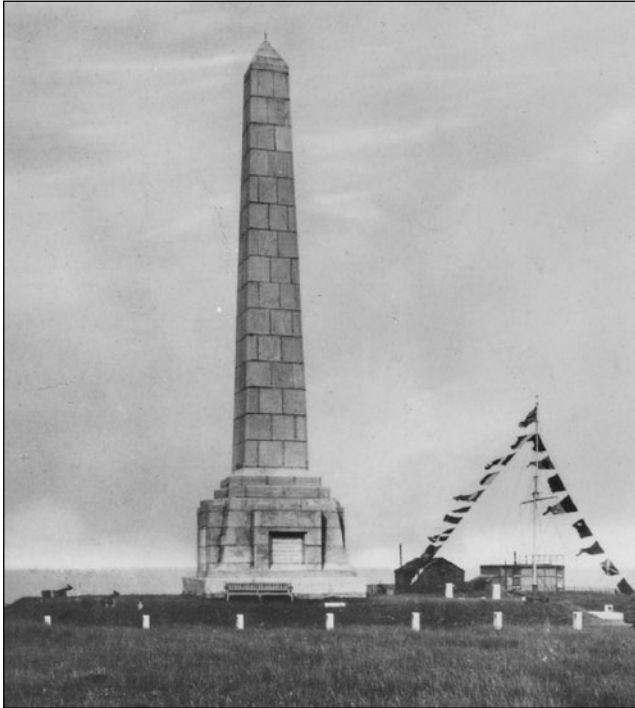


The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 111
November 2024



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THE DOVER SOCIETY

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Registered Charity No. 299954

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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, archaeology, 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 Dover Town Council, Guston Parish Council, Hougham Without Parish Council, Langdon Parish Council, Lydden Parish Council, River Parish Council, St Margarets at Cliffe Parish Council, Temple Ewell Parish Council and Whitfield Parish Council.

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

If you are planning to attend the Christmas Lunch on Sunday 8th December, could you please book as soon as possible? If anyone would like to donate a prize for the raffle, to be held on the day, please pass it on to one of the executive or bring along on the day. The booking form can be found in the centre of this newsletter.

On 16th October, councillors voted to adopt the District Local Plan. This is the at the end of a consultation period that has lasted for six years. DDC can now set the districts development strategy up until 2040. It identifies sites to deliver the 11,000 new homes needed and community facilities, economic growth areas and infrastructure requirements. The plan is available to view on the DDC website and includes three interactive maps that cover Housing Sites, Employment Sites and Gypsy and Traveller Sites.

Are you connected to a local business, club or another type of group? Between the 1st and 24th December, at a cost of only £20, you can sponsor a complete day on Dover Community Radio. For more details, or to book email Martin Turner, DCR Ads Manger on Advertising@DCRfm.co.uk

Have you an article of local interest, either a personal story or one of a general nature, that you would like to have published. If so, then please contact the editor. Articles must have a connection with the Dover area.

It looks as if the Maison Dieu (Old Town Hall) will be handed over to the council, after a lengthy restoration, sometime in December. It should then be ready to be open permanently to the public in April.

Dover's Winter Light-up takes place on Saturday 7th December between 1pm and 7pm. A lantern procession through the town will end up at the Market Square. Here there will be stalls offering gifts, food and drinks accompanied by live music and entertainment.

The Annual Dover Film Festival will take place, in the Dover Museum cinema between 2nd and 8th March 2025. More details at www.dover-film.com

Alan Lee, Editor

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Tel: 01304 213668 Email: Alan.lee1947@ntlworld.com

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 112 will be Wednesday 29th January 2025.

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 have been welcoming visitors to Dover for over 15 years. We love to share the unique and hidden parts of Dover, and signpost visitors to make the most of their time in this iconic town. If you would like to join us please contact:

Email: dovergreeters@virginmedia.com Mobile: 07712 581557

Website: <http://dovergreeters.co.uk>

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 or jeremycope@willersley.plus.com

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Animals Everywhere!

By Vronni Ward

As the RSPCA celebrates its 200th Anniversary, Dover Museum is staging a fascinating exhibition looking at our obsession, with, and love of animals. We also consider the importance they have in so many aspects of our lives historically and today. Animals are an integral part of our lives and are indeed our 'best friends' - as pets, working animals, mascots, astronauts and companions/guides for people with disabilities.

Historically, animals were invaluable during the war years. One such example is "Mick", an Irish terrier, who in 1914 belonged to Charles Ripster an officer in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers stationed at Dover. Mick was a 5-year-old Irish terrier who lived with Charles and his family, but he was also a regimental pet to the men in the 2nd battalion. When WW1 broke out Charles was posted to the front in France and left Mick with his wife and children in Dover.

Mick was happy with that for a while but soon pined for his master and friends. He somehow managed to smuggle himself onto a boat that was taking troops to the front. He arrived in France and spent a long time searching for them. One day saw his master walking with some of his company and they were reunited but not for long. Gunfire and shells exploding frightened Mick, and he ran away. He was hit

in the shoulder with shrapnel and taken to St. Nazaire Hospital and nursed back to health. As soon as he recovered, he got out of the hospital and found his way back to his master in the trenches at Armentieres.

A few days later the order was given to attack and so they rushed out of the trenches with Mick leading the attack as he had done many times before on manoeuvres. He was hit by a bullet in the leg and returned to the hospital for three weeks with his leg in splints. He was sent back to the battlefield and spent six months in total with the troops. The theatre of war was obviously too dangerous for Mick, so he was sent home with one of the men from the regiment and arrived in Folkestone where he was kept in quarantine for four months.

He then resided with Charles' sister Beatrice in London. Whilst in London he collected for the Red Cross in New Bond Street for "Our Day" 1915. He managed to collect £6 14s 5^d which is worth about £700 today. An article about him appeared in the magazine, "Animals' Friend" in February 1916.

Our exhibition here at the museum includes: the recreation of a Victorian explorer's study with taxidermy dioramas and a gharial (a fish-eating crocodile); a mock-up of a room filled with animal related objects; paintings; and the depiction of animals in everyday objects such as games, sewing kits and crockery. There is an Animal Safari trail for children to complete and we have tokens for children to put in our vintage RSPCA donation dog.

The exhibition runs until May 2025. We open: Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 5.00pm. Open Sundays in the summer (April to September) 10am to 3pm. Free admission.

Tel: 01304 201066

Visit www.dover.gov.uk/museum



Mick - The Irish Setter

Environment Committee Janet Dagys, Chair

Members: James Benjafield, Pam Brivio, Jeremy Cope, Carol Duffield, Lesley Easton, Ben Elsey, Deborah Gasking, Michael Jukes, Mary Margery, Mike McFarnell.

The Environment Committee continues to meet at the Dover smART premises, now located on Bench Street at the top of the underpass, on the second Monday of January, March, May, July, September & November. Members also communicate and share information through a WhatsApp Group. We continue to focus on the appearance of the town, cleanliness, litter, rights of way and tourism, taking action when and where we can be effective and can make a positive difference. The Dover Society includes many rural areas around the town, and we would welcome new members from these areas to have their voices heard on these topics.

Ongoing areas of interest and monitoring have been the Dover Beacon Project on Bench Street, the Discovery Centre & the Roundhouse Theatre, the Painted House, the state of buildings in the town centre, the availability and condition of toilet facilities in the town and on the seafront, litter and the conservation of listed buildings and trees.

We encourage Dover Society members and members of the public to post photos of excessive litter they see to the Dover District Council (DDC) website at <https://forms.dover.gov.uk/xfp/form/1184>



Dover Beacon Project from the Market Square

We also encourage Dover Society members and members of the public to post photos of buildings in a poor state of maintenance in the town centre on the DDC website at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Report/Report.aspx>

The <https://www.passion4dover.co.uk> website displays many of the projects that the Environment Team is working on and is maintained by a member of the team.



The Buckland Yew in St Andrews Churchyard

The team is currently working on Project 11, documenting trees in Dover. If you are passionate about a tree in your area, please send a digital photo of it to passion4dover@gmail.com, and include the type of tree and its location (using What Three Words).

We continue to liaise with our colleague and Dover Town Council 'Walkers are Welcome' promoter, Pam Brivio on walks in the town, Jayne Miles (Town Centre's Manager, Dover District Council), Chris Townend (Growth & Development, Dover District Council), local Kent Police and other local town, district and KCC councillors.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Ann Burke

New members are:

Fabrizio Del Duca, Tim Smithen, Janet Adamson, Mr & Mrs Grimes, Mrs Jan Goldsack, Mr Roy Atkins and Karen Clark all are from Dover.

Please keep us updated if you change your email address, we are getting an increased number of emails coming back to us at Membership, also you are missing out on brilliant news that Jeremy Cope sends out, some great events etc.

Next open meeting I will be by the door with a membership list for anyone who wants to join or renew, be great to meet more of you.

Planning Committee

Graham Margery - Co Chairman

Planning Activity: Over the last twelve months the Dover Society Planning Committee reviewed some 187 planning applications that are potentially of interest and made formal response to the Local Authority in respect of 58 of them. In total since the last newsletter we have reviewed some 62 applications and made response in respect of 23 of them. This is a somewhat reduced level of activity compared to usual and reflects a nationwide trend as reported in the news recently. This does not bode well for the Government's plan to stimulate the housebuilding industry, but more of that later. As ever we would encourage members to look at planning applications that may be of interest to them and make comment to Dover District Council as they feel appropriate or contact our Planning Committee with their views. Applications can be found on the DDC website or the Dover Society Website under 'Planning'.

Border Entry/Exit System:

I mentioned in the last Newsletter delays to cross channel ferries or at the channel tunnel can rapidly lead to congestion on the major roads into the port leading to further gridlock in the town as people look for alternative routes. Thankfully, at the start of the school summer holiday, things were better controlled, and people were able to get around the town without much difficulty. However, things are likely to change dramatically when the new Border Entry/Ext System (EES) comes into operation early in November. Until now, these concerns have largely been a matter for the cross-Channel travel industry as they make preparations for the change but soon passengers will feel the impact.

The new digital border system will require non-EU nationals – which since Brexit includes those travelling on a British passport – to register biometric details, including fingerprints and a photograph, when entering a country in the Schengen area which of course includes France. This new process will replace the current system of manually stamping passports when visitors arrive in the EU, and is intended to improve border security, combat illegal migration and prevent those without the relevant visas from overstaying. On subsequent visits, once you have already been enrolled into EES, passport control officers will only verify your fingerprints and photo, which will take less time.

The new procedure is likely to delay the processing of every vehicle by a couple of minutes, the cumulative effect of which will give rise to lengthy queues leading to chaos in the town again. Dover Harbour Board is trying to streamline the process as much as possible with increased processing capacity, but options are limited with the port being squeezed between the cliffs and the sea unlike, mainland Europe.

National Planning Policy Framework:

The new Labour Government has made it very clear that they regard growing the economy as a priority and that an accelerated house building programme is the best way to achieve this. Furthermore, the Government views the current planning system as “antiquated” and stands in the way of their housebuilding objective. Changes to the regulatory regime are being considered, in particular

to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and a consultation has recently been launched calling for views on these changes. Amongst other things the changes seek to -

- implement a new standard method and calculation for assessing housing needs to ensure local plans are ambitious enough to support the Government's manifesto commitment of 1.5 million new homes in this Parliament and to make the standard method for assessing housing needs mandatory.
- broaden the existing definition of brownfield land, set a strengthened expectation that applications on brownfield land will be approved and that plans should promote an uplift in density in urban areas and also identify grey belt land within the Green Belt, to be brought forward into the planning system through both plan and decision-making to meet development needs.
- improve the operation of 'the presumption' in favour of sustainable development, to ensure it acts an effective failsafe to support housing supply, by clarifying the circumstances in which it applies; and, introducing new safeguards, to make clear that its application cannot justify poor quality development.
- deliver affordable, well-designed homes, with new "golden rules" for land released in the Green Belt to ensure it delivers in the public interest.

The planning considerations for a large-scale infrastructure project or the creation of a new town are very different to those of a small-scale project in an urban setting, but the regulatory regime is the same for both. As a result, the proposed changes to the text of the legislation are quite technical so the Dover Society has responded to the consultation in more general terms based on our practical

experience here in Dover. In our response we made the following comments.

Housing targets need to recognise the practicalities of the local situation. An area with hills, marshland or some other challenging topography will find it much more difficult to identify suitable sites for development and the application of a nationwide formula is not practical. There could be a default position but there needs to be opportunity to deviate if properly justified. In the same way, proximity to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest or nationally important historic monuments also affects the feasibility of development. Identification of suitable sites could best be achieved with greater community engagement when the Local Plan is being developed recognising, that this may deviate from a nationwide approach.

Where the Local Authority owns or has control of the land, mandatory housing targets makes some sense but where it does not, development depends entirely on the land owner who may be unwilling to co-operate for a variety of reasons including commercial viability. If the mandatory targets are to have any teeth, local authorities need powers to compel the land to be used possibly by compulsory purchase. Or a system of incentives and penalties to "encourage" land owners to bring forward applications for development.

We support the government's plan to designate sites as Grey Belt (a new definition) but only insofar as it relates to what are in effect brownfield sites within the Green Belt. These areas should be clearly defined at the outset and not be allowed to creep into the Green Belt proper.

As stated earlier there needs to be a degree of flexibility in decision making so that due account can be taken of any special circumstances that apply to the local area. The presumption in favour of development must not become an excuse for substandard housing.

Planning approvals should support a genuine mix of housing types so that there is not an overwhelming concentration of one particular type. This is particularly important when considering affordable housing where the lack of larger properties can be a barrier to social mobility. In Dover we have experienced examples where the provision of the smallest affordable accommodation by way of conversions to flats or HMOs has attracted people from outside the district rather than satisfying a local need. This in turn puts pressure on local social services. Developers often claim that quality affordable homes cannot be built economically and attempt to avoid the obligation through a viability analysis. In these cases, a subsidy could be considered so that an adequate supply of affordable housing is achieved.

When considering larger housing developments, adequate infrastructure provision must be included for schools, shops, pharmacies and doctor's surgeries.

When planning permission is granted for a larger development, planning conditions must ensure that the infrastructure elements are delivered hand in hand with the housing through an agreed phasing plan.

When planning applications are made and planning permission has been granted for any scheme, there is no plan for completion provided that work starts within three years. If the developer considers that the housing market has

become unfavourable, building work can slow down or stop completely and indefinitely until the market picks up again. This frustrates fulfilment of the housing targets in a way that the local authority cannot control. There needs to be a system of incentives or penalties to ensure that development proceeds to an agreed timescale.

Now that the report into the Grenfell Tower tragedy has been published, it is evident that poor quality and unsafe housing was allowed to proceed through lack of rigorous planning control as well as dishonesty because of commercial interests. In the changes to the planning system being proposed, it would be unforgivable if the simplification leads to further substandard building to satisfy commercial or political pressures.

Miscellany

Archaeological work continues on the site of the new Beacon Project in Bench Street with some medieval walls being exposed and recorded. But with excavations going not much deeper than the foundations of the new building, its unlikely that Roman or earlier deposits will be found. That's something for future generations in 100 years' time!

The application for a drive thru McDonald's on the site of the former leisure centre on Townwall Street was mentioned in the last newsletter but the matter has not yet been determined, with ongoing discussions about traffic safety and impact on nearby heritage sites.

The site of the former Co-op and Innovation Centre remains vacant. It had been hoped that this would become a hotel but those plans have come to nothing, so the site is likely to remain vacant or possibly become a car park.

Work at the former 'Good Luck', Chinese restaurant at 67-69 High Street continues to convert the building to six self-contained flats. The exterior of the building will be brought back to something like the original including removal of the old shop front extension and will match the adjacent Grade II Listed terrace. Interior period features will be retained as far as possible. This has been an untidy site for some time, so we look forward to the completion of work.

The former United Reformed Church building is also being converted to flats. Although we objected to the quantity of sixteen, preferring the nine as originally proposed, we nevertheless look forward to the completion of work also as this too has been an untidy site for some time in such a prominent position.

Roman Painted House:

This amazing historic monument was reopened to the public on 14th September as part of the Heritage Open Days event, having been closed for over a year. DDC has carried out remedial works to make safe and improve visitor access and plans to have the site open free of charge every Saturday until the end of November. DDC is now committed to a major investment program for the site including re-excavating the Roman Bath House and improved access across the Roman Lawn. This is no longer a distant dream but a genuine commitment subject to a successful funding bid. The Dover Society fully supports the scheme and looks forward to helping where we can to bring this all to fruition.

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Lynn: lyn.lee@ntlworld.com Mob: 07787 909919

A Toast To The Canteen

Barry O'Brien - Dover Tales

There were licensed canteens, effectively a public house for the use of those stationed there, located within the boundaries of many of the military fortifications around Dover including one at Dover Castle which was first recorded in May 1837.

Although intended for the use of those in uniform, these Canteens were still subject to local licensing regulations and the *Dover Express and East Kent News* of Friday 11th September, 1868, notes the following:-

"Canteen" Heights, Hougham, (license transferred) to William Drawmur,

"Canteen" South, From Clements, to William Balfour,

"Canteen" Drop Redoubt, to Thomas Cullen.

As recorded within the pages of the *Dover Express and East Kent Intelligencer* of 28th May 1864, the landlord of the "Canteen" at the Castle Hill Fort, (still in the early days of its construction and later to be re-named Fort Burgoyne), one John Prescott, was called to the County Police Court to give evidence against one William Rowe, a private in the Royal Engineers, stationed at the Fort, who was charged with stealing from the "Castle Hill Canteen," early on the morning of the 21st a till, value 6d. and a quantity of coppers.

Having attested that he was landlord of the "Canteen" at Castle Hill Fort, Mr Prescott gave evidence that "On the night of the 20th inst. about twelve o'clock, he had occasion to go down into the town. On reaching nearly the top of Love Lane, witness met the prisoner and a comrade named Bruce. They were going in the direction of their barracks. When witness returned to the "Canteen" with his assistant, he (witness) locked the door, and they both went to bed. On the following

morning, between six and seven o'clock, the till was missed. He subsequently heard that a box had been found in the fire-box of an engine in use on the fort works, and the till produced was afterwards brought to him by Sergeant Russell, of the Royal Artillery. He saw the till in its place on a shelf on the bar about half-past 11 o'clock on the night of the robbery. When he discovered that the till was gone, he went to see if the windows were fastened, but he found they had been left undone, and that a wooden bar that had been fastened across the inside of the parlour window was broken off. Witness represented the case to the Captain of the Royal Engineers, and he ordered it to be brought before the Magistrates. There was about 5s. worth of coppers in the till when he left it on the previous night. The value of the box was 6d."

From the newspapers report, it would appear that, although the canteen was for the use of the military, neither the licensee, Mr Prescott, nor his assistant were serving men. Indeed, perhaps coincidentally, Guston Churchyard holds many memorials of the Prescott family, who held land in the parish before the time of the Commonwealth, and about that time one of the family was Mayor of Dover. The oldest decipherable stone is in memory of Samuel Prescott, who died in the year 1787. There is another which looks like one of that family, who died in the year 1734, aged sixty-nine years. That person would have been born in the year that Charles II died.

William Hyman, a private in the Royal Engineers, said he had charge of the donkey engine and found the box or till produced.

Frederick Gatton, a corporal in the same regiment, said the prisoner slept in the same

room as he did and, on the morning of 21st, while the men were dressing, a cap containing a quantity of coppers was produced from under prisoner's bed. Prisoner said he had received a great many coppers in change on the previous night. Witness thought the cap contained three or four shillings in coppers.

William Bruce, the man seen in company with the prisoner, said he went part of the way home with prisoner on the night in question. Prisoner left him after getting about one hundred and thirty yards through the turnpike gate at the top of Castle Hill, and near to the "Canteen." He did not see any more of the prisoner. He (witness) was the worse for liquor at the time.

William Forest, a private who slept in the bed next but one to the prisoner's, said that the prisoner showed witness eighteen pence in coppers, saying that he had that day drawn two shillings from the pay-sergeant, and that the coppers he held in his hand was all the money he had left.

John Isaiah Pope, sergeant in the Kent County Constabulary, said he examined the premises at the "Canteen." He found a bar which had been placed across the front parlour window had been forced off and, after making enquiries, he took the prisoner into custody on the present charge. He told the prisoner what he had been charged with, but he made no reply. The prisoner's barrack room is in a direct line with the back of the "Canteen."

Prisoner, having been duly cautioned, said Mr. Prescott had told corporal Lilly that he (prisoner) was at the "Canteen" at six o'clock on the morning of the 21st, when the till was missed.

When called, John Lilly said, "Mr. Prescott told me that he had seen the prisoner,



Castle Hill Toll Gate

between twelve and one o'clock on the morning of the 21st, on the hill at the other side of the "Canteen", not barrack side, and that he missed the money about seven o'clock in the morning.

Prisoner was then committed for trial at St. Augustine's, Canterbury.

From the report we can gather that the canteen was located "about one hundred and thirty yards through the turnpike gate at the top of Castle Hill." By Mr Prescott's testimony, he met Privates Rowe and Bruce "nearly (at) the top of Love Lane" (renamed Connaught Road some twenty years later) "as they were going in the direction of their barracks." Corporal Lilly added, later that this meeting was "on the hill at the other side of the canteen, not barrack side."

The toll gate referred to is believed to have been at the top of Castle Hill, near to the main entrance to the Castle. Accepting that this would have been the approach to Canon's Gate, this confuses with Pte Bruce's suggesting that Pte Rowe "left him after getting about one hundred and thirty yards through the turnpike gate at the top of Castle Hill, and near to the canteen," possibly slightly conservative by some one hundred yards.

Although the landlord of the canteen at Fort Burgoyne in 1864, Mr John Prescott, would appear not to have been a military man, by

June, 1873, a Sergeant McMann, of the 9th Regiment, which became the Norfolk Regiment with the Army reforms of 1881, made application that the canteen at Fort Burgoyne might be transferred to him from Sergeant Blackman of the 38th Regiment, later South Staffordshire Regiment. However, it would appear that Sgt McMann had failed to bring "recommendation from his commanding officer", which caused the Magistrates (to allow) their decision to stand over until the necessary papers could be furnished.

Happily, the *Dover Express and East Kent Intelligencer* of 20th June, 1873, reports that "The canteen business at Fort Burgoyne was transferred from the Sergeant-Major of the 38th Regiment to Sergeant MacMahon (note slightly different spelling) of the 9th, who produced the necessary documents."

The license was again transferred in September 1878 to a G Wood.

Possibly the canteen at Fort Burgoyne closed soon after this latest transfer, but by 1882 the *Dover Express and East Kent Intelligencer* of 3rd March, reported that serving members of the Royal Artillery, newly arrived at Fort Burgoyne, were charged with being on the premises of Mr Otto Dannenburg, landlord of the *Star Inn*, Trevanion Lane/Woolcomber



Trevanion Street

Street, who had himself been summoned for serving intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours.

Sergeant William Smith, Trumpeter John Smith, and Gunner Martin Reeves, all of the Royal Artillery, were summonsed for being upon the premises at the same time. The landlord pleaded "Not Guilty" and the soldiers said, "that they were guilty of being found on the premises, but were ignorant of the laws, as they had only just arrived from India."

In evidence PC Wickham said that he had received information from a Sergeant of the Garrison Military Police who requested that he accompany him to the *Star Inn*.

Mr Dannenburg advised PC Wickham, that there were "only lodgers" in the building although PC Wickham giving evidence continued "I then walked through into the taproom and found the three defendants of the Royal Artillery sitting down with a quart jug and two glasses in front of them, each containing beer. I asked them whether they were lodgers, but they made no reply but drank up their beer and left the premises. Nothing further was said about the defendants being lodgers. The three defendants belong to the Royal Artillery, and are situated at Fort Burgoyne, their battery having come in last Saturday week."

Sergeant Gallagher, of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, acting on Garrison Military Police duty, confirmed PC Wickham's account adding. "We went into the tap-room and found the three defendants there. I examined their passes and found that they were on leave till midnight. They belong to Fort Burgoyne. The landlord said that they were lodgers in the presence of the men, but when I asked them if that were true, they said no. When we first went to the house it was shut, and the door fastened. The defendants left the house and went up Castle Street. If they

had stopped any longer, I should have made them prisoners.”

Mr Dannenberg “said that he would not have got himself into that row for the sake of a pot of beer. He had taken the word of the soldiers that they were going to be lodgers”. He was fined 40s. (£2) and 10s. 6d. (53p) costs, and the other defendants were ordered to pay the costs, 7s. 6d (38p) and were told that the case would not be reckoned as a conviction against them.

Only months after the license for the Fort Burgoyne canteen had been transferred from the Sergeant-Major of the 38th Regiment to Sergeant MacMahon of the 9th in January 1874, a colleague of Sgt MacMahons, Private Thomas James, was charged with having stolen a silver watch, the property of Emma Knighton, who described herself as “a servant at the *Bell and Lion*, Adrian Street”. She also confirmed that “I have been on the register of prostitution for two years. The landlord of the *Bell and Lion* is aware of that.”

Miss Knighton gave witness that at 10.30pm one Saturday evening she “was going to Bulwark Hill with prisoner, who had called me to see a friend of mine on guard there” and that when Pte James asked her the time she took out her watch, “when he snatched it away and ran off with it ... towards the South-Eastern Station”.

The South Eastern Railway's original station was situated on Shakespeare Beach just east of where the current line from Folkestone turns north towards Dover Priory and was known simply as Dover. Originally a terminus, it was renamed Dover Town in December 1861 when the line was continued through to Admiralty Pier. The station now known as Dover Priory was opened in July 1861 as Dover Town (Priory) by the London Chatham and Dover Railway, being renamed Dover Priory two years later in July 1863.

Emma Belsey, also on the register, deposed that she had met Knighton, walking on her own, in Oxenden Street, going towards the hill. She continued that the prisoner approached and spoke to Knighton, asking her what the time was, whereupon “she took out her watch, and he snatched it away and ran off with it. He was not with her before that. I did not go anywhere with prisoner to drink. Prisoner ran down the hill with the watch.”

Agnes Baker, of no fixed residence, deposed that she had met Knighton in Snargate Street, from where they went together towards Archcliffe Fort. “We went first to the *Bell and Lion* Adrian Street. Prisoner was with Knighton when I met her. After we left the *Bell and Lion* we went straight down Snargate Street, and through Limekiln Street, and we went into the *Archcliffe Fort Inn*. We then went up Bulwark Hill. We did not meet any women. We met Belsey at the *Archcliffe Fort Inn*. Prisoner walked up the hill with us, and frequently asked Knighton what the time was. When Knighton took out her watch, prisoner snatched at it and ran away. We were all three together and went down Snargate Street with the policeman.”

“The military policeman on guard at the bottom of Bulwark Hill divided the picquet and dispatched them in different directions but could not see the prisoner. It was about half-past ten.”

The Dover Express and East Kent Intelligencer concluded their report by noting that “a Sergeant who was on duty at Fort Burgoyne said prisoner came there at about three minutes past eleven. He was then quite sober” continuing, “The officer who watched the case said prisoner bore a very good character. Police Constable Corrie said he apprehended prisoner. The watch had not been found. The bench said the prisoner would be discharged on his own recognisance

and, in the meantime, enquiries would be made respecting the watch.

In February, 1902, Arthur John Roberts, licensed victualler, was summoned for keeping open the *Gothic Inn* during prohibited hours, for sale of intoxicating liquor to persons not being bona fide travellers or lodgers.

Mr. Vernon Knocker, who appeared for the prosecution, remarked that although it was not a very strong case the authorities were bound to take action and called PC Roberts, who stated that at midnight on Sunday January 26th, he was passing the Northampton Street entrance to the *Gothic Inn* when he heard a door latch rattle. Finding the door fastened he turned his lamp on to the glass and peered in. By the aid of the light, he distinguished a man standing at the door leading to the Snargate Street bar, whilst two other men and the landlady were crouched

down just behind the door. It was not before he had knocked four times that a woman admitted him. She said she was rather frightened, and did not like to open the door when first requested. The men gave their names as Bdr. Buchanan, RGA, Fort Burgoyne, Edward Harrall, Bench Street, and Philo Harrall, who was stated to be a lodger. Supper was laid in a room at the back of the bar. The landlady said that the men were friends.

For the defence, Mr. Mowll called evidence to prove that it was a perfectly genuine bona fide entertainment to friends. The landlady said that she was naturally frightened on finding the constable knocking at the door.

The Magistrates dismissed the case, but said that they considered the Constable acted properly in reporting the facts.

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Curiosity of Dover

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Cowgate Cemetery November 2024

Deborah Gasking

Following in the same theme as in the previous newsletter but focussing on plant life.

Wild Clematis or *clematis vitalba*

Commonly known as 'old man's beard', and the lesser 'traveller's joy'.

This woody member of the buttercup family is often seen scrambling over hedgerows. Its seed clusters have a feathered appearance and are white-grey in colour. They are called achenes. It is the fruit which gives the plant its apt name: 'old man's beard'.

It is native to the south of England but has spread to most areas of the UK, except northern Scotland. This scrambling plant it is often found growing on top of hedgerows, bushes, scrub or trees; and favours chalky soil.

Traveller's Joy is considered an invasive weed and can form dense thickets blanketing trees and shrubs.

The flowers of this plant are visited by pollinating insects during the day, such as bees and hoverflies. Traveller's Joy is also a food plant for several moth species. Its seedheads also provide a food source for birds, such as goldfinches.



Clematis Vitalba, old man's beard or traveller's joy

Traveller's Joy has been used in various treatments as it is said to contain anti-inflammatory properties. Traditional recipes have used the plant to treat various ailments, including skin irritations and stress.

As this species is a woody plant, the stem was used in the past to make baskets. It is called Traveller's Joy because it adorns hedges and banks in the countryside with billows of beautiful feathery seed heads in the grey months leading up to Christmas.

Mythology and folklore

The Latin Clematis is thought to derive from the Greek word for shoot, as it is a climbing plant. It was also suggested that Traveller's Joy did the devil's work as it would kill other plants by out-competing them. This is why it is viewed as an intrusive weed by many.

Hart's Tongue Fern or *asplenium scolopendrium*

Is named after the frond's similarity in shape to a deer's tongue.

This is the only native fern that hasn't got divided leaves. Spot it in damp, shady areas of woodland. Hart's Tongue fern is an evergreen with rosettes of leathery leaves. It can grow in large drifts among rocks and beneath trees and is widespread in UK woodlands.

The fronds are deep green, arching, strap-like glossy fronds with slightly wavy edges and a pointed tip, erect and up to 50cm long. The fronds aren't divided like most other ferns. Young specimens have a scaly rachis (stem) which is not usually visible on older, taller plants. It grows from rhizomes,



Hart's Tongue Fern or asplenium scolopendrium

branching, short and ascending, lying partly above and partly below the surface of the soil. Sora (where spores are stored) lie on the underside of the leaf in horizontal stripes. Spores are ripe around July to August.

Hart's Tongue fern is widespread in the UK, except in the far North. It's often featured on ancient-woodland-indicator plant lists as a species which can help identify old woodlands and ecological continuity. It avoids the most acidic substrates.

Not only is this plant exotic looking, but it is also incredibly useful. The fronds contain compounds that are used in medicines and cosmetics. Its uses range from astringents and cough medicines to treatment of high blood pressure and for healing wounds. Other medicinal uses include treatments for dysentery, diarrhoea and digestive problems.

It is grown as an ornamental plant and as ground cover in woodland shade.

Ragwort or *senecio jacobaea*

This is a native biennial which is a food source for a wide range of insects. It is not usually a significant problem in gardens, but its poisonous qualities can make it a serious weed of paddocks and gardens backing onto fields grazed by horses or cattle. It is found

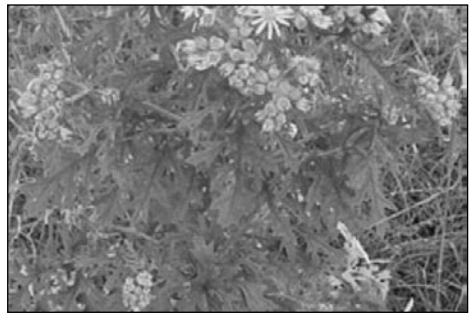
throughout the British Isles in grassland, verges, waste land and neglected or over-grazed pastures.

Ragworts are poisonous weeds. Their seeds are spread by wind and a single plant is capable of producing 50 – 60,000 seeds. It can become a major weed of waste or other uncultivated ground.

Ragwort is a tall erect plant growing to 90cm (3ft), bearing large flat-topped clusters of yellow daisy-like flowers from July to October. It has finely divided leaves with a basal rosette of deeply-cut, toothed leaves. The plant is usually a biennial but damage to the base of the plant can make the plant behave like a perennial (living indefinitely), as new rosettes are formed.

Ragwort is rarely a problem in gardens but may occur in pony paddocks, railway embankments and areas of unimproved pasture. Cattle and horses are particularly susceptible to poisoning.

Ragwort is covered by the Weeds Act 1959 (which specifies five injurious weeds including common ragwort) and the Ragwort Control Act 2003. For guidance, on good practice and the legal framework for land managers, consult the Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort.



Ragwort or senecio jacobaea

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The Dover Society Xmas Lunch and Entertainment Sunday 8th December 2024
At Dover Marina Hotel
Dover Waterfront, Waterloo Crescent, CT17 9BP

Price £30.95 per person to include arrival drink, three course meal, tea, or coffee and entertainment. Wine or other drinks may be ordered and purchased at the venue. The lunchtime entertainment will be clarified in the November newsletter. Arrival drinks will be available from 12.30 pm. Lunch will begin promptly at 1 pm finish at 4pm. Please select from the following menu,

- Welcome Drink:** a) Bucks Fizz
b) Fruit Juice
- Starter:** c) Winter Vegetable Soup (v) herb crackers
d) Finest Quality Smoked Salmon Celeriac remoulade, lilliput capers
e) Ardennes Pâté Rustic toast & red onion chutney
- Main:** f) Roast Free-Range Turkey served with all the trimmings and roasting juices
g) Roast Beef served with all the trimmings and roasting juices
h) Grilled Sea Bass with a tomato, olive & caper sauce, vegetables & potato wedges
i) Nut Roast (v) roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables & vegetable jus
- Dessert:** j) Traditional Plum Pudding (v) with brandy sauce
k) Warm Chocolate Brownie (v) with vanilla ice cream
l) Apple and Almond Crumble with vanilla ice cream

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Dover Society Festive Lunch – Sunday 8th December 2024 £30.95 per person

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Please select for each person, your arrival drink and choice of menu

Name(s)	Arrival Drink	Starter	Main	Dessert
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The Dover War Memorial Centenary

Patricia Allen

Practically as soon as the Armistice was signed on November the 11th 1918, people up and down the country had a strong desire to remember and honour those who had given their lives during the four years of conflict in the Great War.

In Dover, the citizens were eager to raise money to build a befitting memorial to honour their own dead. The town started a fund and, on the 2nd May 1919, a "Heroes Memorial Flag Day" was held to raise money for the memorial, the design of which still hadn't been decided upon.

On Friday 9th May 1919, an article was published, in the *Dover Express*: "The Mayor has certainly rightly interpreted the wishes of the people of Dover that the Memorial to the men, women, and children who have been killed in the war should be a simple monument erected in an open space, such as the front of Maison Dieu House, with all the names of the fallen as a reminder to the inhabitants of Dover for all time and every day of those who paid the great price."

A letter written to the *Dover Express and East Kent News*, published on the 16th May 1919, suggested that a Dover War Memorial could be built in the meadows in Pencester Road. "Perhaps laid out as gardens with paths and seating and in the centre a building with a central tower could be built in which the Zeebrugge bell could be hung. All to be named Memorial Gardens perhaps?"

On the 22nd December 1922, a list of the donors to the fund was published for the first time.

There was a meeting held in the council chambers in January 1924 to discuss the

suggestion which had been made to substitute the original proposed Memorial and build a Maternity Home instead. After much debate it was agreed that the scheme for the Memorial should go ahead and plans for the Maternity Home could be considered at a later date. £1000 was the amount that they thought they would need to pay for the memorial, and they were still short. Councillor East said he would get designs from a couple of old students at the Dover School of Art, Mr Richard Goulden and Miss Margaret Winsor. He would submit these designs initially to the committee in February at the next meeting and then show them to the general public to let them make a decision. As they say ... "The rest is history."

By Friday 16th May 1924, £579 0s 2d had been raised for the memorial after a £100 donation was received from Dover Harbour Board.

One hundred years ago this month, on a fine, fresh afternoon, a ceremony was held in front of Maison Dieu House, the Jacobean Mansion alongside the Dover Town Hall. It was Wednesday the 5th of November 1924, and an immense crowd of people had gathered to witness the unveiling ceremony of the new Dover War Memorial, which was performed by Sir Roger Keyes, the British Vice-Admiral. The dedication ceremony was conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Randall Thomas Davidson.

In attendance were a large number of Clergymen, including the Archbishop's Chaplain and a representative from the Salvation Army. In the front of the memorial a guard of honour of the 2nd Battalion of the Green Howards was drawn

up. On the right side of the house stood the Mayor, the Town Council officials, the Aldermen and the Councillors. On the left side were the officers of the garrison, Lady Keyes, Major Aster, the Archbishop of Canterbury's wife, Mrs Davidson, and the commanders of the 2nd Battalion the Green Howards and of the Worcester Regiment.

The choir, numbering over one hundred people from various Dover church choirs, was situated on the south side. On the north side were detachments of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and the Royal Airforce. Army brigades, battalions, and various batteries were represented, including personnel from the Buffs, the British Legion and Tramways Staff.

On the platform behind these were the relatives of those whose names were depicted on the Memorial, many holding beautiful floral tributes. The representatives of ex-Servicemen and the Dover Prisoners of War were accommodated on the roof of the Police Station just behind the relatives. Ticket

holders were allowed to stand on the pavement just in front of the Memorial and had a good view. The roofs and windows of all the houses surrounding the site were crowded with people and the whole area as far back as Ladywell was covered with spectators.

Sir Roger Keyes thanked the people of Dover for the honour of inviting him to unveil the Memorial and made a heartfelt memorable speech, finishing with the words, "Pass not this stone in sorrow but in pride. May you live as nobly as you died." He then pulled the cords that released the White Ensigns that surrounded the Memorial and revealed it in all its glory.

The Archbishop of Canterbury then dedicated the Memorial to the honour and glory of God "We dedicate this Memorial to the honour and glory of God: and in loving memory of all those whose names are recorded thereon. Amen."

The Memorial.

The monument consists of a central symbolic feature, a life-size bronze figure of a youth reaching to grasp a flaming cross. At his feet, a tangled mess of thorns representing the difficulties faced on the path of life. His hand enveloped in flames is symbolic of self-sacrifice and devotion. The statue stands on a central pedestal which bears inscription, "TO THE GLORIOUS MEMORY OF THE PEOPLE OF DOVER WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN THE GREAT WAR." Walls of granite either side of the plinth bear names on metal plaques.



The War Memorial, Dover

The whole Memorial stands in a Garden of Remembrance. Another stone within the flower bed is inscribed "THIS MEMORIAL WAS ERECTED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION FUNDS COLLECTED FOR DOVER PRISONERS OF WAR BEING ALSO GIVEN AS A THANK OFFERING BY THOSE WHO RETURNED SAFELY."

Seven hundred and twenty-one people were commemorated at the unveiling ceremony in 1924. More have been added since.

The Sculpture

What of the man who designed and sculpted the highly accomplished Memorial Sculpture?

He was Richard Reginald Goulden, born in Dover on 30th August 1876 and baptised on the 1st October that year in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Cannon Street, Dover.

He was the third of four children born to John James Goulden, 1841-1879, and his wife Charlotte Wright, 1843-1911. In 1871 they had married in Ducklington, a village and civil parish on the River Windrush 1 mile (1.6 km) south of Witney in West Oxfordshire.

John James had trained as a journeyman cabinet maker as shown in the 1861 Census, but he opened a bookshop, stationers and printing business in Dover in 1865. In the 1871 Census it reveals the business is at 176 Snargate Street in Dover.

Tragically on the 8th October 1879, John James Goulden died, aged only thirty-eight years. He was buried three days later in Cheriton Road Cemetery in Folkestone. He



Dover War Memorial, Floodlit

left behind a wife and four small children. Algernon Arthur, the youngest, was only nine months old. John James Jr. was seven, Harriet Cicely five and Richard Reginald three years old.

Charlotte carried on the business until 1902. In the 1891 Census her eldest son John James, eighteen years of age is an assistant in the business. Richard and Algernon are both scholars at Dover College.

Richard completed his education at the Dover School of Art, where he won a scholarship to the Royal College of Art in London. He studied both architecture and sculpture and whilst there he won a travelling scholarship for sculpture.

In 1901 Richard, now twenty-four years old, can be found lodging in Dover at no.10 St. Martins Place. He is working as an art teacher at a school.

On the 21st December 1908, Richard married Muriel Olive Cecilia Gant at St. Luke's Church in Chelsea. Richard's occupation is given as a sculptor and his wife as an artist.

In the 1911 Census the couple are living on the Fulham Road with their baby daughter Wilma. They are recorded as being visiting art teachers, painters and designers.

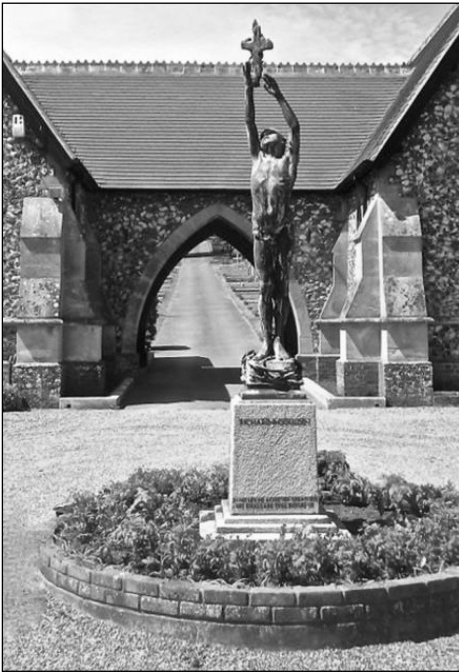
Then along came the war and Richard served with the Royal Engineers in France. He was mentioned in despatches on the 30th April 1916 and promoted to temporary Captain. He was injured shortly after and sent back to England to recover, spending some time in Brightlingsea, having been appointed Adjutant to the Australian Engineers. Eventually he moved back to London to command a special emergency corps.

When the War ended, Richard resumed his previous work. He was in great demand producing War Memorials throughout the country including the one at The Supreme Court in Westminster and those at Crompton and Brightlingsea.

In 1921 Richard and Muriel welcomed a baby son, Richard Michael, into the world.

Very sadly on the 6th August 1932 Richard Reginald Goulden died aged fifty-five years old.

He was buried at Newhaven Cemetery. As a tribute to him and his fine work, a replica of the bronze figure of youth which features on the Dover War Memorial was made and erected at the cemetery's entrance.



Replica of Dover War Memorial at Newhaven Cemetery

Throughout his lifetime Richard Reginald Goulden had produced many magnificent memorials, statues, bronze reliefs, fountains and panels. Between 1903 and 1932, his works were exhibited in the Royal Academy. Due to his untimely death, his widow, Muriel, undertook to design the panel of 70 further names which were added to the Dover War Memorial in 1934.

Muriel died in a nursing home in Oxford on the 10th October 1955, aged seventy-two.

Today one hundred years after the ceremony to unveil and bless the Dover War Memorial, this moving and highly accomplished monument still stands so eloquently, still bears witness to the tragic impact of war. It keeps the fallen forever in our hearts and minds. We gather at it every Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday....

It is a tangible and lasting tribute.

Their name liveth for evermore.



Dover Society Wreath

Scout Saves 123 From Drowning

Alan Lee

On 10th December 1969, following heavy rainfall from a monsoon storm, the town of Kluang (Bandar Kluang), Kluang District, Johor, Malaysia was heavily flooded. The river overflowed by seven to ten feet, and it was estimated that twenty lives were lost as a result of the flood. The deluge caused significant damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and buildings.

The fast waters of the flood broke down the front and back walls of the Gurdwara perimeter fence. The Gurdwara, is a place of assembly and worship for Sikhs. Records and files were damaged, and some equipment was lost. The Granthi Sahib, Giani Gian Singh, managed to rescue the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Holy Book), and some rumallas, square or rectangular piece of silk that cover the book when it is not being read. He stayed in the roof for one to two days until the floodwaters subsided.

Stationed at Kluang at the time was Lance Bombardier G. J. Ritson, from Dover, with the 75th Aircraft Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME).

This is the incredible story of the rescue from drowning of one hundred and twenty-three people from the town, by the men of the Army Aviation Corps flying a Nimbus powered Scout helicopter. It was told in a despatch received in the Small Engine Division, in England, from its service engineer, on the spot, D. F. Martin.

The operation took place at the town of Kluang, where the local river burst its banks after a foot of rain had fallen in twelve hours. Gurkha engineers and Malay troops started the rescue work in boats, but collapsing houses and the hazards of floating debris made their task extremely difficult.

In torrential rain, and with visibility down to one hundred feet, it was decided to carry out a reconnaissance, using a Scout helicopter with the doors removed to improve visibility. A scene of the wildest chaos was seen; buses and cars had been overturned in the torrent. The whole town was under at least eight feet of water, and in the low-lying parts, the corrugated iron roof tops were covered in people frantically seeking refuge.

Among the dangers facing the pilots in any rescue bid were that none of the refugees had ever been near a helicopter, and certainly knew nothing about centres of gravity. The area was a forest of TV aerials and some of the corrugated roof panels were loose and tended to be swept into the rotor disc. Often the aircraft had to be hovered out of the wind with the driving rain almost blinding the pilot.

In spite of all this, it was decided to mount a rescue bid. The aircraft was completely stripped, with only the pilot's seat being left. Major A. C. S. Holtom took the controls, with Captain C. N. M. Jackson as crewman talking the pilot down to a touchdown on the roofs.



Aerial View of Kluang Workshops



Westland Scout, South Africa Museum

At this stage another hazard showed itself, the presence of large discharges of static electricity whenever the skids touched the roofs. However, they pressed on, and the refugees were bundled aboard the Scout and down to the welfare centre established on high ground. Loading requirements were forgotten. On one flight, the tiny cabin was

crammed with twelve Chinese women and children. The helicopter continued a shuttle service until fatigue and lack of fuel forced them to return to base. The score of rescued persons then stood at seventy-eight.

Immediately the Scout was refueled and with Captain G. M Dainty at the controls and with L/Bdr G. J. Ritson as crewman, resumed the operations. A further forty five people were plucked from the roof-tops before darkness came, when the rain stopped, and the waters began to subside.

The four people mentioned each got a "Tie of Merit". Major Holtom was awarded the Air Force Cross (AFC) and the other two officers received Queens's Commendations.

The Tie of Merit was instituted in 1968 and was awarded for good deeds in Army Aviation.



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Crossing the Channel

Robert Sénécal

The following short article is not a history of crossing the Channel but a brief resumé of the experiences of some British travellers whose travel diaries the present writer has edited, and whose manuscripts fortunately still exist in the collections of the British Library, the National Archives at Kew, and elsewhere.

Our first traveller is Anne Flaxman, wife of the sculptor John Flaxman (1755-1826), who set out from London with her husband for the Continent on the 17th September, 1787. Their eventual destination was Rome, where Mr. Flaxman hoped to hone his skills as an artist by the study of ancient sculpture. By this time John Flaxman was not in the first flush of youth, but the couple had by then saved sufficient funds for the trip and also had a commission from the potter Josiah Wedgwood to make designs for the latter's wares. Their destination in France was not Calais, as Mr. Flaxman intended to visit a patron in northern France before arriving in Paris and thus, perhaps somewhat unusually to the mind of the modern traveller, they made their crossing from Brighton to Dieppe. Mrs. Flaxman waxes lyrical in her diary of her first sight of the "great kennel" as she called it, but is less enthusiastic as she is tossed about on the packet boat. Readers will also, of course, be aware that Brighton had at that time no harbour, nor was the first pier yet built. The couple had to take a rowing boat out to the waiting packet which they did twice, firstly to inspect the cabin and then, later that same day, to set sail. According to Mrs. Flaxman's account, the sea was rough, and their cabin was full of moaning and groaning and Flaxman snoring! Oddly, though Dieppe had at that time a harbour, the packet was met the next morning by a pilot boat filled with figures in red caps who conveyed the passengers to the beach. Mrs.

Flaxman relates "that here I gloried in being born an Englishwoman - Orpheus (of Orpheus and Euridice fame) sure was never heard of here the Women Labor the men smoke!" The Flaxmans did not return home until 1794, John Flaxman having attracted the attention of several patrons in Rome, especially that of the notorious Frederick Hervey, Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry who commissioned the very large Fury of Athamus still displayed at the family home, Ickworth House in Suffolk.

Our next voyager is Sarah Bentham (1733-1809) (step-mother to the philosopher Jeremy Bentham) who went to Italy with her son by her first marriage, John Farr Abbot, in the summer of 1793. The reason for the trip again was not specifically for the purposes of tourism but because her daughter-in-law suffered from tuberculosis and subsequently died in Naples during their trip. It should be noted, of course, that Britain was then at war with France and thus the party again set out, unusually, in a packet from Harwich bound for Hellevoetsluis close to Rotterdam in Holland. Again, Mrs. Bentham had a very bad night, but the most interesting circumstance of her journey, as we are told, is that, because of the then war-footing, the following morning they were pursued by a French privateer which was gradually gaining on them. Due to the calm sea, the French vessel set men in a rowing boat to pull it, and the English captain did the same, though they eventually escaped due to a breeze springing up. However, we learn that Mr. Abbot had his own carriage aboard because at one point the captain threatened to throw it overboard so that it should not be in the way of the guns!

Members will probably be greatly relieved to learn that with our next traveller we finally arrive at Dover. This was Charles Abbot

(1757-1829), another son of the aforementioned Sarah Bentham by her first marriage. Abbot had been an MP and Speaker of the Commons. On retirement he set off on this trip to Italy with his wife, rejoicing in the newly acquired title of Baron Colchester, chosen no doubt because his father had been once vicar of the said town. They set out from London on the 7th July, 1819 but, before arriving at Dover, readers will probably be interested to know that his lordship mentions the "lowerings" then being undertaken at Boughton Hill by the Chatham & Canterbury Turnpike Company, the hill apparently being the steepest between London and Dover. The present writer assumes that the new road was later substituted by that presently bypassing the village which is indeed still quite a climb. On arriving at Dover, Lord Colchester, being someone of importance, was shown around the works on the Western Heights, including the Grand Shaft, by Colonel East, the commanding officer of the fortifications. The travellers crossed the Channel to Calais on the post-office packet, but Lord Colchester makes no reference to any "event" on the sailing.

Our final travellers are Anne & Matilda Lucas, two spinster sisters from a notable Quaker family in Hitchin in Hertfordshire, with interests in banking and brewing in the town! When their artistic father died in 1870, the two young women had an income sufficient to spend the winter in Rome and this they did for the following thirty years, becoming something of an institution in Roman ex-patriot society. On their first visit they were accompanied by their mother, but thereafter they travelled alone, but frequently meeting "Roman" acquaintances on their outward journeys.

The first mention of Dover in their letters home is from the autumn of 1875, when they left Charing Cross Station at 7.47am and were looked after on the crossing to Calais by a

kind French sailor. The following year they travelled via Newhaven to Dieppe, and in 1880 from Folkestone to Calais. The old Royal Pavilion Hotel gets a mention. In November 1880, the sisters travelled via Dover again and Miss Lucas records that the boat remained in the harbour for some time before setting out, as the sea was rough. This occasioned their being late on arrival in Paris where they also met a helpless English woman with a baby. She apparently spoke no French but was travelling to Marseilles to meet her sailor husband. They all had to spend the night in a hotel before setting off the following morning from the Lyons Station for the south.

For their autumn of 1882 crossing, Miss Lucas mentions sailing in the Calais-Douvres which had been built in Newcastle for the London, Chatham & Dover Railway in 1877. Her design was supposed to minimize seasickness which Miss Lucas confirms, though the vessel only survived for 10 years.

As we learn, the advent of the railways changed the times of journeys forever, just as the aircraft has in the 20th century, but continental rail travel is today making inroads into the dominance of the latter. As Dovorians know well enough however, crossing the Channel remains an important factor in the lives of local people.



The Calais-Douvres Ferry at Admiralty Pier Dover

Discovering and Excavating the Roman Painted House

Dr. Brian Philp MBE

(Director, Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit and founding trustee of the Roman Painted House Trust)

Way back in 1970 my team was excavating four major sites on the line of the intended York Street bypass. Everything on that line was due to be totally destroyed. Then we suddenly heard that a nearby site off Market Street was earmarked for an underground carpark., so I had to switch my best team onto that site. We had to trench down two metres through debris and rubble. Suddenly the top of a substantial Roman wall appeared. A glimpse of its inner face showed slight traces of surviving painted plaster.

But its outside face was accessible and stood almost three metres high - staggering. Far more important was that our single trench hit a point where the outside wall contained a complete tiled arch. But it was now getting dark. I sent off Gerald Clewley for a torch. We could then



Dr Brian Philp MBE

see a tunnel at least 6-7m long and we realised that this was part of an underfloor hypocaust heating system and still complete. This certainly meant that the floor above would be intact and that any walls would still stand 1-2 high and also be extensively painted.

Time ran out and we quickly covered and reburied. We returned in 1971 fully equipped and this time erected two large metal-framed tents and opened up a wide area. By the end of eight weeks three rooms of the Roman House, complete with over 300 sq. ft. of painted plaster were revealed. The most complete Roman painted plaster surviving in Roman Britain! Soon BBC Channel 2 appeared to broadcast on its Chronicle Programme and then the Sunday Observer gave up three pages.- clearly a major discovery, but soon to be an underground carpark.



Roman Painted House

Our campaign then began. We had already forced the York Street Bypass be raised two metres to save three Roman forts we had found buried there. Hence another battle, all too familiar to our rescue teams across Kent and S. E. London and even the Roman Forum under the City. But in the end, we won, and it was agreed in principle that the Roman House might be a useful visitor attraction. Needless to say, this idea was soon overtaken by inertia, and I was left to provide 24-hour protection for the next four years. Finally, in 1975 we

launched a fund-raising campaign, reopened the site for a last opportunity and 16,000 visitors turned up and were given guided tours. I had to think up a popular name and chose the Roman Painted House, which my wife Edna, as one of our site supervisors, approved! We were off.

Having already raised several thousand pounds we encouraged both Dover Council and KCC to offer £25,000 each. Planning consent next, design and construct invitations to four sets of contractors with a target of £90,000. At the same time, we set up an umbrella trust, meeting mostly twice a year and with no staff, but with brilliant honest trustees, George Ruck, John Dennard and Jane du Boulay. Alarming, the best bid was £30,000 over this figure and the scheme lay dead in the water. There was only one solution.

My archaeological team would have to be the main contractor, and I would have to be the full-time project manager, all unpaid. This was enough and the work started. It took 404 days of non-stop work, and I had to live in a cold elderly caravan on site. Living 70 miles away I only managed to get home for one day for the birth of my first son (Christopher - now Shadow Leader of the House at Westminster) and two days at Christmas. The building programme completed the next included the complete presentation of Dover's buried archaeology heritage. Finally, we had a grand opening day when 600 friends attended and were delighted, but I had to stay in bed exhausted after weeks of 16-hour days. George Ruck and Edna did the honours that day.

Soon our work and the project won four national awards. This included a silver trowel from (then) Prince Charles for "The Team with the Greatest Initiative." Streams



The Roman Painted House

of visitors followed from many countries and these eventually totalled some 700,000. Many famous visitors including the Queen Mother on a private visit and the Russian Ambassador. In spite of no DDC management funding we always stayed solvent and in the Covid years I was able to attract £18,000 in grants, still largely unspent. Some 200 of our staff and volunteers, many local, joined this grand adventure. The latest accolade was the Queens Award for Voluntary Service for our work on the Painted House, presented by her Lord Lieutenant. But a loud silence from Whitfield and the Maison Dieu House.

All this brilliant success was torpedoed in July, 2023 when the locks were changed whilst I was in hospital, allowing a period of internal and external neglect and then the surrender of the lease back to DDC although it still had 17 good years to run. Then followed the destruction of our total presentation and the removal and retention of large amounts of our Kent Unit's equipment, tools, records and artefacts, still hidden away and access denied. Even so, it is good to see our Roman House reopened for a brief period, but not to admire our critical contributions excluded, replaced by a lot of white paint.

End Of An Era For A Local Retail Business

Peter Sherred

For the discerning Doverian, mention of the name John Angell would no doubt conjure up two distinct images. Firstly, the retail shop premises in Biggin Street being the base of a jewellery and watch retail business for decades and, secondly, the familiar face of the man who ran the business from 1973 to the date of its closure in September 2023.



John Angell

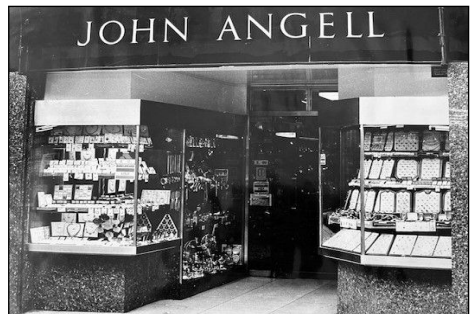
But the business was not confined to Dover. It had its origins in Bromley when the founder, John Angell, the current John Angell's grandfather, started business on a door-to-door basis. He branched out, having spent some time operating from a sales kiosk (which were so familiar in London and its suburbs in the early years of the 20th century) and in 1910 he purchased an established business at 110 - 114 High Street, Tonbridge. He lived above the shop, until redevelopment caused the premises to be demolished in the 1960s. The business moved to another shop unit at 64 High Street. Where John Angell was a sole trader. During the First World War he served in the Army as a Corporal but rose to be a Lieutenant. He fought at the Battle of Ypres in Belgium.

In 1927, his son, who was also named John Angell, established the firm in Maidstone, the county town of Kent, firstly in Mill Street but then in High Street and later at Gabriel's Hill. It was this John Angell who made the move to Dover, establishing a shop in the town in 1934. He was to remain in the trade in Dover until his death in 1973 when his son, yet another John Angell, took over the running of the business.

Other retail units along the south coast were opened in Folkestone (subsequently sold in 2015) and, for a short spell, in Deal from 1935. This latter unit was closed during the Second World War and did not reopen after the cessation of hostilities. The current John Angell became the Managing Director of the John Angell Group and moved the head office from Tonbridge to Dover. John finally closed the

Dover shop on 23rd September 2023 having, in his words, "served my time" overseeing the pre-eminent jewellery outlet in Dover and 'The Kent County Jewellers'. It was indeed the end of an era.

Shopping frontages change with time over the years and, in the cycle of business profiles since the war, many family businesses and concerns have had to make way for the development of large retail units and chains. John Angell has traded through these times of significant change for retail business. Running an independent jewellery and property chain in the current day and age is a very difficult challenge indeed, but it is a matter



Biggin Street premises, Dover



Biggin Street premises boarded up

of regret that a name that has graced the shop premises in Biggin Street for decades has come to the end of the road and ceased trading.

John recounts that over the years there have been memorable incidents which have affected his family run business. In the 1970s a car ran off the road (Biggin Street was a two-way street until the pedestrian centre was created in Dover) and crashed into the front of his shop unit. Consequently, this resulted in the facade of the shop being boarded up. The driver of the car in question died.

Jewellery and other shops selling high value goods have, over the years, proved to be an attraction to robbers and John Angell was no exception to this. In the 1980's an attempt at robbery was made by someone accessing the building through the roof. Fortunately, the offender was captured. On another occasion a gang broke their way in from adjoining retail premises but, having set up their explosives on all the firm's safes, those responsible for the break-in were caught – just in time by the looks of it! Responding to the various attempts to rob the business, John Angell is very philosophical, summarising the various incidents that affected his business as “annoying” before adding that “fortunately the business did not sustain any really big losses and no staff were injured.” Nevertheless, such episodes must have

been urgent reminders to John Angell and all his shop staff of their vulnerability in the face of determined robbers.

John Angell has not only run his own business, but he has also been very active in many roles within the Dover community. He was at one time a member of the Dover Chamber of Commerce and has been a long-time member of the Rotary Club of Dover. In addition, he has given much time as Chairman of the Dover Town Team. The modernisation of the Market Square necessitated engagement with the Coastal Community Fund and Dover District Council. He is currently Co-Chair of Dover Big Local Charity. John Angell was accorded the signal honour of being made an Honorary Freeman of the town of Dover in 2022.

On a personal note, John has been married to Anne since 1977. Anne had originally been an employee of the business, but then followed her own career as the Director of Operations for a national training company. Anne and John married at St Paul's Roman Catholic Church in Maison Dieu Road. They have three adult children, John, Katherine and Tommy. John works at the Institute for Intelligence and Security in Vienna, Austria. Katherine is an Associate Professor at Hult International Business School in London. Tommy is the founder of *Offshore Network* an international media organisation based in London. Anne and John have four grandchildren. Anne retired eight years ago and John has now joined her in the retirement world where he indicates he keeps up with Dover Big Local. John is also a “determined” gardener. I am sure members of The Dover Society would want to wish John and Anne a long life in retirement together which must be especially enjoyable for them after all the years of service to their business and especially to the community of Dover.

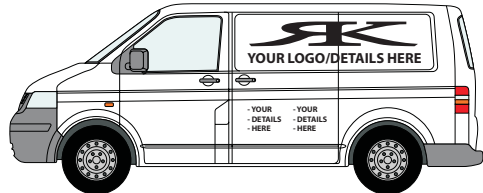


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St James' Church, Dover – A Moratorium

Martyn Webster

The year 2023 saw the fiftieth anniversary of the total clearance in 1973 of the graveyard at the former ancient second parish of Dover, St James', off Woolcomber Street.

There has not till now ever been any recognition of that fact anywhere. The last "Historic Dover" information board fixed by Dover District Council out of sight against the inner flint wall of the former nave within the church ruin, never made mention of it, having now been removed as part of a regeneration scheme and not replaced. As a result, anyone with family or local history interest relating to former parishioners, also the many visitors who pass by on their way to and from the castle who might wonder, have no idea that a burial ground was once there. More importantly they cannot know where those who were buried, with or without gravestones and memorials there, were actually removed to and in what circumstances.

The 1973 clearance made way for a car park attached to a new leisure centre and swimming pool that came to be built adjacent to the junction of Woolcomber Street, the former Trevanion Street and the extended Townwall Street. A somewhat forlorn looking, little used, car park still stands on the old graveyard site, yet the leisure centre was demolished in 2019, leaving a large gravel covered empty space where plans are now afoot to emplace a drive-in McDonald's fast foodery.

Before extensive second world war destruction by enemy shelling and bombing from across the Channel, St James' parish was the well populated, close-knit so-called "Trevanion"

community of small roads and streets, with little houses, shops and pubs etc. that had been there for centuries. Without looking at old photographs and street plans it is almost impossible now to realise, or even imagine, just what a busy built-up place this was and how much has been lost.

St James' church itself was victim of this irretrievable destruction through the years 1942-4 which demolished the vestry and half of the tower. The remaining tower structure then collapsed in 1950 before any renovations could be made, even had there been the will and the money to do so.

By a church faculty in 1953 St James parish was merged with St Mary's and the fallen building purposely left as a memorial to those killed by the shelling, named the "Tidy Ruin". This was tragic for Dover, a town that lost so much of its physical history. But in losing the graveyard remains of its departed citizens in 1973 without record was even worse for the burials that had taken place here for centuries.



St James' Church

The graveyard was once walled and railed at the side of the church, but by the time of its clearance had become seriously overgrown and neglected. In its time however it would have clearly appeared crowded out with grave-stones, tomb monuments and memorials. Old photos clearly show this. To the rear of the site there were three levels of vaults cut into the chalky hillside (one such may still be seen today) accessible by way of a side entrance and steps at the top of Hubert Passage, the now bricked up gateway only just discernible within the surrounding wall and undergrowth. The way over these vaults was called St James Walk, a stone low down in the passage wall bearing that name still legible. Graveyard burials ceased in 1854 when the new St James' cemetery was opened at Copt Hill, although it was still possible to make interments in existing family graves in the original graveyard.

Many of Dover's important deceased citizens, and indeed a number, some distinguished, who died while travelling through the port, were buried here as well as in more vaults, still existing, below the floor of the church interior itself. The walls of that interior bore many memorial tablets, long since removed, a number it is believed being relocated to St Mary's Church.

Dover is immensely fortunate however that diligent work has been done over many years to record the memorial inscriptions from St James' graves, vaults, interior wall and flagstone tablets so that it is as complete and exhaustive as it can be. This is the one good thing to emerge from a tragedy.

The first record of any memorials appeared in a sketch plan of 1801 with pencilled updates in 1826 and 1832

attributable, it is believed, to the parish clerk, a Mr Bushell, showing the locations of vaults and bricked graves within the church allocated by surname only. They are still there. This is important to know in case any excavation work is ever contemplated. In 1838 a partial listing of selected interior memorials appeared in the "Epitome of the History of Kent".

A list of headstone inscriptions in the churchyard was undertaken in handwritten notebooks accompanied by a numbered ground plan by H M and J H Mowl, later compiled and alphabetically indexed anonymously in 1949, after the church's destruction.

In 1973 Dover Borough Council made a summary surname listing for publication in the local press prior to imminent clearance of the churchyard so as to inform anyone who was interested in any particular grave. At the same time local journalist Graham Tutthill wrote two informative articles expanding on the subject for the Dover Express with photos on 22nd and 29th June 1973.

Douglas Welby in his book "The Tidy Ruin" (1976) published on behalf of the Dover Archaeological Group, which had involved itself, gave much detail on the history and clearance of the site, which is the best of all in explaining the story of the graveyard and its contents. This too gives an alphabetical list of interments with biographical detail for some of them. Finally, the Kent Family History Society produced microfiches bringing all the aforementioned data together co-ordinated by Kathleen Hollingsbee and myself, with one major exception - news of the ultimate fate of the gravestones of which there were 491 in total including the hillside vaults with the human remains of those interred beneath and within.

The 1953 merging of St James' parish with that of St Mary's into a unitary parish and the deconsecrating of the church resulted in its graveyard becoming by definition "disused" although it seems that the domain remained the property of the Church of England until 1970 when acquired by compulsory purchase order by Dover Borough Council (the archive for this has alas been lost). Thus under council control the removal of the human remains at St James' graveyard became one of the last major decisions made by the old Dover Borough Council before it became Dover District Council in 1974. Unbelievably, no contemporary records of any of these events now survives!

As it turned out, the council had little previous experience in dealing with graveyard clearance on such a scale, nor for that matter on any scale. The legalities required for this gruesome operation fell under two laws as follows:

Burial Act 1875 Section 25 makes it unlawful in England and Wales to disturb human burials without a license from the Secretary of State, or on ground consecrated by the rites of the Church of England, without the permission of the church.

Open Spaces Act 1906 section 11 also lays down a procedure to be followed in the event of tombstones etc. being removed from disused burial grounds. Basically, the obligations are as follows: - • at least three months before removing (or changing the position of) any tombstone etc. to record details of the stone (i.e. inscription thereon); to insert (at least three times) an advertisement in a local newspaper of the proposal; to post a notice on the church door (if there is one); and to give similar notice to known relatives of the deceased; and • in the case of consecrated ground, to obtain a faculty from the Diocesan Authority.

Notices were therefore placed in the local press and consent of the Secretary of State was obtained. The Folkestone firm J. H. Walker, which is still in business, was awarded the task of clearance, which was no doubt challengingly novel to them, also of a magnitude that no one had anticipated due to the extent and depth of the buried remains below the graves. This was of course a very delicate matter, and the site was suitably screened off from public view.

From research carried out by me largely based on verbal evidence from witnesses at the time, it has been established that lorry after lorry carted off through the town their pitiful cargoes for reburial at a trench created along the lower hedge line to the side of Charlton Cemetery along the



St James' churchyard, looking towards Dover Castle, not long before the clearance of the foundations and stone monuments.



Two stereo photographs views of the church and churchyard during the 1665 annular restoration, looking towards St James' Street. - Note pictures from Rev Hollingsbee collection.

St James' Church

Old Guston Road at Copt Hill. No written record can be found of it all however (perhaps conveniently so). There are few people now who remember the operation, but this author has heard that other unknown deposit sites were also used, though to a lesser extent. Irreverent comments were apparently overheard from passers-by as the trucks went through town, many asking where the bones were being taken.

From our point of view fifty years later this all seems a very sorry and covert end for Dover's former citizens and one can only ask on hindsight whether it could have perhaps been handled differently or any better.

The standing remains of St James' were grade II listed as early as 1949. The grounds on which the ruins sit was designated a scheduled monument in 1950. These first designations recognize the historic and architectural value of St James' at national level as a heritage asset. The approved Dover District Heritage Strategy 2013 identified the ecclesiastical heritage of the district to be of outstanding significance.

In 2016 the architectural firm Purcells were commissioned by the Dover District Council to undertake a condition survey of



St James' Church Tidy Ruin

the ruinous masonry at St James'.

In 2018 the upstanding fabric of the ruined church was included by Historic England in the Heritage at Risk Register.

On 4th February 2019, the detailed "Purcell Report" was deliberated upon by the cabinet of Dover District Council under the heading "Works to St James' Church, Dover". The resulting recommendations were as follows:

1. To approve a project that undertakes essential works to safeguard the structure in the short to medium-term and introduces railings to protect the structure, the space within the structure and anyone in the vicinity.

2. To delegate to the Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health, to take all necessary steps to deliver the project, including the awarding of relevant contracts.

The report notes that all work at St James' is subject to obtaining scheduled monument consent and any necessary planning consents. Thus, following a subsequent programme of council approved works to stabilise and conserve the ruins, Historic England inspected the site on 30 September 2022 and recommended that it should be removed from the register following the improvements in the site's condition. It is not known what consents, if any, were obtained.

All this having been said, no railings were installed around the site as had been recommended by the Purcell report nor explanation made publicly available for their absence. Ironically shortly after all this St James' church Tidy Ruin interior in 2023 was partly closed off and the south east wall put under scaffolding. This was

because the Walker family vault clearly depicted on the plan of 1832 had partly collapsed. A delicate operation then ensued to rebuild the vault and flint wall above in the process clearing away a lot of ivy and overgrowth which is now complete giving a much cleaner defined finish to the ruin.

It is encouraging however to note that the DDC did report desires, although not yet achieved, to have such protective railings emplaced around the ruins, and also, we hope to a gated front entrance facing the street. This would set the site off to best advantage, and as a deterrence to the current prevailing intrusion of graffiti and anti-social activities which blight a former sacred place. Examples to follow may be seen at other destroyed church ruin sites around the country in such places as Bristol, Southampton, Liverpool and London.

So much good work having been done thus far is nonetheless still incomplete and has been blighted by a planning application in 2024 for a McDonald's 24-hour drive-in to be sited directly next to the ruin with no barrier in between. The food outlet is proposed to be positioned exactly on the footprint of the former cleared graveyard site where it is believed that when the former leisure centre was built in 1974 that same site was left as an open space used for car parking only because of what it

once was. This planning proposal has been widely objected to not only by many locals but also very eminent bodies such as Historic England for what will be one of the most challenging planning applications to come before Dover District Council in modern times. In the opinion of this writer, it gives all the more reason for the recommended railing off of the monument to be undertaken as soon as possible for the threat that such a development would be to a former consecrated place, a scheduled monument and a listed building in a historically visual prominent position.

It is hoped that a new information board will be sited at the ruin in a prominent place so as to make amends for a long overdue omission at this 50th anniversary. To the side of the front entrance would seem to be the best for this, where old photographs show the church notice board once stood. All depends on the decision of a Heritage Officer and of course the McDonald's planning application.

Good news is that Dover District Council have now commissioned a memorial plinth to be placed later this year at Charlton cemetery to record the reinterment there of all those whose last resting place was once at the old church.

The people, now and who have gone before, of the ancient town and Cinque Port of Dover, and indeed the former St James' Parish Church (once Court till 1857 of the Lord Warden himself), deserve as much in amends for a major historical event that has been so sadly neglected and abandoned until now. The Tidy Ruin (that is perhaps not so tidy any more) now stands at another cross roads in its history and its continued protection by our generation as a memorial into the future is vital.



Proposed McDonald's

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PROGRAMME 2024/25

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.

November 18 **General Open Meeting**

Monday 7.30pm **Speaker: Chris Townend** "Dover District Council"

December 8 **Dover Society Festive Lunch & Entertainment**

12.30 for 1pm **The Marina Hotel, Dover Waterfront**

£30.95 pp

Price to include arrival drink, three course meal, tea, or coffee and entertainment. Extra wine or other drinks may be ordered and purchased at the venue. The entertainment will be Graham Mart, a guitarist who plays mainly 50's, 60's & Neil Diamond music. Arrival drinks are available from 12.30 pm. Lunch will begin promptly at 1pm finish at 4pm. **Menu details along with the booking form can be found in the centre pages of this newsletter.**

To book:

By post:- Send your completed form, together with your cheque, made payable to The Dover Society, to the Social Secretary, Mrs. Lyn Smith, 2 Redlands Court, London Road, River, Dover. CT17 0TW

Electronic payment by BACS: Account name:- The Dover Society.

Barclays Bank Dover, Account Number; 80864803. Sort Code 20-02-62 giving your name and FL24 as a reference. Return the form by email to:- steve.lyn@uwclub.net

If you require a table for more than eight people, please contact Lyn.

Payment no later than 10th November 2024

2025

January 20 **General Open Meeting**

Monday 7.30pm **Speaker: Martin Crowther**

"The Maison Dieu"

February 17 **Dover Society Quiz Night**

Monday Our ever-popular light-hearted quiz evening held in

7.00 for 7.30pm St Mary's Church Hall. Quiz master Peter Jones. Make up your own table of six,

£ tba p.p.

or, if you are unable to, we will fit you in where appropriate. Prizes for the winning team (in the event of a tie, there will be a play-off).

To book please contact, Lyn Smith Email: steve.lyn@uwclub.net

March 17 **General Open Meeting**

Monday 7.30pm **Speaker: Mr & Mrs Roger Knight**

"Bee Keeping"

April 21 **Dover Society Annual General Meeting**

(Easter Monday) **Speaker: Barry O'Brien**

Monday 7.30pm "Dover Tales"

All indoor meetings are held at St. Mary's Parish Centre

Non-members are welcome on all society outings.

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