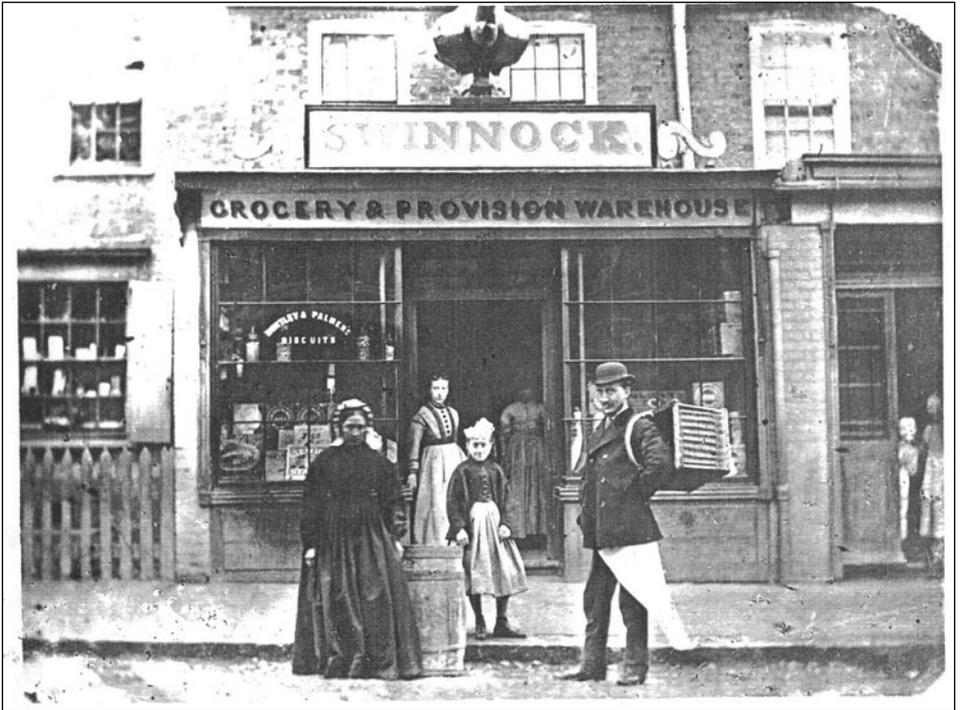


The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 98

July 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

Welcome to the latest newsletter. Although we are living in strange times at the moment. I hope that you are all keeping fit, well and as happy as you can be.

We are still not sure when we will be able to resume our normal activities. The planning and refurbishment committees have continued and have been meeting by Zoom and by email. The executive committee also held their June meeting via the Zoom platform.

It is not likely that the Cowgate work parties will be able to resume until August. If you need more information or an update then please contact Jeremy Cope.

It has been decided that this years' AGM will not now take place. It will carried over and held in conjunction with the 2021 AGM. We also do not know at present if or when our winter indoor meetings will be able to be held.

We still do not know if the Exmoor and Devon trip and the Christmas meal will take place. So I have included expression of interest forms, on the middle pages of this newsletter, instead of booking forms. Do not send any money at present with either form. The organizers will then contact you if either do go ahead.

As of the present time it is still not known if the Heritage Open Days, or the Walking Festival, will happen this year. There is work behind the scenes to try to put something together.

Our membership is holding up quite well at present, with the majority of the members having re-joined for 2020/21. If you have not yet paid, or you know of someone who would like to join, then please contact Sheila Cope.

Alan Lee, Editor

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DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 99 will be Wednesday 7th October 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

MARCH MEETING

First Speaker

Kent in 100 Objects

A talk by Martin Crowther

Reported by Alan Lee

Martin has worked for 20 years in Kent and is married to a Doverian. He gained inspiration for his talk from a radio 4 programme, 'A History of the World in 100 objects' from the British Museum.

Because of the concerns about Covid-19 a much depleted audience, of about 30 members, was treated to a most interesting and informative talk with the objects ranged from ancient documents, to treasure, to Wellington's boots on display at Walmer Castle.

The first object that Charles described was a fossil of a tree fern, some 300 million years old, excavated by miners at Snowdown and has links to the history of coal mining in Kent.

This was followed by numerous other objects which included the following.

A fossil of an Arthropod, a six foot centipede from the Carnivoran period, and a fossil of an Iguanodon, a large herbivorous dinosaur were uncovered near Maidstone.

During the excavation of the Wellington Dock Navigation Channel, among other objects, a fossilised mammoth tooth dating back 14,000 years was unearthed.

In 1992 the world's oldest known seagoing boat, the Bronze Age Boat, was discovered and along with the Langdon Bay Hoard, found in 1974, can be seen in Dover Museum.



Iron Age gold



Dog chasing its tail

South East Kent is an area where hundreds of thousands of ancient objects have been uncovered. An extremely rare copper alloy Iron Age Celtic helmet was discovered near Canterbury and dated to around 50BC by a small bronze brooch found with it.

A Viking stirrup was unearthed, Viking raiders were the first people to bring horse riding stirrups to England he said.

In 2008, at Richborough, a Roman dice tower, or Pyrgus, was found. Only the third ever discovered, the other two were in Germany and Egypt. It was an everyday object in Roman times and was meant to stop cheating when rolling a dice. It is about 12 inches tall and the rosette decoration on this tower links it to the Roman game of Duodecim Scripta.

Included in the talk were some more unusual items. There is 'Snob' the dog, preserved by taxidermy and on display in the Royal Engineer Museum. The live dog was found beside the body of a Russian officer after the battle of Alma, 1854, during the Crimean War. Adopted by the 11th Company Royal Sappers and Miners and

brought back to England the dog was presented with a Crimean War medal. Originally called 'Alma' but re-christened 'Snob' as he preferred the Officers Mess at Chatham to the Guardroom. Snob died at Chatham, and a plaque in his honour shows his final resting place, just off the parade square in the middle of Brompton Barracks.

A picture on a potted shrimp lid entitled 'lady being carried ashore by a fisherman', found at Pegwell Bay.

A painting, from 1940, of hop picking by Dame Laura Knight.

Bagpuss created at Blean was meant to be a marmalade-coloured cat. It all went horribly wrong in a fabric dyeing shop in Folkestone and he came out bright pink. The creators decided that they preferred him that colour and the rest is history.

The audience also learnt that Subbuteo was invented and produced at Langton Green, near Tunbridge Wells.

Charles concluded his talk with the, now customary question and answer session.



Pot Lid



Hop picking Granny Knowles by Dame Laura Knight

MARCH MEETING

————— Second Speaker —————

A Strange Life – Mrs Beresford Baker

A talk by Derek Leach – Reported by Terry Sutton

The scheduled speaker was unable to attend so, at very short notice, the society's chairman Derek Leach gave the talk. He selected as his subject the life of Mrs Baker who set up the Day Star Mission Hall, Durham Hill, off York Street.

Derek, investigating the life of Mrs Baker, born Isabella Wilson, discovered she was a religious woman, very wealthy and, according to gossip, had been presented at court when young.

She married an Irish army officer William Beresford Baker in 1877 and had the money to buy her husband out of the army. But the couple didn't always live together. By 1908 he was living at 25 Waterloo Crescent on the sea front, while his wife's address was a Home of Rest at 11 and 12 Princes Street. The Day Star Mission Hall (Prospect House) on Durham Hill also appears for the first time in the 1908 Dover Directory. (This later became the Sea Training Schools gymnasium. Today the complete building has been converted into occupied flats.)

This remained the case until 1921, then the directory entries were: at number 11, Christians Home Mission, Mrs Beresford Baker but at number 12, Prospect House, Captain William Beresford Baker. This



Prince of Wales Sea Training School

situation remained unchanged until 1934 when Mrs Baker is shown both at the Christians Home Mission and at Prospect House, her husband having died.

To people living in what was a poor area Mrs Baker was known as "Lady Baker" At one stage she had ten ladies living at her address and they were regarded as her "ladies in waiting."

At Christmas she would present two garments to each child who attended her Sunday school at Prospect House. The garments were made by women living at the property. She was known to be very kind to everybody, especially the poor living in the locality.

Whenever Mrs Baker, always well dressed, ventured out, all the people in the area would come out of their houses to see her.

She enjoyed the company of young men and, after her husband died, she linked up with another army officer who inherited the mission centre after Mrs Baker died in 1938, aged 86. The large property, facing Princes Street, went through a series of ownerships and during 1939-45 war was occupied by the Woman's Royal Naval Service (WRNS).

Isabella died 23rd October 1938, age 86, and was buried in Charlton Cemetery 27th October 1938. William, a right hand bat, played one first class game for M.C.C. and was Captain of Dover Cricket Club. Born 31st Oct 1847 and died 20th Feb 1933, age 85, at Buckland.

Editor

MEMBERSHIP NEWS **Sheila Cope**

During these strange times it has been tempting to let routine tasks slip, so even greater thanks than usual are due to our members who have faithfully paid their subscriptions. Payment by Direct Credit is becoming increasingly popular and The Society's Bank sort code and account number are now included on the application form. Any payment method is welcome, particularly Standing Orders (not Direct Debits). We number around 460 at present.

Running our new database alongside our long-standing paper-based membership system is time-consuming but having more time available is one of the silver linings of lockdown.

Many members are content to continue to pay the £10 joint subscription after they have lost a partner or their circumstances have changed but I am suggesting, in fairness, that they might prefer to review their rate if they are now on their own. Needless to say, the larger amount is always welcome and some members generously pay the joint rate even when they are single. With increased postage and hall hire costs, the committee is prudently reconsidering our financial situation.

In spite of being obliged to cancel our AGM and summer outings we have nonetheless welcomed some new members. They are: Mrs Catherine Leadbeater, Mr David Lynch, Mr Richard Hamilton and Chris Nelson.

River Dour Partnership

Deborah Gasking

Every cloud, and all that - Even though we have had no work parties this year, there is not much litter around because there aren't many people around. Which indicates (to me, at least) that people are a BIG problem...

However - Yellow flag iris is starting to bloom along the river banks, whilst water crowfoot will soon be covering parts of the river with its attractive rafts of white flowers.

In May, and right on cue, the mayfly have started to appear. Volunteers who live in flats above the river have reported seeing

them on their walls. As many of you will know, adult mayflies live for no more than a day; after just a few hours partying by the water their life is spent and their tiny corpse falls into the river to be carried away by the current... Or they may be eaten by a bird, bat or fish, for which they are an important source of food.

I'm soooo looking forward to River Gang get-togethers - we're a lovely bunch, come and join us for merriment and all things environmental, or just for a friendly chat with friendly people - once we're back to regular life, of course.

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Planning Committee

Patrick Sherratt

With the difficulties of Covid-19, I wish everyone a safe time. One thing is certain; life will be different once this virus is controlled. As I write, the UK has recorded 37,000 deaths. In perspective this is higher than the whole population of Dover being lost.

The Planning Committee continue to make comments, where appropriate, with planning applications. We now have a “full” committee with Charles Lynch and Tony Bones joining us. Both have been highly involved with work on the Conservation Area Appraisals for Dour Street and the Town Centre and bring considerable experience to the committee.

Dover Western Docks Revival (DWDR)

As I have alluded in previous articles, phase 3 of the DWDR is most doubtful. With the current loss of cross-channel traffic and cruise ships, the revenue loss must be substantial and puts further pressure on this phase. Within phase 3 is a road from the cruise terminal to the clock tower, an important link. If the Tidal Basin/ Granville Dock and Wick Channel remain operational, this road will not be built. We have suggested a foot bridge similar to those at Eastbourne Sovereign Marina. We hope DHB take on board our proposal which has been submitted to the DHB Port and Community Forum.

To put into context the traffic loss at the time of writing this report, only the January to March statistics are available as below

Passengers: 1,493,395, down 23.6% on 2019

Cars: 219,321, down 25% on 2019

Coaches: 8,542, down 30.9% on 2019

RHV's: 562,256, down 13.7% on 2019

Vessel Entries: 3,705, down 7.7% on 2019

As traffic levels in April/May have been very low several ferries have been laid up, with the unfortunate consequence of job losses.

The cruise industry has also seen ships laid up and P&O Cruises *Oceana*, *Aurora* and *Arcadia* are frequently laid up at Dover. On the 15th May *Disney Magic* also arrived to lay up in Dover. Without doubt the cruise business will take some time to recover post Covid-19.

As an interesting aside, former DHB CEO, Tim Waggott, is now in the Falkland Islands as Financial Secretary for the Falkland Islands Government.

DTIZ (St James Development)

We wait to see lockdowns removed and how this will affect the retail activities both at DTIZ and shops in the “old town”. With nine units available for over 18 months it will be interesting to see if these are eventually let.

Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's) and Deprivation levels in Dover

Over the last few weeks, we have strongly objected to no less than five such planning applications. Our reason for doing so is that all Wards in Dover are now in the top 20% deprived Wards in England. This has seriously affected the socio-economic profile of Dover, DDC recognised the problem in the 2010 Core Strategy Document when only two Wards were in the top 20% of deprived wards in England. The Core Strategy stated, “Have no areas

falling within the 20% of those most deprived in England”, also “Restore and improve an area's offer where it is in decline or stress”. In our view, the following clearly indicates DDC have failed to deliver these objectives.

We have for many years spoken to DDC executives about the failure to deliver the Core Strategy objectives. HMO's are part of that problem. Despite mentioning Thanet, who at one time had a major HMO difficulty which was resolved by restricting such properties, DDC have done nothing. The following demonstrates Dover's worsening HMO problem.

Town	Approx. Population	No of HMO Properties	No of HMO Occupants
Dover	33,000	44	511
Ramsgate	40,000	22	218
Margate	61,000	22	280

The situation is not helped when certain Estate Agents suggest larger properties for HMO use rather than for conversion to quality apartments.

I have taken the issue up with the CEO of DDC, Nadeem Aziz, and a meeting has been agreed, possibly via computer link. I shall advise on the outcome in the next Newsletter.

Having spent considerable time looking at other Authorities in England with HMO problems, I think the following introduction to an HMO policy by one council is relevant to the difficulties in Dover. “Shared accommodation provides an important way of meeting the housing needs of many people in... and will continue to do so in the future. At the same time, high concentration of C4 and Sui

Generis HMO's are presenting a challenge to the future sustainability of many of our city's communities. The concentration of HMO's in some areas of the city is changing the character of these areas. Further HMOs are removing some valuable housing stock, in particular removing some of the smaller dwellings from housing stock and in doing so depriving others from entering the housing market.

Since the Adoption of the Local Plan the Council has seen a significant number of properties that would have otherwise been suitable for conversion to flats being changed to HMOs and Sui Generis HMOs thus restricting the choice of accommodation for our residents.” The paper then provides various proposals for controlling HMOs. The above quote has been sent to Nadeem.

HMO properties are often used by the most vulnerable in the community without any form of supervision and as such we have constantly mentioned the role of HMO properties in the community that should be run by specialist organisations such as Porchlight.

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) have indicated the current Covid-19 is at a higher level in areas of deprivation. Self-distancing is a problem in some properties in deprivation areas.

Conservation Areas

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

43 Biggin Street

The above property recently applied for planning consent to replace windows. The



Façade 43 Biggin Street

application sought standard UPVC windows. We expressed concern that standard UPVC was unsuitable and

materials should match the original bay windows that had been removed. DDC gave consent for replacement windows to be as per the original. It was therefore most alarming that Graham, in town late May, noticed standard UPVC windows being installed. The DDC Head of Planning and DDC Senior Enforcement Officer were informed and immediately responded, confirming they are currently in contact with developer who claims the UPVC windows are “temporary”. We have expressed our concern that the windows will not be temporary, and Head of Planning has also expressed this concern to Enforcement. We watch this issue with interest.

Town Hall Refurbishment Project update

Derek Leach

I am very pleased to say that following a vast amount of detailed work over the last 18 months the required report to the National Heritage Lottery Fund, totalling 1800 pages, was submitted before 1 June deadline. We should hear whether we have been successful in securing the major grant sometime in October. At long last this would allow the refurbishment work to begin in earnest once contractors are appointed. It is expected that the Town Hall would have to be closed from September 2021 for up to two years.

As you know, The Dover Society has been involved as a partner with Dover District Council and Dover Town Council since the project was first mooted in 2010. As a partner we have pledged £10,000 toward the cost and our Town Hall Fund has met this target. Income from the guided tours organised throughout this time with Society and Dover Greeters volunteers has made a substantial contribution to our

Town Hall Fund as well as making Doverians and visitors to the town more aware of this fantastic building and its 800 years of history. Now we wait patiently and hopefully to start the next phase in its long life.



Connaught Hall Impression – West Wall 2019

Refurbishment Committee Jenny Olpin

The Covid-19 lock down has had a rather dramatic impact on our work. Matters have slowed down, come to a halt or taken a rather different turn.

We are holding our "meetings" via zoom, which allows for an online exchange of ideas and views. It's fine, within the limits of such technology, but not much use if you are not comfortable with the ins and outs of the computer world.

We have been contacted by DDC through Ashley Payne who deals with the "Community". His email asked for input into the following matters:-

1. Do you have any issues at present with supporting your community groups or know anyone that would benefit with support from DDC?
2. What problems or issues do you face in the next six months?
3. What is your most urgent need that DDC could help with?

With lock down your committee's process to gather information is much more limited so members, do please contact Jenny Olpin or Jeremy Cope (contact

details on inside front cover) about concerns and ideas that can be passed to DDC.

KCC has contracted Deal Retirement Centre (link is Connect Well tel. 03003 020178) to co-ordinate assistance for those over 70 during the Covid-19 crisis across the Dover district. I think we may have a few members over 70.

Other matters. Toilets – important issue both for tourism and local use is on hold. The homeless appear to have been housed during the lockdown – that would be a positive side of this rather negative event. There is concern about the effect on business and employment – the reports of P&O redundancies makes for rather grim reading and we hope this is not reflected across the district. Minor repairs to roads, patching up pot holes etc, have been noticed which is good, and I guess the result of much less traffic. If you notice litter why not take a photo and send it to DDC but do copy us in.

Finally, I do wonder what the next update will contain – viruses can be uncertain beasts.



The Refurbished Lord Nelson

COWGATE CEMETERY and the Lock-Down

Jeremy Cope

Sheila and I have walked around the Cemetery several times since the start of lock-down. The grasses and greenery



Glorious Cowgate 2020

have grown with their usual vigour, resulting a verdant panorama with a golden laburnum shower, to my eye rather beautiful. It's well worth a walk round. The photograph lacks colour but gives an idea of how it looks

Homeless folk are absent, housed because of the lockdown, leaving the cemetery tentless and virtually litterless. I guess - hope - they are in a better situation as is the case with the cemetery.

Once the rules allow groups to work then we shall be back. If you would like to join us please give a call me on 01304 211348 or email jeremycope@willersley.plus.com

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Sir John Hamilton

Dover Mariner and War Hero

By The Hon. Reg Hamilton and Neil Barnes

Sir John Hamilton (1765-1858) was a naval captain who became a war hero in the naval war against the Dutch (1797). He knew Lord Nelson, William Pitt (Prime Minister), members of the Royal houses of Europe, and many of the great naval figures of the time, including Lord Duncan. For his services he was made captain of the Dover to Ostend naval packet until his retirement in 1841.

Naval hero

The revolutionary French (1789-1799) had overrun Europe. They overturned the old order of aristocratic France, imprisoned and then executed the King and Queen, executed aristocrats, closed all the churches, set up a new religion of Reason, and even abolished the old calendar and set up a new one. The Great Terror began, a forerunner of the Stalinist horrors of the 20th century. The revolution threatened all of Europe.

Would the revolution spread to England? These were troubled times, with British seamen mutinying at Spithead, near Portsmouth in April 1797 because of their appalling conditions, and there were also revolutionary sympathies. There was a similar naval mutiny at the Nore in the Thames estuary in May that year. Several Jacobins, supporters of the revolutionary French, including John Gale Jones, toured naval towns in Kent and promoted revolution, including those in Admiral Duncan's fleet. They had some success, and it was not until June 1797 that the rebellion was ended with hanging and pardons.

The revolutionary French set up a Dutch

client state in 1795. Admiral Duncan, commander of the North Sea fleet, had been blockading the Dutch coast and ports since 1795, despite the difficulties posed by the mutinies, which at one time left him with only two ships. John Hamilton served with the British navy from 1792 to 1800, when Lord Duncan retired. It appears that he was not a regular commissioned officer, as he cannot be one of the four John Hamilton's listed in Syrett's list of Commissioned Officers with the Royal Navy between 1660 and 1815ⁱ.

Nevertheless, he was in command of several ships, including the *Active*, a cutter in the run up to and during the important battle of Camperdown in 1797. The *Active* was seventy-one feet long, armed with ten guns, and was listed by Lord Duncan as a support ship, hired for service with the Navyⁱⁱ.

Captain Hamilton was in command of the *Active* as part of the English blockade of the Dutch coast when he received information on 6 October 1797 that the Dutch were about to sail, and they did in fact sail the next morning.



Battle of camperdown 1797

Sometime before this the North Sea fleet, under Duncan, had returned to the English coast near Great Yarmouth. Hamilton, realising that the Active would be able to report the news of the Dutch fleet's movements direct to the Admiral sooner than any other ship, disobeyed his orders to go to the Admiralty in London first and sailed instead to report to Duncan.

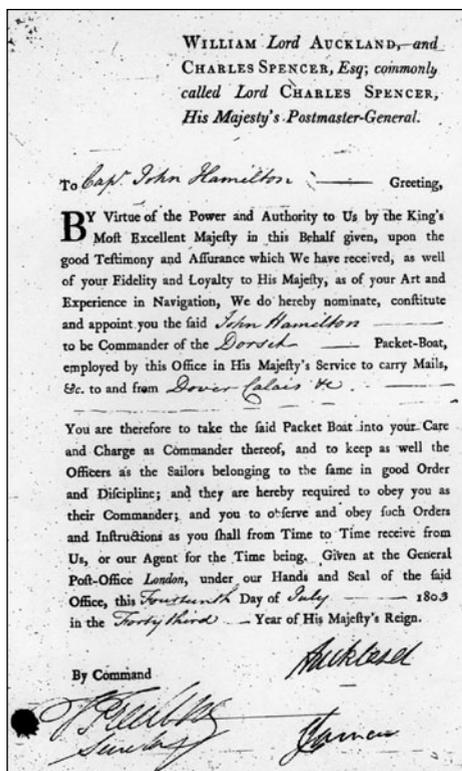
He was ordered to lead the fleet, and battle was joined with the Dutch on 11 October. This culminated in a one of the great British naval victories, the battle of Camperdown, in which the Dutch, client allies of the French, were defeated, although heroic. De Winter was the Dutch Admiral, and his ship was nearly blown to pieces. The Dutch lost 540 men dead and 620 wounded, while the English suffered 203 killed and 622 wounded. Captain Hamilton was brave, while others, such as Captain Williamson, who was later court martialled, were notⁱⁱⁱ. Hamilton was on the quarterdeck of the Venerable when the Dutch admiral, De Winter, resigned his sword and accompanied Lord Duncan to Walmer Castle. There he met Mr. Pitt^{iv}.



Hamilton standing to the left of Duncan receiving surrender at Camperdown

Appointment to the Post Office packet
Lord Duncan recommended that Mr. John Hamilton be appointed to the command of a Dover packet on 11 February 1800^v. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1841, when he was made a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold, and received an annual pension of £700. He was knighted by the Queen in 1845^{vi}.

He was obviously trusted and loyal. He conveyed many important people of the time, including Prince Leopold on the occasion of his marriage to Princess Charlotte in 1816, the painter William Turner, and his Royal Highness Prince



Hamilton given command of the Dorset a Dover to Calais Packet

Albert across the channel to marry Victoria^{vii}. Prince Leopold became King of Belgium in 1831. His will includes a long list of silver valuables given to him by royals, as does the will of Sir Luke Smithett, his son in law, who married his daughter Jane.

In 1840 he was in command of the packet *Widgeon*, at 75 years old. On another voyage he was with Luke Smithett, who commanded the *Vivid*, and the 65 mile voyage from Dover to Ostend took four and a half hours, arriving at exactly 12 pm. The *Vivid* was a paddle-wheel boat, 150 feet long, breadth 22 feet, depth of hold 11 feet 4 inches, engines with 160 horse power, and average speed of about sixteen miles an hour^{viii}.

Life was hazardous in those days. The packet ships might miss high tide, and small boat operators were then used to convey passengers and freight. In 1821 five packet boats missed the tide and arrived at Dover, several small boats were used, and one capsized and a passenger drowned^{ix}.

Marriage and origins

His career before he joined the navy in 1792 is not known. He came from an obscure background. Little is known of his father and mother, James and Jane, except that James was a stay maker, whether for lady's dresses or naval stays, and Jane was illiterate, because she signed her marriage certificate with a cross^x. There is some speculation that the family came from Scotland, but nothing has been found to prove the claims correct.

He married Sarah Hedgecock on 16 August 1788 at St Mary the Virgin, Dover. They had several children, including Jane, who married Luke Smithett, also in the service of the post office. Portraits of Sir John and Lady Hamilton are still in the possession of

Neil Barnes, his descendant, together with his family bible. They variously lived at Snargate Street, Dover, during the 1820s, 7 Strond Street Dover during the 1830s, and retired to 17 Snargate Street, with a back that opened on the pent^{xi}. Sir John and his immediate family are apparently buried in what in the family bible is called the 'new cemetery'. This has not yet been located.

These were the days before the secret ballot, and everyone knew how everyone voted. John Hamilton voted for the Tory Huskisson and the independent Smith in 1802, while his brother Richard, voted independent (there were two Parliamentary seats at Dover). Later the family politics became Tory, and when they voted it was for the Tories, not the Whigs. Perhaps this was the result of reason and persuasion, perhaps there was bribery. Bribery was an important part of the early elections of Britain, the bribe being beer and food, and a party, or even money or a position^{xii}.

Dover was one of the third of seats which were regularly contested, and the election of 1802 was held in the church of St Mary's. It was a lively affair. John Spencer Smith was an independent candidate, and his brother, the Admiral Sir Sidney Smith, seized possession of the church with a boat's crew and blockaded the port. The Tories lost. One observer commented that the Tories 'have been f-cked' at Dover'. The violence and foul language led to two failed attempts to move elections from the Church, until they were moved to the Town Hall in 1826^{xiii}.

Legacy

His memory lives on in the lives of his descendants, as well as the stories of British naval history. Described by one acquaintance as a 'noble specimen of a British seaman', and his naval career as

'glorious and important services to which Captain Hamilton had contributed'^{xiv}, he was a self-made man, who lived a long and apparently happy life. His nephew, Richard, was a freeman of Dover, a tailor and by rumour only, with no proof beyond a good story, possibly a smuggler. Richard took his family to the free colony of South Australia in 1837. A family of winemakers and others still live there today. There they farmed and set up the Ewell vineyard, possibly named after the village outside Dover. Hamilton's Ewell Moselle, made by Reg's grandfather, was for a while one of Australia's most popular wines. Reg is descended from Richard, and Neil from Sir John.

- i Douglas Wilkie, The Hamiltons 1762-1862, October 1997, self published, p.15*
- ii Wilkie, p.16, quoting The Times of 17 October 1797*
- iii Wilkie p.21*
- iv John Barrows, Tour of the Continent, Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans London 1853*
- v Barrows*
- vi Reg Hamilton, Colony: Strange Origins of one of the earliest modern democracies, Wakefield Press 2010, p.75*
- vii Barrows*
- viii Barrows*
- ix Wilkie p.23*
- x Reg Hamilton, p.74*
- xi Wilkie p.25*
- xii Reg Hamilton, p.83*
- xiii Reg Hamilton, p.81*
- xii Barrows*



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Dover's Town Clerks in the Aftermath of the Knockers

Samuel Ronald Holden Loxton (part 1)

— Martyn Webster —

After seventy five years (1860-1935) the end of the reigning dynasty of Dover's Town Clerks, through three successive generations of the same family, was going to be some act and challenge to follow. The Knockers had seemed impregnable but their time had come.

Between 1935 and 1974 (when the role was disbanded) there were three more Town Clerks in Dover.

1935-1944:

Samuel Ronald Holden Loxton (1902-1977)

1945-1969:

James Alexander Johnson (1908-1997)

1969-1974:

Ian George Gill (1938-2017)

It must be remembered too that each of these in common with their predecessors was entitled to occupy the roles of Borough Coroner as well as being Solicitor, Registrar and Seneschal to the Cinque Ports Federation thereby presiding over the installation of Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports. The Cinque Port roles could go beyond their time as Town Clerk as in the case of Reginald Edward Knocker who, as his predecessor to office, superseded Samuel Loxton during his time as Town Clerk as for the installation of Lord Reading of Willingdon as Lord Warden in 1938. Of these three Town Clerks James A Johnson presided over two more installations, that of Sir Winston Churchill in 1949 and Sir Robert Menzies in 1966, then Ian George Gill over that of H.M. Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mother in 1979.

First into the fray as new Town Clerk in the post Knocker era was Samuel Loxton (1902-1977) known almost throughout his

office as Mr S.R.H. Loxton. He had been born on 22nd November 1902 at Cannock, the son of a solicitor. Little can be learned about him during his nine years tenure beyond what was reported in the Dover Express upon his appointment and then his departure. Least of all are any photos of him yet to be identified with one exception. Nonetheless from this is what we know: Samuel Loxton first came to Dover in January 1930 when appointed as assistant solicitor and Deputy Town Clerk under Reginald Edward Knocker. He was 27 years of age at the time and was an M.A. of Oxford in law having previously been educated at Harrow. He served articles with his family firm Messrs Loxton & Co at Walsall in Staffordshire and was admitted as a solicitor in 1928. He had considerable experience in the URBAN District Council of Cannock, Staffordshire as senior partner of the firm of Messrs Loxton and Co being clerk to the Cannock UDC. The whole term of his office at Dover was conducted at Brook House to where the Town Clerk's office had moved from 69 Castle Street.

On his departure from Dover at the age of 42, at the end of 1944, by which time he had been awarded O.B.E. in 1941 for his war service in civil defence and food supply, a farewell celebration was held for him by the Corporation in the Town Hall on the evening of 29th November. He was presented with an antique grandfather clock together with a cheque and a beautiful illuminated album containing the names of 133 subscribers. The text of the message contained in the album was as follows:

"In extending to you our sincere congratulations on your appointment as Town Clerk of Shrewsbury we the undermentioned officers of the Corporation of Dover, members of the Civil Defences Services and the staff of the Dover Food Office desire on your departure from Dover to record our genuine regret at your relinquishment of the office of Town Clerk of this Ancient Cinque Port and Borough which you have held with distinction since October 1935. During the past nine years which have included the most momentous in the annals of the Town you have carried out your duties in an extremely able manner and at all times have evinced a keen and sympathetic interest in the welfare of the corporation officers of every grade and department".

During his time at Dover Samuel Loxton and his family resided at Court Hill House at the bottom of Whitfield Hill just on the corner to the left of the modern roundabout where an estate of flats now stands. The 1939 National Register (in which he himself was the local organizing force) described him as the local registration officer, solicitor, Town Clerk and also an A.R.P.warden.

He died at Shrewsbury 10th August 1977 aged 74 years.



THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF DOVER.

The photo taken by Mr. C. S. Harris on Tuesday of the Dover Town Council, in order that it might be sent to be hung in the municipal buildings at Dover, Delaware, U.S.A. The occasion was also noteworthy for the fact that the Town Clerk (Mr. R. E. Knocker), who is retiring at the end of September, after holding the office for 28 years, was attending his last official engagement. Reading from left to right, the members are:—

Back Row—Mr. W. Ransom (Committee Clerk), Councillor W. L. Law, J.P., Councillor J. Walker, Mr. S. R. H. Loxton, M.A. (Deputy Town Clerk), Mr. W. Boulton Smith, M.Sc., M.I.C.E. (Borough Surveyor), Dr. A. D. McMaster, M.D., D.P.H. (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. S. Hambrook (Borough Accountant), Councillor Major J. Martin, and Councillor A. T. Goodfellow, J.P.

Middle Row—Councillor R. L. Eckhoff, Councillor P. Kennell, Councillor J. P. Fish, Councillor Colonel F. E. G. Skey, Councillor Mrs. Boyten, Councillor Mrs. Langley, Councillor Major W. Donald, M.C. (Deputy Mayor), Councillor W. E. Austen, Councillor G. Gere, Mr. J. R. Chapman (Town Sergeant).

Front Row—Councillor Captain F. R. Powell, Alderman H. E. Russell, J.P., Alderman C. J. Sellens, J.P., Mr. R. E. Knocker (Town Clerk), the Mayor (Alderman G. M. Norman, J.P.), Canon W. G. Elmor, M.A., R.D. (Mayor's Chaplain), Alderman R. J. Barwick, J.P., Alderman A. H. Dawes, and Councillor F. H. Moorecroft, J.P.

Alderman A. J. Pearce, Councillors J. R. Cairns, H. A. J. Ryeland and G. E. Took were unavoidably absent.



Application for Membership

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

Name & Title

2nd Name & Title (joint membership)

Address

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

Dover Society Outings 2020

Rodney Stone

I am sorry that one result of COV-19 has been that the Society has been unable to undertake the two day trips, to Denbies Vineyard and to Brighton. As I write at present, the four night trip to Devon in September must be in doubt. I have returned to members any monies paid, or destroyed the cheques in question.

I will keep in touch with Iain, our gallant organiser, and let members know as soon as the Society can decide what, if anything, can go ahead.

I will then distribute new application forms and collect monies as appropriate.

I do not know if, or when, the day trips could be re-arranged and the four day tour confirmed or cancelled. It depends on government decisions based on the progress of their lockdown measures to control the virus.

With best wishes for as good as summer as is possible.

Please note that although the Exmouth and Devon trip is likely to be cancelled I have included an expression of interest form below, just in case that the trip can go ahead. Editor

Expression of Interest Form

Exmouth and Attractions in Devon

7th to 11th September 2020 - This outing is only provisional

The Dover Society In association with Leo's Pride Coaches & 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: *Coach travel to and 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, plus 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. **The non-returnable deposit of £50 per person [will only be payable when the trip is confirmed].**
3. Single occupancy rooms are limited so early booking is advisable.
4. The Dover Society will not be involved with arrangements but please contact Rodney Stone on randdstone29@gmail.com or phone 01304 852 838 with expressions of interest, questions, and for terms and conditions form. Please send forms to Bahia, 10 Lighthouse Road, St Margaret's Bay, Dover. CT15 6EJ.

Name/s.....
 Tel. No.....
 Address.....

 Email address.....

Please note that we may be forced to cancel this trip. Do not send any monies with the form. Rodney will confirm with you if and when the trip will take place.



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Financial Commentary for Members April 2020

AGM Postponed Due to Coronavirus “Lockdown”

Mike Weston – Hon Treasurer

To be read in conjunction with financial figures on balance sheet for financial year 2019/2020. The financial year goes from 1st April until 31st March the following year.

Once again, in my 22nd annual report I can report that the Society’s finances are again in a satisfactory shape despite various increases in expenses over the last year. As you can see from the figures, we had a surplus in our general fund, or working fund, of £1075.20p during the last financial year.

The main elements influencing our general fund are subscriptions, the running of outings and members’ meetings, the newsletter, the administration costs of the Society, interest from our bank accounts and donations made and received. If you will bear with me, I will briefly go through these elements.

1. Subscriptions. The revenues from these were very slightly down on last year.

2. Outings and members’ meetings. We had two very successful day outings, one to the Bluebell Railway and the other to Arundel. Both covered their costs. Our members’ indoor meetings, which included the AGM, collectively were slightly loss-making, although not as much as the previous year. Raffles at our members’ meetings are the key to keeping our meetings’ costs down. Costs involved in these indoor meetings are the hire of the hall, at present £65 for each evening, speakers’ costs, and wine to keep the evenings convivial. Wine is provided, for which under government

legislation we are not allowed to charge, so the raffles are important to help keep costs down. Thanks go to all those who have run and have helped to run the raffles. Net receipts of our raffles which included the Christmas Lunch raffle were £553, this down £53 on last year. Because of COVID-19 starting to take hold, our March meeting, which went ahead, was poorly attended which affected raffle takings. The Wine and Wisdom evening again was successful and in surplus. Christmas lunch at the Town Hall made a slight loss. The success of these activities is, of course, due to you all who support them.

3. The Newsletter. Three editions are produced each year. Newsletter costs this year are the same as last year, but advertising revenue was up. Advertisements placed within the newsletter brought in £760. Our thanks go to Jean Marsh, for the work she is doing on behalf of the Society in bringing in advertisers to our Newsletter and collecting the revenue.

4. Administration. Our Insurance costs were up by £2.00 on last year at £275.78p. Photocopying, printing, general postage and stationery costs were down by £126.28p as compared to last year, and room costs for committee meetings were the same as last year at £110.

5. Interest received from money held in our Charities Aid Foundation account [Caf] was almost 55% higher than last year’s amount, but still only a measly £45.21. The interest rate on our account during the year has been kept steady at 0.15%.

6. During the past year we made donations of £140, and £79 in donations were received.

7. Gift Aid receipts this year amounted to £530.22 to the general fund. Donations to the Projects Fund attracted a further £62.50 of 'gift aid' to this fund. As I have said in previous years, 'gift aid' is a valuable means of increasing our revenue, especially considering the woefully low interest rates on bank accounts, and so once again I urge anyone who pays tax, and who has not signed up to 'gift aid' to consider doing so.

8. Miscellaneous costs are the website, which this year cost the Society £112.67, and purchasing wreaths for The Remembrance Day and The Zeebrugge memorial Day services, totaling £64.00.

Besides the General Fund, there are three other funds within our accounts. These are the Projects Fund, the Publication Fund and the Town Hall fund.

The project fund is used for sustaining our involvement in projects such as the Cowgate Cemetery, and for projects such as funding plaques. This fund over the years has mainly financed itself from donations received. This year the fund received a generous donation of £250.

The Publication fund, initially set up with various donations to fund the publication of John Peverley's account of the Western Heights Fortifications, is also used now to fund the printing of our Plaque Trail leaflets, open day leaflets and, more recently, the Town Hall guided tours leaflets. This fund has a continuous but erratic stream of income from the continuing sale of The Western Heights booklet.

The Town Hall fund was set up to help, eventually, in a small way, the restoration of this building. During the last financial year £720.93 was collected on Town Hall tours. Since 2011 up to the end of this last financial year ending on 31st March a total of £6327.75 has been collected on these Town Hall tours.

Many years ago £50.00 was donated to be used for the cleaning of the Rolls Memorial on the sea front. This Rolls Memorial fund was considered by your committee to be defunct and it was agreed to transfer the money to the Town Hall fund.

These three funds are to be found on the back of the financial statement.

The Dover Society remains supportive of our River Dour Partnership. We hold money for this partnership from various grants made to the River Dour and pay out money for equipment as is required from the funds held. As of 31st March, we were holding £11,454.40p of the Partnership's money.

The Bluebird Trail has been completed but we are still holding £777 from money received for implementing this trail.

Under Current Liabilities, you will see a sum last year being held on behalf of Dover District Council of £60,904. Dover District Council put in a bid to the Environment Agency for partnership grants for projects on the River Dour. Under Environment Agency rules, the money could not be paid direct to a council and had to go through a third party. We were approached and agreed to receive the money. This has been paid back to the council.

That concludes my report and I commend it to you – thank you.

THE DOVER SOCIETY
(Registered Charity No. 299954)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31ST MARCH 2020

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2020

<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	2020	2019
Newsletter Binders	190.66	206.41
Debtors & prepayments [Insurance]	339.74	478.28
Building Society Account [Caf]	30,231.54	29,936.33
Bank Current Account	26,441.89	87,920.94
Cash in Hand	41.84	63.17
25 x Reckitt Benckiser shares gifted to Society 06.11.08	660.75	660.75
25 x Reckitt Benckiser shares gifted to Society 26.10.12	937.50	937.50
25 x Reckitt Benckiser shares gifted to Society 09.02.15	1,400.00	1,400.00
50 x Indivior shares from Reckitt Benckiser 22.01.15	81.50	81.50
Market value of shares at 31.03.20 was £4635		
	<u>£60,325.42</u>	<u>£121,684.88</u>
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Money held on behalf of 'Bluebird Trail'	777.44	777.44
Money held on behalf of Dover District Council	0.00	60,903.88
Subscriptions in advance 2020/21	1,170.00	430.00
Subscriptions in advance 2021/22	6.00	
	<u>£58,371.98</u>	<u>£59,573.56</u>
 Represented by:		
General Fund at 31st March	29,248.61	28,173.41
Rolls Memorial Fund	0.00	50.00
Projects Fund	511.28	441.34
Publication Fund (formerly the Peverley Fund)	4,169.76	4,213.26
Town Hall Fund	12,987.93	12,066.10
River Dour Partnership	11,454.40	14,629.45
	<u>£58,371.98</u>	<u>£59,573.56</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

	2020		2019	
<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS</u>				
Subscriptions	560.00		2,573.00	
Donations received	<u>79.00</u>	2,639.00	<u>96.00</u>	2,669.00
<u>SOCIAL EVENTS</u>				
Christmas Gathering	(18.00)		113.00	
Wine & Wisdom	167.49		164.64	
Amberley Museum			5.00	
Liverpool			230.00	
Bluebell Railway outing	71.00			
Arundel	20.00			
		240.49		512.64
<u>MEMBERS' MEETINGS</u>				
AGM and members' meetings	(23.10)	(23.10)	(59.29)	(59.29)
<u>NEWSLETTER</u>				
Net Surplus (deficit)	(1453.40)		(1821.63)	
		(1,453.40)		(1,453.40)
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS</u>				
Photocopying & Stationery	(13.29)		(224.65)	
Miscellaneous	(176.67)		(134.28)	
Postage, Telephone & Advertising	(102.48)		(17.40)	
Affiliation Fees & Insurance	(360.78)		(343.54)	
Committee Room hire	(110.00)	(763.22)	(110.00)	(829.87)
<u>OTHER ITEMS</u>				
Caf Account & other interest received	45.21		29.26	
Gift Aid attracted by subs etc. to general fund	530.22		543.96	
Donations made: Normal	(140.00)		(110.00)	
Awards and presentations	0.00		0.00	
Badges	0.00	435.43	6.00	469.22
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the year			1,075.20	940.07
SURPLUS brought forward		<u>28,173.41</u>		<u>27,233.34</u>
SURPLUS carried forward		<u>29,248.61</u>		<u>28,173.41</u>

NOTE: On the income and expenditure account only, bracketed () items are debits or net costs, unbracketed items are credits or net income

Capt. M.H.Weston, Treasurer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

NOTE 1 - PROJECT FUND

The Fund arises from grants and awards made in respect of the Society's projects less cost incurred restoring Lydden Pond, Cowgate Cemetery and amenity improvement work.

Fund movement for the Year

Balance at 1st April 2019	441.34
Normal transactions during year	(242.56)
Gift Aid received this year attracted by donations made to fund during 2017/18	62.50
Donations received during year to be used within fund.	250.00
Balance at 31st.March 2020	511.28

NOTE 2 - PUBLICATION FUND (Formerly the Peverley Fund)

The Society has published John Peverley's account of the Western Heights fortifications.

Grants in hand at 1st April 2019	5,265.75
Grants/Donations received during the year 2019/20	<u>0.00</u>
Total grants received as of 31st. March 2020	<u>£5,265.75</u>
Unrecovered costs at 1st April 2019	(1,052.49)
Proceeds of sales during year	0.00
Printing of 1000 open day leaflets 2018/19	(152.00)
Receipts from Town Hall booklets	<u>108.50</u>
Grants and sales less unrecovered costs & leaflets	<u>£4,169.76</u>
Unrecovered cost at 1st April 2019	<u>£1,095.99</u>
Revenue from unsold Town Hall booklets owing to fund is £304	
The unsold stock of books in hand with Hon Treasurer is £390 cost value £427.95	

NOTE 3 - TOWN HALL FUND

The purpose of the fund is to help towards project to renovate the Town Hall. The fund consists of shares donated to the Society, dividends thereon and money arising from guided walks within the Town Hall

Fund movement for the Year

Balance at 1st April 2019	12,066.10
Normal transactions during the year	871.83
Rolls Memorial Fund - moved into fund as agreed by committee	<u>50.00</u>
Balance at 31st March 2020	<u>£12,987.93</u>
(Share value in fund £3079.75. Market value at 31st March 2019 £4834.50)	

NOTE 4 – RIVER DOUR PARTNERSHIP

This fund represents grants made to less grants made by and expenses of the Partnership

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Some Dover Inns and Alehouses

Joe Harman

It was always said that in Snargate Street there were as many pubs as days in the year. While confined to barracks just before retirement I browsed through the 1900 edition of *Pikes Directory* for Dover. A rough check gave about 194 for the old Dover Borough. Other directories added more to my list. Then I started on old newspapers, looking for mentions in police reports, inquests and granting of licences. A study of Dover Paving Commissioners' minutes 1788- 1841 provided even more.

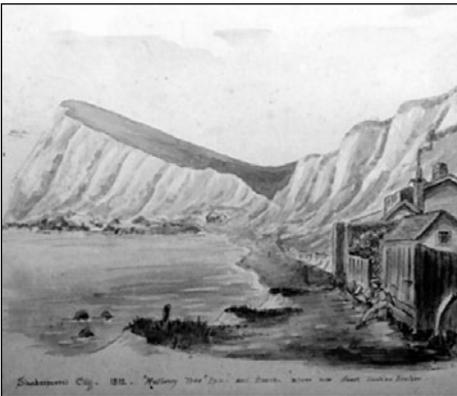
About this time I made contact with Barry Smith who had published a book called *The Way* which gave a history of those public houses still surviving in Dover. He had spent many hours tracing the landlords from various sources, bringing to life many of the old pubs and inns, as well as recording changes of names over the years. My card index had grown to more than 500, but by taking account of changes in names there must have been least 422 different houses during the last 300 years.

In 1545, a list was compiled of 37 inns and public houses in Dover. They were all in Biggin Street, St. James Street and Upwall (Adrian Street) and with no link with present houses. Snargate Street and most of the Pier District is on reclaimed land, with the sea up to the cliffs until about 1600.

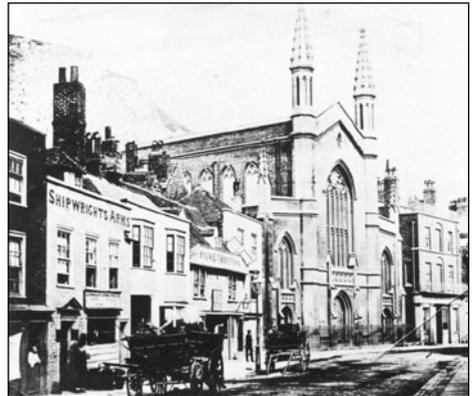
The harbour moving from the eastern side of town to the west meant the arrival of inns and taverns around the new harbour, with a possible ratio of one to four other houses! Developments over the years, starting with improvements to the harbour, have taken their toll. A wet dock was constructed in about 1815 and a number of houses on the harbour edge were demolished, including the *Noah's Ark* and the *Britannia*.

The coming of the railway from Folkestone in the 1840s meant the end for a number of houses on the shoreline, including the *Mulberry Tree Inn*.

The opposition line coming through



Mulberry Tree Dover 1812



Shipwrights Arms and the Packet Boat Inn Strond St 1858

Canterbury destroyed a lot of old property including a number of inns, among them were the *Packet Boat* and *Shipwright Arms*. A link line cut another swathe through the area and later the road viaduct removed another batch. *The Kent Arms* in Limekiln Street was one of those to go in 1913. Strond Street had a few survivors but these were affected by the 1939-1945 War and the street has now disappeared into the harbour complex.

The Beerhouse Act of 1830 to reduce drinking, meant the opening of many small alehouses until about 1870. The *Bonny Cravat* became known from court proceedings two days after opening in 1840, due to noisy customers at 2am. Going back to newspapers, I found my great-great-grandfather outside the *Bull* at Buckland Bridge in 1835, due to a brawl on the inquest. Later I found him in the 1841 census, living very near the *Old Endeavour*.

Some of the census enumerators were very helpful in giving the full title of the hostelry, whilst others, 100 years later, were loath to advertise the house and just listed the inhabitant as a publican. The 1861 census shows the *Liberty Inn* by the Crabble Hill tollgate. I first thought that this might have been an earlier name for *The Gate Inn* whose records start in 1868;



Kent Arms Limekiln Street 1908-13

however, a close inspection of a house on the corner of Dodds Lane revealed the *Liberty Inn* name still painted on the wall.

Inquests were often held in pubs and reported in the local newspapers, providing valuable information to researchers. One such in 1841 gave the address of the deceased as the *Evening Star* in Biggin Street. She had called at the *Royal Exchange*, the *Lifeboat* and *Friend in Need*. When recovered from the sea, she was conveyed to the *Hovelling Boat* - all in the Pier district.

The Queen Street area lost several hostelries when dual carriageway York Street was built in the 1970s, including *The Cause is Altered*, but it is difficult to be sure of its name before it was changed in about 1820. Bavington Jones¹ states that it was the *Black Horse* but this appears to be hearsay. At that time we know there was a pub of that name where the *Eagle* now stands. However, there was a *Blacksmiths Arms* in the street prior to the change and there seems to be some grounds for believing it was the *Carpenters Arms*.

From time to time the question arises as to which is the oldest pub in Dover. The St. James Street area seems to be a likely place with the *White Horse*, next to the church, as a candidate. It seems, from



Cherry Tree 1980's

information to hand, that it started about 1760 as the *City of Edinburgh*. There was a *White Horse* in the Market Square in the 17th Century. The *Dover Tavern* in Bench Street, formerly *The Guildhall Vaults* and earlier still the *Bull* is on an old site and mentioned in 1702. I was really looking for one which kept the same name up to the present day. In a copy of the Kent Gazette of February 1785, I found a notice of a cockfight. This was to be held at the *Cherry Tree Inn* at Buckland, when the gentlemen of Faversham and Ospringe would do battle with the gentlemen of Dover. One can visualise the carriages coming down the turnpike road for this event. Sadly, even the *Cherry Tree* has closed since this was penned.

The oldest survivor in the Pier District appears to be *The Cinque Port Arms*, formerly the *Coach and Horses*, recorded there in 1793 and probably earlier, as the building seems to be older. Next door we find the *Rose and Crown*, dating from 1641. Due to demolition of other property, they seem to be leaning on each other for support in the best traditions. I have also found in St. Mary's Vestry Books information about the charity of Thomas Challice, which in 1613 was to be paid from his house at the sign of the *Horseshoe* in Biggin Street. By 1739 the name had changed to the *Saracen's Head*. This was

sold in 1895 for road widening and the proceeds invested to provide an annuity of 9/-. This house stood at the corner of New Street opposite the *Rose*, which was closed in living memory.

On searching through a copy of the *Dover Chronicle* 1841 I found a song which had its premiere at the Dover Theatre in 1799. This introduced the audience to the landlords and landladies of Dover. It ran to 16 verses, too long to quote now, and was sung to the tune of *The Vicar of Bray*. It was most useful in checking other records.

NB Perhaps the Editor will include the song in the next edition.

1. *Dover, A Perambulation of the Town, Port and Fortress, John Bavington Jones, 1907.*



*Temperance Hotel (formerly Saracen's Head)
Wellington Hotel on right*

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The Battle for Coxhill Bridge

Doug Welby

Over the years the stretch of road between Kearsney Abbey and Bushy Rough has caused problems with local authorities as to its ownership and who should pay the cost of repairs.

As early as 1853 an argument as to whether it was a 'highway' or not was brought before the Justices Meeting at Wingham. A short while later a note in the River Parish Records stated that the Surveyor of the Highways had been served with a summons after refusing to repair Coxhill Bridge out of the Highway Rate.

During the early part of 1854 Thomas Smith, acting on instructions of the owner, Mrs. Every, had been demanding tolls from everybody using the Alkham Road and had erected a fence or gate to obstruct the highway. In the following March the Surveyor for River, George Gould, successfully removed the obstruction on the authority of the local magistrates. However, Mrs. Levery was not easily discouraged. She made it clear that the road was on private property and now that the lease on Coxhill Farm had been surrendered she, the owner, demanded her original rights. (It appears that the road was diverted shortly after the Brown Mill at Bushy Rough was constructed in c1791 by parties who had no right to do so).

Things took a turn for the worst when on the 9th February 1856, Mr. Gould came across four men digging up the road at Coxhill Bridge. He asked them to desist, but they refused saying that they had the freehold. The Surveyor promptly served notice on Thomas Smith as agent to the proprietor ordering him to fill in the ditch and to remove the fence forthwith.

Tempers began to flare when Mr. Smith would not comply with the order and on the 3rd May Mr. John Collard, Highways Surveyor from neighbouring Alkham, was assaulted by Smith whilst investigating the four foot wide ditch, which still prevented the road being used. Collard had been given authority from his River opposite number to fill in the obstruction and had nearly accomplished his mission with the help of two labourers when the assault took place. Thomas Smith tried to prevent them from completing their task and ordered them off, saying that they were trespassing and forcibly tried to remove them.

Then, on the 17th May, it was reported to Mr. Gould that the road was again blocked by a fence with the demand of what he was going to do about it. The brave Mr. Gould reported that he would not remove it with a Magistrate's Order as in his opinion there was some doubt as to the legality of removing it. He added that there was great hardship in the village of River and felt he should not take any risks.

Whilst this barrier was being erected by Thomas Smith, an Alkham farmer named Valentine Gambrell, attempted to climb over the fence. Smith told him that there was no thoroughfare and tried to prevent him from getting over. Gambrell resisted by striking Smith on the back of the head with a heavy walking stick, which stunned Smith and dented his hat. The assailant immediately climbed over the fence telling the stunned agent that if he touched him again he would throw him in the river!

The local paper recorded the proceedings at the local Magistrates Court on the 31st May when Gambrell was fined a shilling

and 14/6d costs for taking the law into his own hands and using more violence than was necessary. Smith afterwards told Gambrill that he would take him to County Court if he did not compensate him for the damage to his hat.

During the court proceedings it was reported that Mrs. Every would guarantee that 'no interruption to the passage would occur whilst the matter of ownership was being looked into' but it can be seen on an 1872 map that the road still went through the farmyard and had not been altered in any way as a result of this violent protest. Therefore, one can assume that either Mrs. Every's ownership was not proven or that all the protagonists got together one evening in the Dublin Man 'O War and settled the problem over a pint or two of real ale.

Note: Research for this story was undertaken by Joe Harman.

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Dover's Little Known Export

Part I

— Peter W Sherred —

What connection does Dover have with the purchase of an 80 acre area of land in the former colony of South Australia in the mid nineteenth century? What activity was pioneered on it and what did it develop into, and how? Such questions were answered in part by Michael Portillo, former Conservative MP and Cabinet Minister, when he took his Great Train Journeys television series to Australia. Last year a particular episode of Michael Portillo's Great Australian Rail Journeys found him in Adelaide as part of his cross continent rail experience and those of us who picked up the programme on 9th November 2019 will have seen the presenter, famous for his flamboyant coloured jackets and trousers, take a diversion south of Adelaide to the site of South Australia's first vineyards where viewers were informed that a pioneer from Snargate Street in Dover had established a vineyard whose grape crop was to provide domestic wines. The modest origins of this enterprise would develop into a highly successful and expanding industry over the decades to follow, currently run by a sixth generation of the family group that

had taken the chance to emigrate to Australia and settle in what was to become a unique state. South Australia was not colonised by criminals deported from Great Britain, unlike New South Wales for example, and additionally it established a democratic framework of government that was ahead of its time.

Curiosity aroused by the information provided in the programme led to a fascinating investigation into the origin of the founder of the now hugely successful wine business 'Leconfield' and 'Richard Hamilton' Wines, known as 'The First Family of Wine', on the one hand and to how this fledgling wine enterprise developed from such modest and challenging origins on the other.

On 27th July 1837 the barque Katherine Stewart Forbes sailed from London and Gravesend for Australia where she arrived at Holdfast Bay South Australia on 17th October 1837 bringing with her just under some 200 passengers and the proclamation of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne following the death of King William IV. The barque had been built in Northfleet Kent and had been used for travel and trade between Great Britain and India but had previously carried convicts to Australia. Now it was carrying free settlers to their new lives in the Colony. Among the passengers was a certain Richard Hamilton, his wife Ann and nine children, one of whom, William, was a crew member. Richard was the eldest son of his father (also called Richard Hamilton) who had become a Freeman of Dover on 1st August 1788 while Richard junior was also to become a Freeman. His brother, John,



Richard Hamilton playing part of his great great grandfather on DVD

became a solicitor and was appointed to the Dover Corporation in the 1820s and he was to remain in Dover. En route from Gravesend to Australia, the Hamilton family on board, the Katherine Stewart Forbes sailed past Dover where a boatload of friends and neighbours bade them a fond farewell. Richard and Ann were never to return.

Richard, the emigrant to Australia with his family, was born in February 1792 in Dover and his wife, Ann Holmes, was born at Dover Castle in 1789 (the year of the French Revolution). They clearly enjoyed connections with St Mary's Church in Cannon Street for it appears all their children were baptised there. Richard was a tailor with an address in Snargate Street (no 119) and his name was listed as part of the Petty Jury for local court trials on 21st December 1830. Why he, at the age of 45, and his family opted to emigrate is unknown although it has been reliably suggested he may have been involved with smuggling wine from Bordeaux and the Revenue Officers may have been closing in on him!

He was clearly sufficiently in funds and solvent enough not to apply for an assisted passage and paid the cost of the family group passage to Australia. Maybe he was simply a restless soul disillusioned with his lot in Dover which at that time was not the most appealing of places. His son, William, had returned from South Australia having sailed there with the first fleet on the Duke of York barque and it is possible he had given a good account of what he had found on the Southern Continent. What we do know is that on June 7th 1837 a Land Order (Number 449) had been signed in London where Richard had paid for an 80 acre plot of land at £1 per acre, the exact location of which would be determined by the surveyor to the Resident

Commissioner of Public Lands of the colony of South Australia.

Once identified the lot was to be granted to Richard Hamilton and his heirs in perpetuity. Australia may not have been the original destination of first choice of the family as it has been suggested Richard may have visited America first and owned property on Long Island which was sold when he became disappointed with his choice of America for emigration. The proceeds may have been appropriated towards the land purchase in South Australia. On his application to emigrate, of 5th July 1837, Richard gave his occupation as "agricultural labourer." An explanation for this has been suggested namely that this was more likely to receive approval by the authorities than his actual occupation of tailor that he had followed in Dover, having qualified as such after years of being indentured in training for the skills of a tailor.

Having made landfall on 17th October 1837 the family disembarked from the barque at Holdfast Bay where they found there was a delay in identifying their land as the surveying was running behind schedule so initially the family lived in tents on the banks of the River Torrens. An inauspicious start to a new life and for some time Richard had to dip into his dwindling savings to support his family. However, a stroke of luck occurred because one of his sons, John, became an assistant to the Surveyor General Colonel William Light's surveying party and it was he who identified an excellent plot of land, number 148, which straddled the Sturt River near Glenelg in Marion District. The plot had excellent soil and was well drained but comprised grassland with eucalyptus or gum trees. Richard and the family took possession of this plot in 1838, finally completing its transfer in 1840.

Initially called "Curtis Farm", it was the foundation land for the subsequent expanded enterprise. It required much labour-intensive work to transform it from its natural state to farmland and this took quite some time. By 1841 only 25 acres were cleared and farmed for a variety of crops.

In 1838 vines were planted on "Curtis Farm" in rich red-brown soil (along with other crops) but from where did the vines come? It seems that during the delay over the allocation of land (as his cash reserves were shrinking) Richard wrote to a friend in the Cape Province requesting vines or cuttings to be sent to him. The vines were planted in the winter of 1838 and were harvested in due time in enough quantity as Shiraz and Grenache with the first wine

being produced in 1841 mainly for family consumption but with some for local trade. The enterprise was launched! Such were the origins of the Hamilton Dynasty which became celebrated and well known as vigneron, people who cultivate vines for wine production. Richard Hamilton's farm was located some two miles from Holdfast Bay where the family had landed and some six miles south of Adelaide.

Richard Hamilton died prematurely in August 1852. This man, who had his origins in Dover, had achieved much in his lifetime. Happily married and father to ten children he was a free pioneer settler sufficiently well-endowed to pay his own way on emigration and who, through hard work and graft, had established a successful farm and the colony's first vineyard in South Australia before his death. The early vines planted by him were low in height and with the absence of trellis support probably resulted in challenging harvesting work.

While, through his Will, all of Richard's children inherited a part of the farm, it was his fourth son, Henry, who was in charge for the benefit of his siblings and who developed the vine growing and wine making and in so doing building the enterprise up into a significant business. Henry was born in 1826 in Dover (or possibly Temple Ewell) and had arrived in Australia from England in 1841 having stayed back to be educated in Christ's Hospital Blue Coat School in London between 1835 and 1841; whilst Richard, Ann and the other children set sail for South Australia. Admission to the school, founded in 1552 by Edward VI, was much sought after and no other siblings of his were as fortunate as Henry in this regard.

In 1852 Henry bought 47 acres of land of his own to expand "Curtis Farm" and



Land Order 7th June 1837

named it 'Ewell Vineyard'. It was located across Oaklands Road from his father's original plot and it was to provide the nucleus of Hamilton's 'Ewell Vineyards and Winery' at Marion District which was to exist until the late 1970's when it went into decline, was sold then closed down. Henry married Mary Bell who was the daughter of a neighbour.

Why was the name 'Ewell' included? Well, as with much of this history, two strands of thought arise – was it included because of a family

connection with Ewell in Surrey or was it included after Temple Ewell, the then small and old village on the outskirts of Dover beyond the suburb of River? As Henry was possibly born in Temple Ewell it would be good to think the latter for the purpose of this history! To Henry is attributed the fact of having put the business firmly on the map by planting more vineyards and establishing cellars as well as winning a prestigious prize awarded by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society. Henry died in 1907, by which time Port, Muscat, Sherries and sweet white wine were being produced, but from 1890 in fact his fourth son, Frank, had been managing the business.

Frank, who was born in 1859, was married to Violet Ayliffe and it was during his time in control that his entrepreneurial spirit enabled the business to develop further. He was serendipitously aided by a young man referred to as "The Swiss" who was a winemaker from Europe who had jumped ship in Adelaide and was given protection by Frank and his family. He was called "The Swiss" because his actual surname



Ewell Vineyard

was impossible to pronounce! During this period of growth a large underground cellar was dug at the recommendation of "The Swiss". This was unusual in Australia at the time and was an early example of the innovative approach to wine-making which became characteristic of the Hamilton family, and often as a result of fortuitous contact with experienced European wine-makers.

Tragedy struck in 1913 when, quite unexpectedly, at the relatively young age of 54, Frank died from pneumonia, caught whilst visiting family in Kangaroo Island. His heirs, eldest sons Eric and Sydney Hamilton, were only 17 and 14 respectively at the time and, of course, the world was soon plunged into chaos through the outbreak of World War I. Eric enlisted and saw action in both Gallipoli and the Western Front and was severely gassed on at least two occasions, necessitating his repatriation to England for treatment.

Part II will appear in the next newsletter - Editor

Buckland Village – Now in Dover

Joe Harman

Edited by Derek Leach

Buckland has been overtaken by the spread of Dover and has to some extent lost its identity in the process. So much so, that not long ago I, who had lived in the parish all my life, was told that another historian considered that there was nothing of interest in Buckland. I started looking around, determined to prove him wrong.

I had studied the burial records of Buckland from 1857 onwards, which gave much information as to tradesmen. I followed this up with Tithe Census Returns, the evidence of my own eyes and scraps of information gleaned over the years.



Kingsford Windmill Brewery, Union St Dover 1865

Many people have passed through Dover and continued up the London Road towards Canterbury and beyond. The old town of Dover at one time only consisted of the parishes of St. Mary's and St. James's with the dividing line being the River Dour. It seems that for many years the route inland for horsemen and walkers was to the east of the river, but the Turnpike Trust road to Barham, created in 1753, diverted the road through Buckland to the west of the river. Hasted records a newly built bridge and the Bull Inn nearby dates from that time.

From about 1800 some of the wealthier citizens of Dover moved up the valley and this encouraged the Dover Council to extend its boundaries, taking in Charlton and parts of Buckland. There was a boundary revision in 1851, which took in most of the rest of Buckland and another in 1896.

Bavington Jones in his book on Dover asserted that there were few houses between the Eagle Tavern and the Cherry Tree Inn at the start of the 19th century; however, there does seem to have been some old properties on the right as you climbed Buckland Hill after passing Charlton Toll Gate, removed in 1855, which was opposite the 'Eagle'. The ground to the west, which until the Dissolution was part of St. Bartholomew's Leper Hospital, does not appear to have been used for housing until about 1825, but took off when much of it came on the market after William Kingsford, the miller, was adjudged bankrupt in 1854. This was rising ground leading to Chapel Mount or the

High Meadows where we used to fly our homemade kites. The Buckland boundary was just before the high terrace, pinpointed by the property known as Buckland Place, used by Youdens the estate agents. From here up to the Gate Inn the road was known as Buckland Street until about 1880 and then it became London Road.

The varied collection of houses on the London Road terrace began to appear in about 1840 when plots were sold off. The former Methodist Chapel with its rather grand façade was opened in 1839. I found an entry in the Dover Express of 1894 stating that William Pritchard, aged 8, died after a fall from Buckland Wall steps near the chapel. This reminded readers that for over 50 years there was no fence or railings to the steps. The Corporation was forced by public opinion to take some action, even though the owners were under an obligation to maintain the road and wall. It eventually came before the magistrates for a decision; from evidence given by the Town Clerk, William Knocker, the purchasers had a duty to build the wall when the chalk bank was cut back.

On the right was a house known as 'Bucklands' owned by the Fielding family (now a tyre & exhaust centre). On the opposite side of the road there was a gap between the houses, which was at one time laid out as gardens giving a pleasant view. The Fieldings were unlikely to have approved of the arrival there of the Buckland Picture House in 1920, later known as the Regent. In 1936 a new Regent appeared alongside the old favourite and was later known as the Odeon, but now replaced by the Territorial Army centre. A little further up was the Cherry Tree Inn which appears in a Licensing List of 1740. It had the distinction of being the first house in the

parish to be lit by gas in 1847. Just beyond Cherry Tree Avenue (formerly Lane) were the remains of Pear Tree Cottages; incised on a brick there was the date of 1754.

As we continue up the road we pass the white boarded flour mill built by William Kingsford in 1812 and also his residence, Lundy House, built for him. On the roof there was a platform with a telescope. I understand that a member of the Mannering family was fond of stargazing. The Mannering family ran the mill until quite recently. We then come to five flint cottages once known as Providence Place. There is a tablet at the rear which has begun to weather away, but I was able to decipher most of it: 'That he be dead, He is not forgot by him that had these letters wrote 1836'. This ground was sold off, according to a sales notice, in 1854. This indicated that my great, great, grandfather was living in a cottage there at the time of William Kingsford's bankruptcy.

Most of the villagers lived near the main road with farms on the outskirts at Barton and Coombe. Coombe Farm in Buckland Bottom disappeared when it was overtaken by the extension of the rubbish tip. Buckland Bottom in 1807 was the venue for Dover Races where in 1835 the Buckland Union workhouse was built, way out of town. This was laid out on the



Buckland Bridge

courtyard principle, similar to the Bridge workhouse near Canterbury. Buckland Workhouse eventually became Buckland Hospital, of fond memory!

An article in an old Dover Express mentions an 'Iron Mother' in a Board of Guardians report. This was a large pestle and mortar used for breaking stones by the itinerant visitors to the workhouse in lieu of payment for board and lodging. It was supposed to deter tramps from heading this way! Perhaps it did as the next report stated that six more had been purchased at £3 each. Quite a number who finished their days in the workhouse were buried in Buckland Cemetery.

Continuing towards Buckland Bridge, we pass the former Buckland School on our left built in 1852 for £842. When digging out the foundations Roman pottery was found as well as tufa. Tufa is found in old riverbeds and was used by the Romans as a building material, which can be seen in the Roman Pharos. From this we can assume that the river was much wider here at one time. In 1904 there were 389 girls plus 697 infants at the school. Some classes used the Rectory garden. A boys' school had been built on the site of Barton Farm in 1898 followed by an infants' school in 1903, which found room for me in 1920.

A little further up the road is a pair of houses, which have bricks with the date 1808 and various initials. These may have some connection with local brickmakers who abounded in this area. It seems possible that this was the Chequers beer house kept by Richard Pay the shoemaker, according to the 1841 census. Door sills show signs of being hollowed out by barrels being dragged through.

As we cross over Buckland Bridge there is

the old tram shed built in 1897 and now a motor showroom. I reported there just over 60 (sic) years ago for my first job. On the left is the former Buckland Paper Mill an old established industry, which may go back to 1638 when Thomas Chapman, a papermaker, was married at Buckland. Much more could be written about papermaking on the Dour.

Going up Crabble Hill there is the Three Cups; opposite was the old toll gate house. At the end of the turnpike era in 1860 the Dover Corporation used it for collecting the Coal Dues.

In 1951 on the hill close to Green Lane, ground was being prepared for new council houses. I decided to take a look. Bulldozers had turned up some bones and other items. Fortunately, someone moved quickly and Miss Vera Evison was sent to organise a rescue dig. I arrived just as it was getting dark and helped to put the cover over one of the graves, nearly putting my foot in it in the process. After twenty years, I thought I would enquire at Dover Museum as to what had been found. I was given Miss Evison's address at Birkbeck College and wrote to her. She suggested that I write to Mrs Webster at the British Museum who could show me the finds. A date was arranged and I took a day off and caught the train. The result was an hour in a room at the British Museum examining the artefacts and handling one of the swords. Shortly after that some of the items went on display; I believe it is still possible to see them. A full report was eventually published costing £45, but there is a copy in the Dover Reference Library. The burial ground indicates that Saxon invaders sailed up the valley and established a settlement at Buckland after the Roman legions left; or were they already here as mercenary troops? It is as well to recall that the Dour was much

wider and navigable in Roman times and continued to be so until the Norman period when the estuary began to silt up. The site was in probably in use from about 475 until c800AD.

It would be wrong not to mention St. Andrew's Church, the oldest building in



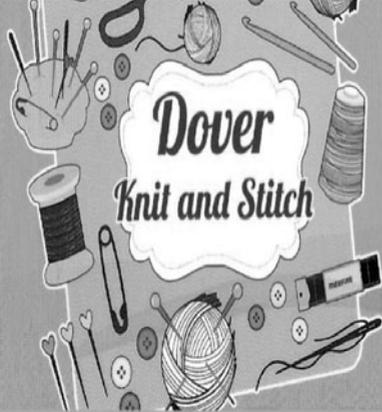
ST. ANDREW, BUCKLAND IN DOVER

St Andrews Church Buckland Dover

the parish, which appears to have some Saxon work in its fabric. I wonder if the first church was built by the descendants of those warriors up on the hill? In 1880 the old yew tree was moved to make it possible to extend the church of St. Andrew and many Bucklanders have a small wooden cross made by Mr. Yarrow from a branch of the yew which broke off in a storm. Now, near those Saxon graves, there is a daughter church dedicated to St. Nicholas and that may be a link with those Saxon seafarers.

Much more could be written about Buckland and I know some will say he did not mention this or that, but I believe I have proved my point: there is plenty of interest in Buckland!

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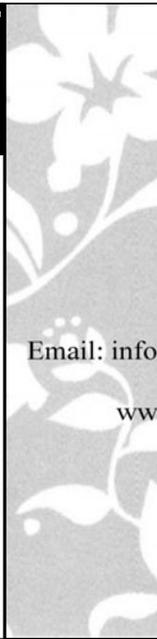
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Email: info@annandpamsflorist.co.uk

www.annandpamsflorist.co.uk

Quality Florist

4 Cherry Tree Avenue,
Dover, Kent, CT16 2NL

il Rustico

*No 4 Bench Street
Dover, Kent CT16 1JH
Tel: 01304 211110
www.ilrusticorestaurant.org.uk*

*Traditional Italian Restaurant
And Pizzeria*

Take-Away Menu Available

Opening Hours 12 - 2pm and 6pm - 10pm

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.

7 to 11 **Provisional to be confirmed**
September **Exmouth and Devon Attractions:** Includes half board at Royal Beacon Hotel, £399? pp 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.

To express an interest in this trip please complete the form, on the centre pages of this newsletter, and return to Rodney Stone, Bahia, 10 Lighthouse Road, St Margaret's Bay, Dover. CT15 6EJ Telephone: 01304 852 838.

Please send no monies at present until it is known if the trip will take place

Winter Indoor Meetings

At the present we do not know if we will be able to hold the October and November meetings. As soon as we know we will email all members that we can. Any member who has not got an email address, please call any member of the committee after 10th October, when we may have an update.

19 October **Provisional to be confirmed**
Monday 7.30 **Speakers:**
Jon Iveson "Evacuation of Dunkirk 1940"
Noel Beamish "Dover Outreach Centre's Approach to Ending Homelessness"

16 November **Provisional to be confirmed**
Monday 7.30 **Speakers:**
Rob Baldwin "Diary of a Dig (St Ethelburga's 2019)"
Melanie Wrigley (WCCP) "Mass Extinctions"

6 December **Dover Society Christmas Lunch:**
Sunday 12.30 **Provisional to be confirmed**
for 1pm To be held in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu. Entertainment to be confirmed. Will include our Christmas raffle. If this goes ahead, then there will be more details and a booking form in the next newsletter.

To express an interest in the Christmas meal, please complete the form on the centre pages of this newsletter, and return to Beverley Hall, 61 Castle Avenue Dover, CT16 1EZ. Tel: 01304 202646.

Please send no monies at present until it is known if the meal will take place.

*All indoor meetings are held at St. Mary's Parish Centre
For all outings and events please book as early as possible.*



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www.sleepyhead-beds.com**