter Sherred

In the summer of 2019, it was announced the new Bishop of Dover would be the Revd Dr Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the then Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons and a Chaplain to the Queen. Subsequently she was consecrated as Bishop of Dover at St Paul's Cathedral, London, on 19th November 2019 along with the new Bishop of Reading the Rt Revd Olivia Graham. The Rt Revd Dr Rose Hudson-Wilkin, as she then became, was installed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, in Canterbury Cathedral during a service of Choral Evensong on 30 November. The Bishop of Dover is the Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of Canterbury and holds additional delegated responsibilities for oversight of the Diocese. So it was that in the service The Archbishop delegated to Bishop Rose his episcopal functions in relation to the Diocese of Canterbury to assist him in the administration of the Diocese bearing in mind his other national and, indeed, global commitments.

Bishop Rose was born and brought up in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Her mother came to the United Kingdom when she was a baby and she was raised by her father's sister in Jamaica. When she was 14 she first had a sense that she was being called to ministry. This calling led her in 1979, aged 18, to the UK to train as an evangelist at the Church Army College in London where she met her future husband, Ken, who was from the north-east. After finishing her training, Ken followed Rose to Jamaica where they married. In 1985, aged 24, Rose and Ken returned to the UK where the first of their three children was born. In 1991, Rose was ordained as a

deacon and served her curacy at St Matthew's Church in Wolverhampton. On 23 April 1994, approximately a month after it became possible for women to be ordained priest, she was ordained as a priest in Lichfield Cathedral. Her journey thereafter has involved her confronting much prejudice both on account of her gender and her colour. She recalls an incident where she said to a group of lay and ordained people while working as a diocesan officer, "If you had a vacancy and I applied for it, would you consider me?" One woman popped her hand up, and said, "But why would we? We don't have any black people here..." Rose laughed before responding. "Oh, my goodness, isn't it interesting that white priests can go to Africa, Asia, to our inner cities, they can minister to everybody, but somehow black priests are only allowed to minister to black people?" She left things at that for them to ponder.

The first church Revd Rose went to was from the tradition that had issues with female priests and several people resigned from the Parochial Church Council



Consecration of Bishop Rose

following her appointment. Rose exercised her ministry and faithfully served her congregation. When she was appointed as Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons in 2010, a role she shared with another priest, she encountered another form of prejudice as one newspaper described the other priest as an “Oxford graduate” while referring to Rose as “the girl from Montego Bay”. Following priestly ordination and having served in parishes in Wolverhampton and West Bromwich she became the incumbent, in the Hackney Deanery of London, of Holy Trinity Church, Dalston and All Saints Church, Haggerston, a combined parish, for sixteen and a half years before being appointed Priest-in-Charge of St Mary-at-Hill in the City of London. In 2007 Rose was appointed a Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen and, subsequently, the Speaker’s Chaplain in 2010. The royal wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex brought people together in many ways and Rose was deeply privileged to be invited by them to lead prayers at the service.

Her installation service was conducted in a packed Canterbury Cathedral within the



Bishop Rose with Archbishop at installation

framework of Choral Evensong. Following the Oaths and Declarations of the ceremony The Archbishop of Canterbury invited The Dean to install Bishop Rose in the accustomed place assigned to the Bishop of Dover in the Quire. Dean Robert Willis welcomed Rose both as Bishop of Dover and as a member of the Cathedral Foundation and duly installed her in her stall and admitted her as a member of the Foundation of the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Christ assuring her of prayer, affection and the support of that community. Towards the end of the service the newly installed Bishop of Dover preached her first sermon in her new capacity in which she encouraged the people of Kent to refuse to be divided but instead to focus on their common humanity and be united.

In her sermon she said: “Let us think what it might look like for us here in Kent, if the name of Jesus enabled us to be a unifying body. That instead of focusing on the things that separate us, we focussed on the things that we share in common. What if we were to discover that God, through Jesus, does indeed sneak out those great doors and is right there in the community

with us, urging us to think of His justice, mercy and His compassion for the whole world? What if we were to recognise His presence as we seek to ensure that the resources we have been blessed with are not for amassing personal wealth but to be shared in such a way that our brothers and sisters in poverty are no longer in need?” She added: “We are deeply mistaken if the kind of relationship we seek with God is so personal and private that we exclude our brothers and sisters around us or indeed, as we are in Kent, on

the frontier if we exclude our brothers and sisters from another mother!" Bishop Rose urged those present to focus afresh on Jesus, opening themselves up to God's transforming power: "He is ready to walk with us, today I invite you to shed the cultural barriers that have locked him into special boxes and so called religious sites and enable the spirit to change our lives so that we can in turn be changing other lives through the message of the Good News."

Dover's new Bishop has a high regard for our Head of State and suggests people in Britain could do well to learn a thing or two from Her Majesty. The Queen, Rose adds, is someone who embraces everyone, relating to people with a deep respect and values them and their culture.

Regarding her new appointment she says it was only after she was accepted for the role of Bishop of Dover that people said to her, "Oh, that's a big job!" But she seems well prepared being deeply rooted in her belief of who has called her to the ministry. She believes faith takes people to great heights adding "My life was changed and continues to be changed in the presence of God. I know what joy and serenity that has brought me - and I want others to experience that joy in their lives, too".

The Church of England has progressed significantly over the past three or so decades, and Rose has conquered many milestones: one of the first women to be ordained, the first black priest to be Chaplain to the Queen and to the Speaker of the House of Commons and most recently the first black woman to be a bishop in the Church of England. But if there is one thing she would like to see change in her lifetime, it would be that all the "firsts" stop; that they become normal. In her faith journey in the UK Rose has

served as a Commissioner for the Broadcasting Standards Commission; represented the Church of England on the Anglican Consultative Council and the World Council of Churches and has served on the General Synod in addition to performing numerous speaking, preaching and media engagements. Among the latter she has been a guest speaker of members of the Rotary Club of Dover, has been the principal guest at the annual St George's Day Dinner in Dover Town Hall organised by the Rotary Clubs of Dover, Deal, Sandwich and South Foreland and in 2018 she was guest celebrant and preacher at the annual Becket Service held each December in the Royal Chapel of Dover Castle and organised by the members of the St Mary in Castro congregation led by the co-ordinating Chaplain, the Revd Canon Jonathan Russell.

Welcoming Rose's appointment into his Diocese, The Most Revd and Right Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "When in October Rose stepped down as Chaplain to the Speaker, the tributes from all sides showed her pastoral, prophetic and faith sharing gifts. Even in times of division she was a point of unity and hope, to those of any or no faith. Through much struggle and suffering in her life she has become one of the most exceptional of Christian leaders showing, in word and deed, confidence in Jesus Christ as life, liberty and love. We welcome her, warmly confident that God who has led her this far will walk with her and speak through her."

Breaking a succession of male white dominance as Bishop of Dover Bishop Rose's appointment is an historic moment in the life of the Church of England, for Dover and Canterbury Diocese. One of the "firsts" she hopes will soon be the norm!

Refurbishment Committee

Jenny Olpin

Our committee continues to grow as we widen our activities of lobbying and engaging with local sectors and issues of concern. Since the last edition we have re-engaged with a variety of Councillors - Town, District and County - with respect to the ongoing problems with toilet provision in our town. Our Town Councillors have responded and I am hopeful that we get at least some commitment to re-opening facilities, much improved signage and sensible opening times. An alternative to this could be the agreement of local businesses to provide access to their facilities. This happens throughout the country and is extremely successful in towns attracting tourists. I will keep you informed but do make representations when you have the opportunity!

One of our committee has been involved in a planting scheme at Morrisons. Do have a look at the hard work that has been going on during the winter months. We have also been in contact with local councillors regarding banners (i.e. events), planning notices etc. that are left in situ and not removed. Procedures have been in place previously and this is being checked. However, planning at DDC has been reminded to remove planning applications past their 'sell by date'!

Graffiti and litter are perennial matters that occupy our meetings. One of our members is extremely active in picking up litter and returns to areas armed with the necessary bags and protection to clear the offending site. We really need to focus on prevention and it would be very good if we could begin with our schools, both primary and secondary. If you have

any contact with a school do, in 2020, try to influence them into adopting an anti-litter identity.

This same Refurbishment member has been amazingly successful in getting drains cleared. Using the DDC online referral system this has resulted in, to date, 4 out of 5 of the drains referred being cleaned and emptied. This has prevented the accumulation of rubbish and puddles which has been a particular problem during our inclement autumn! We strongly recommend our members to use these online systems for either Dover District Council or Kent County Council for such concerns as rubbish clearance, drains, lampposts and any other problems. Do go on-line and have a look.

We are continuing to liaise with 'Walkers are Welcome' to look to the future development of our local footpaths. Particularly of interest to us currently are the pathway links with Langdon Cliff, the Castle, the 'Zig Zag' and the sea front. We are also keeping on our agenda the danger that pedestrians face on Upper Road.

In our next edition we will update you on our bi-annual meeting with Kent Police in March and the current policing issues in our town.

Induction of the 215th Deputy Constable of Dover Castle

Peter Sherred

On 5th December 2019, an induction ceremony was held in Constable's Tower of Dover Castle for the 215th Deputy Constable of Dover Castle. Although Deputy Constables no longer reside at Dover Castle, they continue to use the Constable's Tower for a number of ceremonial and social events each year enabling some historic traditions, associated chiefly with the Confederation of the Cinque Ports, to be maintained.

The last Deputy Constable to be resident at Dover Castle was Brigadier Christopher Claydon MBE, Commander 2 (South East) Brigade, who held office from 2013 to 2015. The latest Deputy Constable is Brigadier Peter Rowell MBE, who succeeded Brigadier Matt Bazeley, and presiding over the induction ceremony was the Constable of Dover Castle, the Lord Warden of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports and Admiral of the Fleet, the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL. In attendance, by invitation of the Lord Warden, were Mayors of the Cinque Ports and two Ancient Towns, colloquially known as "the chain gang", Officers of the Confederation, including the Lord Warden's Chaplain, the Registrar and Seneschal, the Surrogate Judge and the Admiralty Sergeant, as well as a Lord Lieutenant and numerous Army personnel including the Commanding Officer and Military Chaplain of 1 RSME Regiment, SNCOs and JNCOs from the Regiment and the HQ of the RSME Group. Dover's Right Worshipful Town Mayor,

Councillor Gordon Cowan, was present for this ceremony.

For many centuries the Cinque Port towns harboured the ships and men that guarded the South East coast of England from attack and such ships were also available for Royal duties. In return for their loyal service, the Ports were granted numerous special privileges and a Lord Warden presided over the Confederation of these Cinque Ports towns, providing a link between the Ports and the Monarch. Since the 13th Century, the offices of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Governor (or Constable) of Dover Castle have been held by the same person. Because the Lord Warden's commitments often entailed his absence from Dover, a commander was required to be in place for the safety and security of the town's important castle and to be ever ready to repel invasion. Hence the appointment of a Deputy Constable to serve under the Lord Warden and be responsible for defending the Castle and the South East approaches.

Since 1868 the office of Deputy Constable has been held, ex-officio, by the officer commanding the local infantry brigade of the British Army, whose official residence was at the Constable's Tower in Dover Castle. Following a major reorganisation of the Army in 2014, there is no longer an infantry brigade with its headquarters in Kent or Sussex, so the office of Deputy Constable is now held by the

Commandant of the Royal School of Military Engineering, in Chatham. Although no longer resident in Constable's Tower, when the Deputy Constable uses the building for functions during the year his standard is flown from the flagpole on top of the Tower. During the ceremony of induction, the new Deputy Constable's standard was raised over Constable's Tower for the first time and Brigadier Rowell was handed the 'Key to England' and the Scroll of the Statutes of Dover Castle. Brigadier Rowell, as Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, will deputize for the Lord Warden and Constable in relation to his military responsibilities.

The simple ceremony of induction commenced after a procession led by the

Admiralty Sergeant carrying the Silver Oar of the Confederation and followed by the Lord Warden, Brigadier Rowell and his wife, the Registrar and Seneschal of the Cinque Ports, the Chaplain to the Lord Warden and the Padre from 1 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment, who all entered the Great Hall. After words of welcome from the Lord Warden, his Chaplain said a prayer followed by the Army Padre with another prayer. After a bible reading read by Lt Col Adam Foley, the Chief of Staff to Brigadier Rowell, the Lord Warden gave an address focussing on the history of the Cinque Ports and he pointed out all the standards of previous Deputy Constables on the walls of the Great Hall. The Registrar and Seneschal read and presented to Brigadier Rowell the Lord Warden's Appointment of him as



Lord Warden (centre), Brig Peter Powell, his Wife Lynn, Lord Warden Sea cadets. Dep Constable Induction 2019

Deputy Constable. Following the Scroll and the Key being handed to Brigadier Rowell, he signed the Deputy Constable's Book and, with his standard now flying over the Constable's Tower, he said a few words of acknowledgement and appreciation of his appointment before kneeling to receive a blessing from the Lord Warden's Chaplain. Following the Lord's Prayer, said by those present, the procession left the Great Hall and all attending the ceremony were invited to sign the Record of Induction in the Deputy Constable's Book. A light lunch reception was held for all who attended the event.

The new Deputy Constable Peter Rowell will, no doubt, become a familiar figure at various official functions in the next few years until his deployment elsewhere. So, who is this latest holder of this ancient post? Peter left his native Zimbabwe to join the British Army where, following a short period in the ranks, he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers. As a subaltern he had postings to Cyprus and Northern Ireland, where he spent most of his time on construction or public order operations.

When in command of Power Troop, he deployed with HQ ARRC to Kosovo. His time as a Battlegroup Engineer included exercises in the UK and Canada, and a second deployment to Kosovo. As Regimental Operations Officer for 21 Engineer Regiment he had to turn his hand to planning and controlling emergency fire cover for the county of Lancashire during the 2003 Fire-fighter strikes (Op FRESCO). He then moved to become Adjutant of 21 Engineer Regiment.

Peter's time at staff started with a short period in the General Staff at the Ministry of Defence and was followed by nearly two years in the Commitments Division of HQ LAND. Moving to command in 2006, he led

31 Armoured Engineer Squadron on training in Germany, Poland and Canada and on operations in Iraq (Op TELIC 12). For his time as Deputy Chief of Staff for 4 Mechanized Brigade, which included training in the UK and Canada and deployment on operations in Afghanistan (Op HERRICK 12), he was honoured with the award of an MBE. A year as the chief of staff of the engineer branch of HQ 3 (UK) Division included divisional headquarter exercises in the UK and Germany.

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Peter attended the Advanced Command and Staff Course. The following two years were spent writing concepts on the future of warfare and the role of the Army therein. He commanded 32 Engineer Regiment, initially based in Hohne, Germany, before they re-based to Catterick, North Yorkshire. During his time in command, the 'Assault Engineers' deployed on construction tasks in Canada, Cyprus, Germany and the Falkland Islands; and on combat engineering training in England, Germany, Spain and Kenya. The Regiment also played a key role in providing resilience to flood response in the North East and North West. He has been the Assistant Head of Capability Strategy and Force Development in the Army Headquarters, responsible for the Army's research and experimentation programme and designing the Army of the future. Peter has been the Commandant of the Royal School of Military Engineering Group and Head of Profession of the Royal Engineers since September 2019.

Peter is married to a practising veterinary surgeon, also from Zimbabwe. They have a son and daughter. Peter is a Christian and enthusiastic sportsman particularly enjoying running, racquet sports and kayaking. We wish him and his family well in the new post to which he was inducted.

Dover Grammar School for Boys

(Dover County School for Boys)

— Martyn Webster —

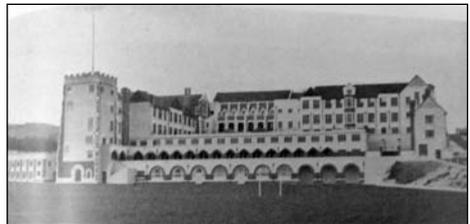
The Dover Grammar School for Boys' main building will reach its ninetieth birthday on 9th December 2021, the anniversary date of its opening on that same day in 1931 by HRH Prince George, later the Duke of Kent. The school had however already started for business for the autumn term in the September of that year. By the time this anniversary comes round however this great building, known as the School on the Hill and the Second Castle, which stands as an unmistakably iconic landmark in mock Gothic style with its crenelated tower, high arched hall and terraces standing out on Dover's landscape and skyline visible from many main vantage points, even right out at sea, the very part of it all, will alas have been demolished or be in the throes of demolition. It has been deemed to be no longer fit for purpose for the modern age, to be beyond viable use for proper education, decaying to a degree that to restore it to modern requirements would vastly out cost its replacement. So by the decision of Kent County Council Planning Applications Committee taken in Maidstone on 4th December 2019 there is to be a new replacement school built on the top playing field (an artificial mound of piled up crumbly chalk) and the original's demise.

This new school will promisedly have incorporated in it many of the heritage items from the old, in particular, the fine J.H. Walker organ in the Great Hall (this is unique to a state school and was provided by parental subscription in 1932), the memorial stained glass window on the library stairs, all honours and tribute plaques and boards and hopefully the

Turnpenny Clock of 2005 above the quadrangle and the small plinth in front of the cloisters in memory of Miss Olive Rookwood, the beloved first female member of staff from the school's earliest years.

It is vitally important at this crucial time for us to remember now for the record how this fated building first known as Dover County School for Boys and undoubtedly modelled in every possible respect on a public school (even down to the school song from Harrow "Forty Years On") actually came about.

First of all was the sheer scale of its construction on a sloping hillside between Astor Avenue at the bottom and Noah's Ark Road at the top which first began excavation in 1924 for the creation of two artificial plateaux, on the upper of which was to be the school itself. Work began on the school building proper in 1929. Progress reports appeared in the Dover Express all the while including accounts of accidents to workmen, accusations of grandiosity in the plans, also concerns for the boys having to negotiate every day a very steep hill to get to school in all the wind and rain that the elements could throw at them.



DGSB County School for Boys View from Upper Playing Field

The opening ceremony, when it came, was one of great occasion and literally of trumpet fanfare especially for its founding headmaster, Oxford classicist Fred Whitehouse M.A. (1873 - 1939) whose life and career creation the new school's building achievement was. A man deeply versed and respected in education in Kent, he had started the school back in 1905 in the old School of Art in Ladywell and in 1916 moved to purpose built facilities in Frith Road, now the Girls' Grammar School. In all this Fred Whitehouse adhered to a maxim that he attributed to Winston Churchill "Men make the buildings but it is the buildings that make the men". This building assuredly is his monument.

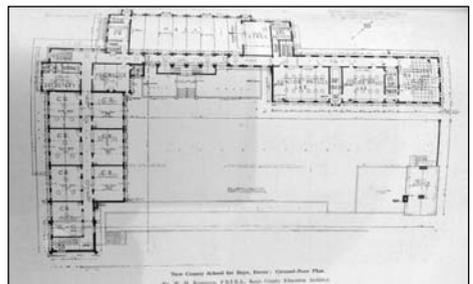
At the opening events in 1931, so fulsomely reported and photographed in the Dover Express of 11th December 1931, were present, apart, that is, from the Prince, the teachers and the boys themselves, a whole array of eminent persons and dignitaries plus many local and other worthies including local MP John Jacob Astor (who gave a rousing speech), the Town Mayor and Aldermen, the Bishop of Dover, Brigadier Sir Hereward Wake, the Chairman of Kent County Council, the Vice Chairman of Kent Education Committee and the County Director of Education. A very fine speech was given by Prince George, also by the KCC Chairman, Alderman F.W. Payne, both of which merit reproduction in a separate article in their entirety as an object lesson in understanding the ideals and aspirations of their times which should now strike a chord at our pivotal moment all these years later.

For now however the following extract of words spoken by John Jacob Astor M.P. should ring down to us: "The buildings are destined to mean far more than bricks and

mortar and are a worthy symbol to the value that the nation wisely attaches to education. Traditions of a school grow up from such events as His Royal Highness's visit today and his recognising the high place and standard which Mr Whitehouse as its first headmaster has won for the school".

Obscured from all this triumph although present at the opening was one man who got only a passing mention in any account, namely that of the school's architect, a former Territorial Army Major, Wilfrid Harold Robinson F.R.I.B.A. (1876-1950) who was the KCC's own chief architect. He had designed a number of public buildings in Kent, especially schools, most notably Maidstone Boys Grammar School extension and the Beckenham & Penge Grammar School. Little is on record of him, in particular any surviving archives of his plans and drawings. Also more than worthy of mention was the actual building contractor himself John James Clayson of Lyminge whose firm was well known in east Kent, well recorded in his village with local family still reminiscent.

The original plans for the DGSB were long thought to have been lost but I am pleased to announce that after an exhaustive search copies have been found in the British Library in an edition of the publication "The Builder" (a weekly



DGSB County School for Boys Ground Floor Plan

journal for the building and architectural trades) of 12th February 1932. The accompanying report gives the best possible description, with photographs, of the school's construction and is reproduced herewith verbatim:

"The site of this newly erected school is a hillside, approximately 25 acres in area. In order to provide satisfactory playing field accommodation three plateaux were formed. On the top one the school has been erected, while the two lower plateaux, have been made into playing fields of approximately four acres each, divided by a terraced bank.

The external treatment of the school (which accommodates approximately 500 pupils) is of brick and stone, with pitched tile roofs. Generally sand lime bricks have been used finished with "Snowcrete" cement rendering, but the arches buttresses and certain other special features, such as the hall and library, are built in High Brooms facing bricks, with reconstructed stone plinths, copings battlements, etc. Some of the gables have been picked out in alternate squares of cast stone and knapped flints set in concrete.

Internally, except for the more important rooms, sand-lime bricks have been used, their soft colour toning well with the dark stained woodwork. The flooring is of boards, or wood-blocks, on concrete, except in the corridors where granolithic has been used. Columbian pine is used for joinery work.

The hall has tiled cloisters and porches. The walls are lime plastered, except beneath the gallery, where they are panelled as an appropriate background for the honours lists.

The building was carried out under the supervision of County Architect, Mr W.H. Robinson, F.R.B.A., and Mr J.J. Clayton, of Lyminge, was the general contractor.

The following firms were sub-contractors:- Shelford (Canterbury) Brickworks Ltd., sand-lime bricks for internal work; High Brooms Brick and Tile Co., Ltd., Tunbridge Wells, facing bricks; Southwater Mastine Brick Co., Ltd., Horsham, Sussex, brick dados; John Egerton Queded, Cheriton, Kent, roofing tiles; H. Feather, Folkestone, electrical installation; F. Hayden, Ltd., Tunbridge Wells, heating installation; Dover Gas Co., gas installation; Brunswick Metal Casement and Engineering Co., metal windows; London and Wales Steel Construction Co., steelwork; Concrete Ltd., concrete floors; Patent Victoria Stone Co., cast stone; W.C. Kemsley, Cheriton, Kent, wrought ironwork; W.E. Farrer Ltd., and Doulton and Co., sanitary fittings; North of England School Furnishing Co., and G. Browning, Canterbury, joinery fittings; Falkirk Iron Co., gas cookers; Stevens and Adams, wood block and maple floors; L. Terry and Co., W. Malling, tarpaving; Thomas Elsley, Ltd., and MacFarlane and Co., rainwater heads."

The plan to demolish the school building and replace it was unexpectedly



DGSB Assembly Hall

announced in January 2019 by the limited leafleting of 215 local households. An item ensued in the local press. A consultation event was then held at the school in February and again in July but to an invited audience. There has been no wider general public consultation to display pictures etc. of the replacement buildings let alone any press publication of such images. For an outstanding building such as this more might have been expected in the opinion of this writer. The final decision on the demolition and planning application was made in Maidstone by county councillors none of whom were local representatives nor, so far as can be ascertained, had actually visited the site. This final decision was subject to referral to Historic England for a determination upon any listable qualities the building might have. It is understood that the result was negative together with that of a declined separate private listing

application. An online petition to save the building has however been in place. It must now therefore be left to the people of Dover to agree or otherwise with one county councillor's desultorily supercilious remarks at the planning application hearing "It is time to pull a shroud over its face".

This school building is the Alma Mater to countless thousands of pupils who over time have scattered across the country and the world to a diversity of lives and circumstances enriched by their education there and the masters who taught them. Let it be said that we in our present time have done our very best for the school as a school and not only as a building at its moment of challenge in a way that Fred Whitehouse might have approved in accordance with its emblem and motto, the Roman Pharos, "Fiat Lux" - Let there be light.

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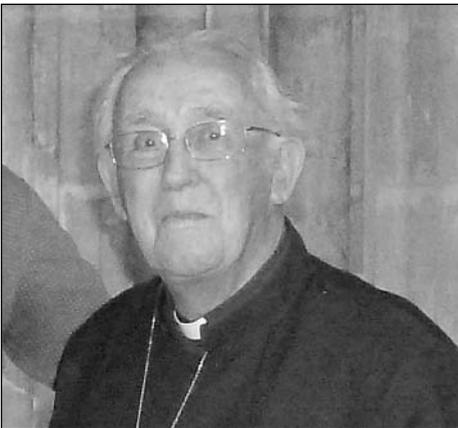
4 London Road, Dover, Kent CT17 0ST

Death of the Reverend Kenneth Child PHF

— Peter Sherred —

Affectionally known as “The Vicar of AOz” by many Dovorians, as well as by people at Canterbury Cathedral and in the Diocese of Canterbury, Ken Child died on 28th November 2019 in The Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury after a short stay there.

Widely known for his sympathetic pastoral ministry to people, especially at the times of bereavement and sadness, Ken officiated at literally thousands of funerals in the area since he came from Australia to live near Wingham in 1999. Having combined assisting in many parishes in East Kent with duties at Canterbury Cathedral since his arrival with his wife, Jenny, it was entirely fitting his funeral service should be held in the Cathedral he loved so much. So, it was in the Quire of the Cathedral, with a galaxy of the Cathedral hierarchy present, a service in thanksgiving for his life and ministry took place on Wednesday 18th December 2019 at which the Dean of Canterbury, the Very Reverend Doctor Robert Willis, officiated.



Ken Child in Canterbury Cathedral 7th July 2007

A combination of stirring hymns, appropriate readings and the majestic voices of the Cathedral choristers ensured that the many who attended for the service witnessed a beautiful send off to this man who had been a faithful priest in Australia and the United Kingdom for a combined period of some sixty seven years, having been ordained priest by the Archbishop of Sydney on November 30th 1952! The Archbishop of Sydney at the time was the Most Rev'd Howard Mowl who was born in Dover, the son of a former mayor of Dover and a member of the well-known Mowl/Worsfold families who have been active in the Dover community for centuries.

A tribute to Ken at his funeral service was given by The Very Reverend Michael Chandler and The Dean, Robert Willis, gave an address in which he advised the congregation that the Primate of Australia had sent his condolences and had indicated that Ken's remarkable ministry was still remembered in Australia. The Dean listed all Ken's activities since his migration to the United Kingdom to reside in Canterbury Diocese and praised him for his faith, his extra-ordinarily long ministry, his nature and character.

Several Dover families can testify to the quality of his pastoral care and the considerable attention he gave them. Ken Child will, indeed, be greatly missed by many people. Born in September 1927 Ken died at the age of 92. His widow, Jenny, continues to live in Wingham. A full appreciation of Ken, including Howard Mowl and the Dover connection, appeared in the Society's Newsletter in 2014 (Issue 81; November 2014; Pages 27-29).



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Patrick John Cunningham

Admiralty Sergeant

Peter Sherred

The Confederation of the Cinque Ports has a long and fascinating history. In its early days the Cinque Port towns of Dover, Hastings, Romney, Hythe and Sandwich were required to provide for fifteen days a year fifty-seven ships each manned by twenty men and a boy and such provision was to be free of charge and for the service of the monarch. If their services were needed for longer than the required days, the monarch was obliged to pay for the additional services. This 'ship service' as it was known was designed to ensure the coast could be defended from enemy attack on the one hand while at the same time a service was provided to take the monarch and the court on journeys abroad. Such ship service predates the Norman Conquest and the ships concerned (cogs) were very small, as the crew numbers indicate, but, as time passed, by the fifteenth century fewer ships and more crew members were required because of the increase in the size of ships and their crews. To encourage the Cinque Ports to undertake these duties they received in return various rights and privileges, chief among them being full self-government to each town and a closely defined surrounding area, called a liberty. Among the many other rights, they were able to claim wreckage that came to their shores which had either been floating in the sea or which had been deliberately jettisoned from ships. These rights were known as flotsam and jetsam respectively.

In each port and its limb the Lord Warden, as Admiral, appointed a droit gatherer to

notify his staff in Dover immediately a wreck occurred or flotsam or jetsam was recovered. Droit gatherers kept records of the goods recovered and expenses incurred by the salvors; so that the respective claims of the Lord Warden and the Ports could be determined. The principal droit gatherer was known as the Sergeant of the Admiralty and the person who held this post had responsibility for these functions within Dover, as well as for enforcing orders of the Admiralty Court. With the passage of the centuries circumstances changed and today the Sergeant at Admiralty (or Admiralty Sergeant, as the title currently is) has a purely honorary position within the Confederation whose main role is to bear the Admiralty Oar before the Lord Warden on ceremonial occasions and to lead the processions at the annual Speaker's Day event. The position of Admiralty Sergeant has been held since 2004 by Patrick John Cunningham of Dover.

Pat, as he is more informally known, was born in Folkestone in 1948 the eldest of three children. His brother Stephen and sister Ann together with three half siblings are all living. Pat's father was a Captain in the Merchant Navy while his mother was a trained accountant. When Pat was four the family moved from Cheriton, where they had then been living, to settle in Selsted where Pat initially attended Selsted School before moving to St Ninian's private school in Canterbury, completing his education in a Secondary Modern School in Folkestone. Sadly, his parents separated. His mother

moved to Cranbrook along with Ann and Stephen while Pat remained in Selsted with his father who subsequently remarried. Pat remained in Selsted so he could complete his schooling. He was not academic so when he left school eventually it was without any academic qualifications. Following school Pat moved to Cranbrook to be with his mother and siblings and it was here that he helped, for a short period, a family friend David, an electrician, to learn some of his trade. Pat's mother was formerly a member of the WRAF who had been based at Hawkinge and she suggested he consider the armed forces where he could learn a trade and have a worthwhile career.

So it was that Pat, aged 15, joined the army through a recruiting office at Chatham enlisting, due to his age, as a Junior Leader in the Royal Artillery and was posted to Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote near Nuneaton, for two years. The Barracks were home to the Junior Leaders' Regiment Royal Artillery between the 1960s and the 1990s. After this initiation period he was posted to his allotted regiment in Germany (17 Corunna Battery of 26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery) stationed at Bergen-Hohne. This garrison was a major British base following World War 2 and was located close by the former Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp. The huge barracks site had formerly been a German SS camp. Like all the gunners Pat served time on the guns before carrying on his trade in communications (signals). He acted as a signaller in the Observation Post and later the Battery Commander's party.

In the mid-1960s the battery was deployed on exercise in Libya coinciding with the time of the coup against King Idris I. The 1969 Libyan coup d'état, also known as the al-Fateh Revolution or the 1 September Revolution, was carried out by the Free

Officers' Movement, a group of military officers led by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. This event left Pat's battery stranded for months in desert conditions which involved extreme night-time cold. Cold weather clothing was flown in by members of the RAF to El Alamain. Prior to the overthrow of King Idris as leader of Libya the British had enjoyed having a vast desert training area in the country where real life manoeuvres could be held. A similar very large British Army training area exists in Canada known as The British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) and is located at the training area of Canadian Forces Base Suffield, Alberta, Canada.

While in Libya Pat was quartered in a desert tented camp known as "Chatham". The ranks lived in six-man tents with large marquees for the various messes and cook house, with corrugated iron structures for shower blocks. Pat remembers there was enough water for showers but for other needs water purifiers were necessary and when out on patrol in vehicles water was stored and cooled in canvas bags (known as 'chuggles') which enabled evaporation to cool the water. Pat recalls, as a major feature of life at this time, the sand flies which transformed the external bleach brown colour of the tents and marquees to black. In order to protect themselves from the flies everybody had to carry whisks to swish away the fly nuisance. There was no British involvement in the coup itself and no conflict with Colonel Gaddafi but Pat remembers seeing many decommissioned broken down former British vehicles, which had been used by the Idris regime, awaiting spares - which would now never arrive! At the end of the extended deployment large numbers of vehicles and equipment were rendered unusable by being immobilised or destroyed. A memory of Pat's was the sight of much equipment and vehicles, some of which

was new, being dumped into Tobruk harbour.

Another prominent event in Pat's memory is the 1969 Berlin Tattoo in which the battery's guns were required to be fired for the 1812 Overture. The guns were positioned within the Olympic Stadium and when they were fired for the first rehearsal the noise was so loud it cracked some of the structure of the stadium! Eventually, to enable participation in the event, the powder charge was required to be reduced to a quarter charge. Pat remembers this tattoo was a spectacular show because the event involved the massed bands of the British Army, engaging hundreds of personnel, who put on an impressive display. Pat was responsible for the firing of one of the guns stationed round the stadium each of which had a signal light attached, controlled by the Band Master, which, when illuminated identified the time to fire. The Tattoo was a huge show with many different elements involved in it including drill displays and vehicle manoeuvres and Pat believes that about six regiments in total were involved. Each day the guns were ferried from camp to stadium at speed with police outriders and going through all the lights on the roads without stopping! A particular memory he retains occurred at the end of the event party in the NAAFI block, when a 'few glasses' were being raised. It is of a vision of the conductor of the massed bands, who was a short Guards Colonel, standing on a table amidst the throng of army personnel conducting some musicians while dressed in polka dot boxer shorts, a scarlet tunic top and wearing a busby!

While in Germany Pat took the opportunity to visit East Berlin which made a lasting impression. He described the experience as going from a bright

sunny day to a grey dismal foggy one where much war damage was still evident and there were very few shops. Everything was grey and dour. What he found particularly sad were the presence of towers from where people could wave to family members across the street in West Berlin, since the wall separated the two communities on either side of the road.

Returning from Germany in 1972 to act as the support regiment for the Royal School of Artillery Larkhill (Roberts Barracks) involved Pat for two years in the training of young officers to control a battery or to move a battery together with associated military skills. Following this the regiment returned to Germany and was stationed in Dortmund. A tour of Northern Ireland involved being stationed at Long Kesh, a former RAF base upon which was sited the Maze Prison used to house paramilitary prisoners, where Pat ran a search team which involved searching inside and outside the camp and also patrolling estates and buildings looking for weapons. This was an emergency tour of some four and a half months and for which he received the General Service Medal (GSM) for service in Northern Ireland.

Throughout his service career Pat was an avid skier. After learning the art with the Junior Leaders in Geilo, Norway, he continued skiing as a member of the regimental team taking part in the UK championship in Aviemore Cairngorm in Scotland and annually in the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) championships becoming very proficient at the sport reaching a good professional level in the army. He became one of the highest qualified ski instructors and each season he used to ski race and following the championships he returned along, with other instructors, to run a ski lodge giving tuition to up and coming skiers. It was

through skiing Pat met his wife-to-be Clair who was representing the Women's Royal Army Corps and a competent skier herself. While at Alpbach, Bavaria, the two met after each day's skiing and hit it off socially. He recalls an incident involving the two of them at the top of a slope when he skied down behind Clair intending to pick her up and carry on skiing but she froze as he approached and her skis dug in the snow and in the resulting collision he split his chin against a guard post and missed his race start time. As a result he was disqualified from the race which was a bit of blow because he was third in the Division at that time. Clair returned to the UK to continue working in the Ministry of Defence. Slightly later Pat was posted to Woolwich as a training instructor at the depot for recruits. Clair and Pat were married within a couple of months on 13th March 1976 in High Wycombe where Clair's home was located and where her parents lived.

In the winter of the same year the Officer Commanding the junior musicians asked Pat's Commanding Officer if Pat could train a group of musicians in skiing in Aviemore. As Clair and he had not had time for a honeymoon he was able to obtain permission for Clair to accompany him on this exercise. Pat trained up the group and they subsequently performed well in the UK Championships. Clair and Pat came back to quarters in Woolwich and while stationed there, during the national firemen's strike of 1977, Pat as a senior NCO became a commander of a Green Goddess whose crew was made up of his recruits. When called out he and his crew had police outriders he recalls and during the strike he met Willie Whitelaw who was subsequently Margaret Thatcher's Deputy Prime Minister. He and his crew worked on various shifts and Pat remembers that on Christmas Day he unexpectedly found

he could return to quarters but Clair was unprepared for this eventuality and had nothing in so their meal comprised tinned salmon and chips! One fire to which his crew was called out was at a school where in one of the buildings were several school pets. At first, he was denied entry to the building by a school official but having indicated, if necessary, he would use his axe to gain access he was allowed entry and he and his crew managed to rescue all the animals inside. This warranted a write up in *The Times*. While at Woolwich another unusual experience for Pat was appearing on television with Pan's People with other drill instructors. Pan's People was a British all-female dance troupe most associated with the BBC TV music chart show 'Top of the Pops' from the late-1960s to the mid-1970s. For this particular occasion, the dancers were clothed in outfits made from military material and Pat's star turn involved drill moves to music while Pan's People danced and this, Pat said, was his claim to fame!

From 1978 to 1983, stationed in Dortmund, Germany, Pat carried out regimental duties and continued to enjoy his skiing. He was then posted to Bordon Garrison, Hampshire, a large army camp where he and Clair were quartered, as a member of 8th Cadet Training Team which served several large schools and their Combined Cadet Forces. A team of four instructors, with an Officer Commanding, trained CCF members in all army skills of fieldcraft including map reading, first aid, trade craft skills and the use of arms. This exercise also involved organising summer camps and training on ranges, all to equip students as cadets. Pat did this for some three years in Sussex and Surrey and some of the Sussex schools he visited included Christ's Hospital School, Horsham, Ardingly College, Lancing College and Hurstpierpoint College, Hassocks (where

the current Lord Warden went to school). He also was involved with the Army Cadet Forces in the local towns. He recalls this period as being very busy and midway through the cadet training period he was promoted to Staff Sergeant.

For his final two years of service Pat moved on to recruitment having his own office in both Crawley and Horsham. Recruiting was for the army generally and targeted boys, girls, adults and juniors. During this period, he stayed at Preston Barracks Brighton before moving to Aldershot (long seen as the home of the British Army). The Aldershot garrison was established in 1854 when the War Department bought a large area of land near to the village of Aldershot, with the objective of establishing a permanent training camp for the British Army. Pat finally ended up in residence at Caterham Barracks from where he retired from army life. At Caterham he was given the title "The Lodger" because he was only seen at breakfast and then later in the day. By this time, in addition to the GSM for service in Ireland, he had received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal awarded at Woolwich for the most deserving junior NCO in 1977 and he also received the Long Service Medal.

A few years before retirement Pat and Clair set out to look for a house and settled on their present address in Dover. Its advantages were that it was on the level, had a river to its rear and was sufficiently central to the town. Clair came to live in the house and Pat moved into the mess and would join her at weekends. This arrangement lasted for nearly five years. Pat left the army in June 1988 as a Staff Sergeant and settled in Dover at the age of 40 but he obtained work immediately with English Heritage at Dover Castle where he was to work for some twenty-two and a half years. Clair had obtained the application form for the post which was

filled in during one of Pat's weekend visits just prior to retirement. Following interview, he was appointed and over the years acted as a Custodian. He did any job required of him and became Senior Custodian, then Deputy Head Custodian running the Castle site in the absence of the Head Custodian. Consequently, he managed all areas of Castle life including the tunnels, the Keep, financing and retail. He developed time tickets for the tunnels to avoid queues and was often involved in advising on film locations. He retired as Head Custodian at the end of 2010. Meanwhile Clair had been employed in the Civil Service at the Job Centre being in post for some 10 years until restructuring was undertaken after which she found employment at Pencester Surgery as a receptionist, a post she held for many years and where she was well regarded by doctors and public alike. Both Pat and Clair have been keen walkers over the years with Pat leading his NHS health walks and Clair walking with the White Cliffs Ramblers often goes some 10-12 miles in a session.

When Head Custodian at Dover Castle Pat was asked by the then Deputy Constable, Brigadier David Santa-Ollalla, if he would consider becoming the Admiralty Sergeant of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports. He says he was honoured to take up the role, succeeding Angie Russell in 2004. Being ex forces he had preconditions! These were that he would take the role seriously, would undertake the functions associated with it properly and that he had an appropriate uniform. His predecessor had simply worn a gown with a tricorne hat. He designed a uniform himself basing it on the long military frock coat of late C19 early C20. Pat's distinctive uniform has navy vertical pairs of gold buttons to the front, with a box pleat and ornate cuffs and epaulettes carrying the Cinque Ports

buttons while the uniform collar carries the Cinque Ports badge. Army-style trousers make up the uniform, giving the Admiralty Sergeant a distinctive appearance when in full ceremonial dress complete with tricorne hat and carrying the Silver Oar. One of Pat's functions is to train the Lord Warden's cadets each year on the ceremonial requirements of events in the Confederation. The cadets come from the Sea Cadets' organisation where each unit commander is invited to recommend a cadet for the prestigious posts during the coming year. Two cadets are selected from those nominated (one from East Sussex and the other from Kent) by the Area Officer of the Sea Cadet Corps in Portsmouth and those recommendations are then submitted to the Lord Warden for approval. The newly appointed cadets attend a formal Induction Ceremony at Walmer Castle, around the end of May, where they are presented by the Lord Warden, with certificates and badges of office to be worn on their uniforms. Pat indicates parental support in the role is important. Pat then orchestrates and choreographs many of the ceremonial events of the Confederation through each year and this involves all the drills for the cadets and rehearsals for major events



Speaker's Day Lunch Hastings 2018

such as the annual Speaker's Day. He also assists the Registrar in advising on matters of protocol.

Pat's full life has also involved a ten-year battle with Cancer. He was first diagnosed while with English Heritage and this prompted him to submit his notice at the time. Throughout all the years of treatment subsequently, which has included major surgery several times, he continued fulfilling his obligations to the Lord Warden and the Confederation of the Cinque Ports where he is held in very high esteem by all involved. He is a fervent supporter of the bowel cancer screening programme following his experience of the process and its aftermath. He has retained a very positive approach to his challenge and his life, viewing the cancer as something to fight and he has put up a good battle for ten years ably supported by Clair (who Pat describes as his "rock") and others. His philosophy is, in his own words, "I will not go down without a fight". Notwithstanding all his challenges he was on parade for the induction of the 215th Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, Brigadier Peter Rowell MBE, on Wednesday 5th December 2019 in Constable's Tower, Dover Castle where he carried the Silver Oar as usual and organised the two cadets for the induction ceremony.

Pat considers his role as a "great honour" and his involvement with the Confederation as "fantastic". He is especially grateful to the current Lord Warden, Lord Boyce and his late wife Fleur, for all the support offered to him. "It has been an honour to serve him, I love what I do," says Pat. He feels the Confederation gave him the targets he needed each year to strive for and participate in over the last ten years. Additionally, for approximately thirty

years, Pat has been the Chairman of The Royal Artillery Association, Dover Branch which meets once a month in the Sea Angling Club in Priory Road. One of his functions occurs annually on Remembrance Sunday when he has been responsible for the firing of the 25-pounder field gun at Dover Castle at the beginning and end of the two minutes' silence. He briefs members of the public on the safety issues of the event and afterwards encourages members of the public to ask questions. This event takes place near the statue of Admiral Bertram Ramsay, admiral of the British Navy during the Second World War, who led the evacuation

of Dunkirk and, during the preparation of D-Day, led the navy. The gun faces out to sea so that it is "against the damn Frenchies", according to Pat!

Both the Registrar and Seneschal of the Cinque Ports Confederation, Ian Russell MVO MA MSocSc, and The Lord Warden of the Confederation, The Lord Boyce, have paid tribute to Pat in the following terms. The Registrar says "With his military background and attention to detail, Pat brought a new professionalism to the role of Admiralty Sergeant. Always smartly turned out in his distinctive uniform, he choreographed many large parades (which



5th December 2019

he sometimes likened to “herding cats”) and his input to these events will be much missed by the Cinque Ports. He also played a major role in developing the new institution of Lord Warden’s Cadets, helping the young people concerned to perform with confidence and precision which has reflected great credit upon their units and the whole Sea Cadet Corps. I am personally very grateful to him for his support over the last 15 years. He will be a very hard act to follow.”

The Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL pays the following tribute, “It is my pleasure to have had Pat Cunningham as my Admiralty Sergeant from the time of my Installation as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in 2005. He is a mine of information on my Admiralty, most especially on Dover Castle of which I am Constable, and I have learnt a huge amount from him. He is also an engaging and most pleasant person

with whom to be associated and his invariably smart bearing and positive outlook on life are greatly to be admired. In addition, his impeccable knowledge of how ceremonies should be conducted to the highest of standards has been a boon to me - and, indeed, to all the Cinque Ports. My Lord Warden Cadets, two appointed every year, have also benefitted from his wise and sensible advice and mentoring, as I am sure all thirty who have held the post would readily acknowledge. In all, I could not wish for a more accomplished and reliable Officer to fill his position. The Cinque Ports and I are most fortunate.”

High praise indeed for a man of whom Dover should rightly be proud.

Since the above article was submitted for publication it has been announced that sadly Pat Cunningham passed away during the night of 30th January 2020.

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PROGRAMME 2020

Non-members are welcome at all meetings except that only members may vote at the Annual General Meeting. You may join, pay on the night and vote at the meeting.

- 16 March
Monday 7.30 **Speakers:**
Rowena Willard Wright 'Debunking the Bunker'
Martin Crowther 'History of Kent in less than 100 objects'
- 20 April
Monday 7.30 **Annual General Meeting**
Speaker: Kate Pinnock 'Reawakening a Gothic Fantasy'
- 21 April
Tuesday
£43 pp **Denbies Vineyard and Boat Trip:** This will include a tour of the vineyard by land train, visitor centre, art exhibition, time will be allowed for lunch (not included in the price). Afternoon horse drawn boat trip with a cream tea. Depart Dover approx. 8.30am. Arrive back in Dover approx. 7pm.
- 13 June
Saturday
£24 pp **Brighton:** A free style day out to do what you will
Depart Dover approx. 8am. Arrive back in Dover approx. 7pm .
- 7 to 11
September
£399 pp **Exmouth and Devon Attractions:** Includes half board at Royal Beacon Hotel, Exmouth. Exeter guided tour. River Exe cruise with a cream tea. Visit to the Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth. RHS garden at Rosemoor. Steam train trip from Totnes to Buckfastleigh.
- Two trips with Silver Phoenix Travel Club: **27 June to 2 July - The Isle of Man.** Overnight in Chester then the Empress Hotel, Douglas. £619 (£90 Single room supplement). **14 to 18 September - Snowdonia.** Stay at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis. £439 (£60 Single room supplement)
- To book any of the outings please complete booking form, on the centre pages of this newsletter, and return with your payment/cheque payable, "The Dover Society". To Rodney Stone, Bahia, 10 Lighthouse Road, St Margaret's Bay, Dover. CT15 6EJ Telephone: 01304 852 838. If a receipt is required please enclose a S.A.E. For further details of any of the outings and for pick-up points and times please contact Rodney Stone**
- October
Monday 7.30 **Speakers: To be announced**
- November
Monday 7.30 **Speakers: To be announced**
- 6 December
Sunday 12.30
for 1pm **Dover Society Christmas Lunch:** To be held in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu. Entertainment to be confirmed. With our Christmas raffle. More details and a booking form in the next newsletter

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