

# The Dubris Trust

Peter Sherred

One of the most appealing aspects of our town of Dover is the amount of voluntary work that is ongoing daily. The town is privileged to host several charities where volunteers work hard to deliver benefits to people of the town who need support. One such charitable trust is the R V Coleman Trust for which I was privileged to serve as Clerk for something like twenty-five years. This trust owes its origin to the generosity of one R V Coleman (whose body was interred in East Langdon churchyard) and the object of his generosity are those who are sick or suffering or who are convalescing from ill-health. The Trust is available to assist with practical aids or with financial support in paying for care/nursing home fees when people are in their greatest need. The current clerk is Glynis Farthing. The trust works through the efforts of voluntary trustees, whose work is often under the radar but is of immediate concern for those in need of support. Unlike the NHS, the Trust can respond to references to it with an immediacy that meets the applicants' needs without delay.

Another, little known but vital, local trust is The Dubris Trust which has its origins in a Deed of Trust of 1984 when two prominent people of the town, John H Turnpenny, a former Honorary Freeman of the town, and James A Johnson, a former Town Clerk of the

town, became the first trustees of the charity which has a working name of The James and Cecile Johnson Charitable Trust. Over the years it has become an important grant-making voluntary trust, helping young people with their education and training needs. Each August causes local school children and their parents' anxiety as it is the month when examination results are published for those who have taken GCSE examinations and A levels at school in the summer term. When the A level results are issued, the town's youngsters have their futures determined and many have the ambition to attend university. Exam results provide just one hurdle for them to clear to enable them to go to the higher education institution of their choice, but these days attendance at university comes with a substantial financial commitment. This is where youngsters from Dover have a great advantage for they can apply to the Dubris Trust for some grant aid. The process is quite simple. They need to apply through their schools to the secretary of the Trust and then, when the results are out, they are invited to attend an interview before a group of voluntary trustees. If successful, they may be awarded a not insubstantial grant for a single year or, if the winner of the scholarship, spread over the three years of the average university course.

The main objective for the trustees is to honour the intention and purpose of the trust which is the awarding of annual educational scholarships and minor educational awards to students who qualify. The applicants must live within the boundary of the former Borough of Dover as it was before local government reorganisation in 1974 and attend a Dover school. If they meet the residence qualification, have results which are favourable and an offer from a university then they are able to be considered for some



*Johnson, James A  
Town Clerk 1944-1968*



*Turnpenny, John  
Honorary Freeman 2010*

financial assistance from the Trust. In recent years, the Trust has awarded an average of £16,000 per year in total to successful applicants. Since its inception the Trust has paid out over £400,000.

The current trustees are all people with a local connection: Anne Angell, Andrew Lamb, Mary Sherred, Simon Gibbons and the Revd John Philpott (the latter on the point of retiring as a trustee after serving the Trust faithfully for many years). All the trustees are volunteers who give their time and expertise freely to the important task of providing grants for the young people of Dover who are about to enter higher education. The Trust has close links with the town's secondary schools, and it is these links that facilitate the exchange of information enabling eligible students to apply and receive benefit from the Trust. The trustees rely on the Heads of Sixth Form in the schools to bring the Trust to the attention of their students and encourage them to apply.

It will be appreciated by Society members that if they have family members who are wishing to attend higher education they should be encouraged to speak to the person in their school or college who liaises with the Dubris Trust and put in an application to assist in paying for books or other materials required for the course(s) expected to follow. All applications are made through the schools.

Dover is a town that is blessed with several charities, trusts or organisations that exist for the benefit of the people of the town and for which many people offer their services on a voluntary basis to the benefit of others. Knowing the existence of such organisations is invaluable since contact is usually easy, and decisions are made locally and without any bureaucratic delays. So, for health and educational support among other opportunities, where better to live than in this wonderful Cinque Port town of Dover?

## **Organiser Required for Newsletter Distribution**

Jeremy and Sheila Cope have decided that it is time to step back from organising the distribution of the Dover Society Newsletter.

The task, which is best for 2 people or a team to share, involves:

- Collecting 3 or 4 boxes of newsletters from Adams Printers, three times a year.***
- Printing and attaching labels to envelopes and stuffing and sealing them.***
- Sorting filled envelopes into categories for distributors and stamping postal ones.***
- Delivering batches to distributors, some of whom collect from the house, after contacting them beforehand.***

If you would be willing to undertake this task for the Society then could you please contact Jeremy or Sheila to discuss further.

Tel: 01304 211348

Email [sheilacope@willersley.plus.com](mailto:sheilacope@willersley.plus.com) or [jeremycope@willersley.plus.com](mailto:jeremycope@willersley.plus.com)