



NEWSLETTER NO.5

September 1989

Registered with the Civic Trust

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of Amenity Societies

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EDITORIAL

In our second year of existence we move from giving criticism, advice and awards for buildings and shop-fronts and organising quizzes to taking direct physical action and our Social Secretary's organisation of an extensive River Dour Clean-up, suggested by our member Mrs. Deborah Turner, is only the first of what we intend as a sequence of undertakings to improve Dover's environment. Sponsorship for such enterprises is available and we welcome suggestions.

We ourselves contemplate the sponsorship of an orchestral concert by Primavera next year and we confidently solicit the patronage of our members who turn out in such good numbers for all our social events. Our trip to Rochester in June and our Guided Tour of Dover College in July were generously supported and praised. Such successful events indeed increase our funds and postpone any increase of subscriptions, though our principal concern is the quality of life in Dover.

Dover's image sustained a blow from Sir Clement Freud in his August 14th column in "The Times". We have replied and await his response to our invitation to him to demonstrate that Dover is not "a nasty, surly town" and not "what we do to deter visiting Europeans".

On the planning front we are pleased to have been consulted by Dover District Council on the proposed development of the Western Heights. If the environmental safeguards spelled out in minute detail in the guidance to developers are upheld we could have another major tourist asset without excessive damage to one of our few surviving open spaces. Our intervention in the controversy about the colour of the new B & Q shopping warehouse has certainly stimulated a lot of discussion. We await Halford's solution to the same problem on the adjoining site with keen interest: and, of course, to the future of the former B & Q site in Castle Street. We welcome the reprieve, in which we, too, played a part, for Pencester Gardens from shopping development. Unfortunately the rear-entrance road to the shopping precinct is correspondingly postponed, if not lost.

We are favourably impressed with the District Council's plans for additional car parking. We trust that, in turn, the District Council will be sympathetic to our submission on listed buildings, so ably drafted by Adrian Galley.

Members will note our plans for the October 16 Awards Meeting in St Mary's Parish Hall and for our second Christmas Feast at Dover College on December 8. Please come along and/or book as early as possible.

Next year's social programme will include a Members' Evening, to tell the Committee of their views on all Society matters, and a water-linked(!) excursion as well as the AGM, the KFAS Spring Conference, the Primavera Concert and the Awards Evening.

Jack Woolford

The Committee would like to acknowledge the advice of the Conservation Officer of Dover District Council, Clive Alexander, in drawing up the guidelines for the Shop Front Award. The published leaflets of design guidance from the City of Sheffield, Hull City Council, the London Borough of Barnet, Lewisham Planning Department and Southwark Council were obtained, after consultation with the Librarian of the Royal Town Planning Institute, and proved useful. We regret that this acknowledgement was not included in Newsletter No. 4.



List of officers

PRESIDENT The Rt. Hon. The Countess of Guilford

VICE-PRESIDENTS : The Rt. Hon. The Lord Ennals,

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rees, Brigadier Maurice Atherton,

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Mrs Marwin Horsfield, Mr Jack Ind, Mr Peter Johnson,

Miss Lillian Kay, Mr Jonathan Sloggett, Mr Terry Sutton

Mr Ray Warner?

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Marguarita Waite, Norman Willis.



THE OFFICERS' MESS DOVER CASTLE

Lesley Shaw

The Officers' Mess stands to the south of the Church of St Mary-in-Castro and the Roman Pharos, facing southwards over the Port of Dover and the English Channel. On the same site, between the Roman Oval fortifications and the edge of the cliff, civilian inhabitants of Dover in Roman and Saxon times are reported to have had their dwellings.

The Officers' Mess was built in the mid-nineteenth century as part of a programme of construction and renovation in the Castle initiated by the Commission of Defence in 1858. The need for new officers' quarters must have been prompted in part by the overcrowding when the Castle played host for a short time to a large number of troops returning home from the Crimean War in 1856.

A magnificent stone building, it now stands empty and forlorn. In winter it is lashed by strong winds and rain, but in summer it is a lovely calm place with superb views over the Channel to France.

In recent years the west wing of the building was used by the immigration services, and is still known as the "Immigration Block". This wing retains its original floor and room structure, although the interior is much in need of renovation. The interior of the central hall and east wing of the building was removed some years ago to convert it to a Visitors' Centre, but the work was never completed. A few reminders of its former glory, such as the lovely stone fireplaces, remain amidst the bricked-up stubbs of the former interior walls and the reinforced concrete floor.

But English Heritage has kept the exterior of the building in good repair and water-proofed, and the interior wood panelling stripped from the central hall and east wing is safely stored, ready for the day when the building will once again be put to use. The question is, to what use?

A number of options for the Officers' Mess have been suggested in recent years, including turning it into a hotel and conference centre, an exhibition centre, converting it to office units or residential units, turning it into time-share units, or to a short-stay centre for archaeological students visiting the Castle for study purposes. English Heritage commissioned a report three years ago to consider the feasibility of some of these options. The building is not ideal for any of these uses, and renovation and refurbishment will probably cost somewhere between two and four million pounds depending on the final use.

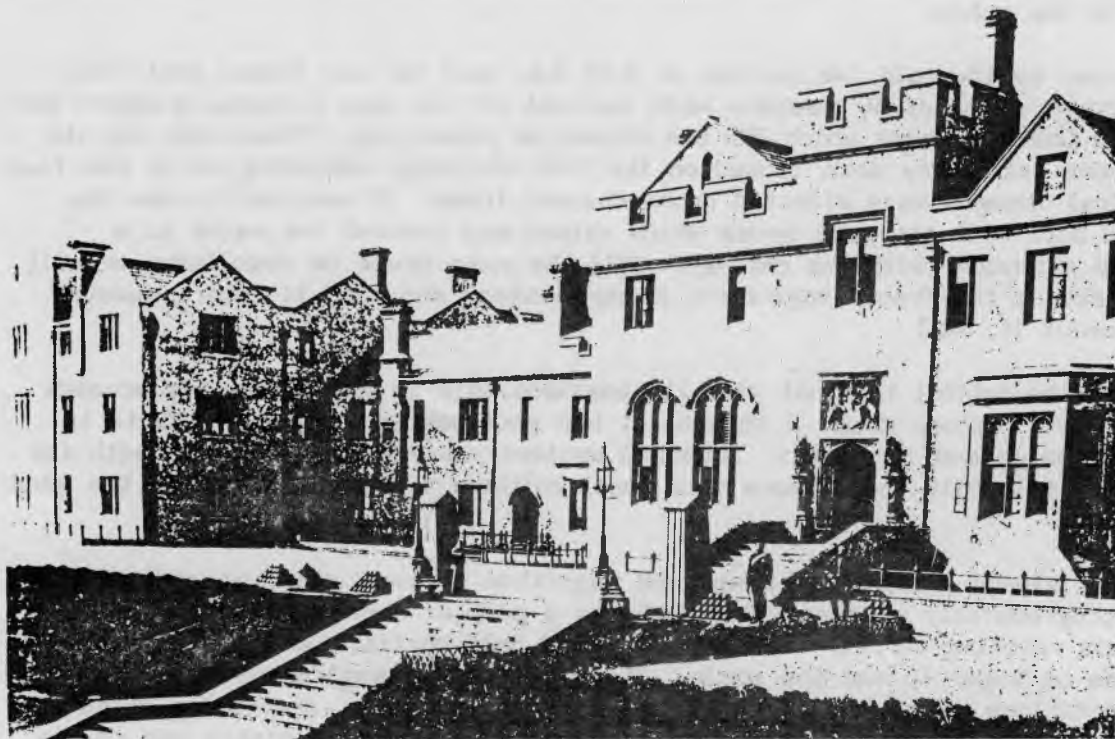
But the building and its settings are magnificent, and Dover Castle is the most important tourist attraction of our area. As we make efforts to draw more visitors to the Dover area as a way of improving our prosperity, surely we can find an economically viable role for the Officers' Mess which fits with this plan for tourism.?

Dover District Council is aware of the importance of the Officers' Mess and is considering how it might be developed to fit in with their Tourism policy for the area. Between them I am sure that our District Council and Ken Scott will bring the imagination and resolve to ensure that, if at all

feasible, the Officers' Mess becomes a living part of our community once again.

(Contributed by Lesley Shaw by kind permission of Friends of Dover Castle)

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The above illustration is taken from the extensive local studies collection housed at Dover Library

Tour of the Western Docks

AN AFTERNOON AT THE SEASIDE

Jeremy Cope

Members of the Dover Society love their town and have a deep interest in it. Thanks to Dover Harbour Board and its Chief Engineer, John Gerrerd (our Vice-Chairman), we were able to satisfy these feelings with a conducted tour of the Western Docks area and to hear about and see parts of the harbour not normally open to the public.

Undaunted by the rain, we started at 2.30 p.m. near Harbour House, split into two groups of about 40 members each, and set off to take in tugs, dredgers and the old Customs House which DHB are intent on preserving. There was the old Dunkirque rail ferry dock, closed on its 50th birthday, reminding us of how fast technical changes have affected cross-channel trade. It was sad to see the unused dock with its pump house which raised and lowered the water to a precise alignment with the railway. Will the pump house be demolished or will they take up the French engineer's joking comment and turn it into a museum? What about it, DHB?

On past the jetfoil terminal with its beakless ship to the modern replacement for the old railway dock. I thought it had goodlooking lines - a tribute to modern design and its power. SEEBOARD avoided power supply problems with its start up only with the closure of a local colliery, which comment made the mind boggle.

We don't always realise the power and magnitude of local features and we moved from progressively more powerful docks to a pair of impressive Victorian guns in their rotating turret. Although we could only partially see the installation it made us eager to see the whole. It needed little imagination to visualise the conditions inside the turret with firing 16 inch guns, shattering noise and choking fumes. We so often hear of museums now recreating sights and smells of days gone by - tourists would flock to endure a live Victorian gun emplacement.

Onto another treasure, British Rail's Marine Railway Station built in time to receive the wounded of the First World War and containing the impressive War Memorial as a further reminder of the conflict. There are possibilities that the station could be used as a Maritime Museum, should BR vacate with the advent of the Tunnel. Its style would make it an ideal site and we were all impressed by the potential of the redecorated waiting area. At this point a caring DHB fed us tea and buns to help us complete the excursion.

We headed back to the Granville and Wellington Docks past the Lord Warden and the Old Town railway station. Two candidates of obvious merit and style and worthy of recognition and restoration for use by local and town visitors.

We were near the end now as we passed the outfall of our dear old River Dour at the town end of the Wellington Dock. We heard of plans to upgrade the harbour area with quality housing and a yachting marina, which sounds the sort of development to ensure Dover's future.

I should like to record our thanks to Dover Harbour Board and in particular to John Gerrard, Jim Butler, Joe Lyons and Robin Dodridge who gave us such an enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

Exhibition of work by PHILOMENA KENNEDY

Deal Library Gallery 30 May - 16 June 1989

Sandwich Library Gallery 23 June - 11 July 1989

Leo Wright

How fortunate the Society has been to enjoy the talents of Philomena Kennedy in the first four Newsletters! That we know, but we had no idea of the varied riches of those talents until she invited us to her exhibition on June 1st.

This special evening invitation for friends was a memorable and delightful occasion. Outside: the first grey-sky evening for ages; inside: the glow of the paintings and drawings and of appreciation and wine.

Sold at once were the water-colour and ink pictures of Deal. Because of their local interest? Perhaps! But they were very striking. Little more than postcard-size, almost luminous in their colour, bold in outline, beckoning from their dark mounts. If art is *l'art de faire quelquechose de rien* these were art.

"A padded disc, on silk with trapunto, nylon lace and cotton embroidery" we were told. It was called "Earth", but, with its exquisite colours it had the wonder of the earth as the first astronauts may have felt it, or stout Cortez, when he gazed upon the Pacific.

One small room was allotted to the 54 exhibits, so that the variety of media and subjects was intense. The capturing of light and heat in Rhodes or Seville, with only white paper, ink and wash was arresting. "The Road to the Castle" - Dover Castle? Castles in Spain? No! Surely a fairy castle. Eclectic as well as versatile, surely there were shades of artists past? An echo of Blake in one Christmas card, an echo of Samuel Palmer in "Moonlit Orchard", of the drama of Turner in the acrylic of Lake Bala?

There were "ikons" and Crusaders and heraldic devices and there was charm: the "Hazel Mouse in Nest" and "Flowers in a Medieval Font at Boughton" - particularly the hand-coloured version. There were architectural drawings and details of architecture and sculpture. The texts and quotations all merited the loving care of their calligraphy. The Christmas cards would be a present in themselves.

Gifted, sensitive, charming, magical, mystical, even spiritual are all epithets evoked by this very personal exhibition.

1 and 6 June 1989

MEETING OF THE DOVER SOCIETY

30th May 1989

The well attended meeting opened with a welcome from our Chairman. Apologies were received from Mr. John Moir, Mr. Bowditch and Mr. John Drover. The Chairman himself apologised for the postal surcharges incurred by some members on the bumper Newsletter No. 4 but said that even with the surcharges it was well worth it!

A reminder for Philomena Kennedy's exhibition at Deal Library Gallery (30 May - 16 June) was given and the Chairman intimated that he was taking on responsibility for the next Newsletter in the absence of the Editor.

Amenity Societies are best engaged in encouraging rather than criticising and of course at this very meeting THE DOVER SOCIETY SHOP FRONT AWARD is to be launched.

But first in the words of the Chairman:

Noble Endeavour No. 1 provided by Mrs. Deborah Turner who spoke on the untidy state of the River Dour and its banks and proposed that the DOVER SOCIETY should take it under its wing. Commercial interests in the area, she said, should be encouraged to clean up their patches. She hopes eventually to have a Dour Day annually as a focus for clearing up. Meanwhile she is calling for volunteers who were invited to give their names to the Secretary during the interval.

Noble Endeavour No.2 Vice-President Mr. Peter Johnson officially launched THE DOVER SOCIETY SHOP FRONT AWARD 1989. 'What we have decided to do is make an award(s) in the autumn for shopfronts. Please look not just in but at the shopfronts' (guidelines and a Nomination Form appear in Newsletter No.4). A Press notice will give full details very shortly. 'Meanwhile encourage one's friends to participate in this important exercise'.

The Chairman rose to welcome the main speaker of the evening MR. JOHN SUNDERLAND project designer of THE WHITE CLIFFS EXPERIENCE and Jorvik the Viking museum in York, adding he was most pleased that Dover District Council had taken the initiative in bringing to Dover a project similar to the very successful Jorvic experience. He thanked MR. SUNDERLAND for his immediate and enthusiastic response to the Society's invitation to give the Presentation.

There followed a most informative and fascinating presentation of THE WHITE CLIFFS EXPERIENCE (was this Noble Endeavour No.3 of the evening!) With a background of film and television MR. SUNDERLAND runs a Heritage Projects consultancy. He says that he is essentially a storyteller, who aims to present his story in a new and more vital way.

His job is to make the archaeological trust's efforts work. His commission is to tell the Dover story. We heard that the project would combine Town Museum and Heritage Centre at the same site to their mutual benefit and that the location would make use of the Market Hall facade and existing archaeological sites. A thoroughfare linking York Street and the Market Square would allow free passage and would be so designed as to wet the appetite of the passing public.

On payment of the entrance fee the visitor will be confronted with up-front questions such as 'Why Dover?' 'What's so important about Dover?' A fine art spectacular mural with musical accompaniment will provide impact. Sound light and movement will depict the ancient warriors of the region. Grand gestures and theatrical events will combine with live action images, acting out the unfolding historical experience, calculated to enthral and emotionally involve the viewer. Graphic interpretation and video programmes will feature throughout and will provide in depth educational data. Roman army deployment techniques will make use of very powerful images. The model of the Roman port of Dover though essentially speculative will be based on the best advice and will include a period warehouse, dockyard sequences and Roman crossings.

There will be a 'fragments section' designed to give some idea of how they lived in Dover in those early days - a shop, a shrine, a bathhouse perhaps and so on.

Dover's maritime history will be further depicted through the ages with 'hands-on' experience for the children to participate and let off steam by jumping about or perhaps by doing a bit of rowing. There will be nautical instruments to be handled, speak back voicepipes and ventilators.

The rail ferries and marine station are not forgotten and then an 'End of the Pier Show' changes the tempo with a complete shift to fantasy. To maintain the magic of the experience one now encounters imaginary characters such as Captain Crusty, Sid Seagull and Corporal Crab to mention but a few. The whole scene suddenly erupts into pure pantomime and is the highlight which is calculated to draw in the crowds from far and wide for this is essentially a project with a European dimension.

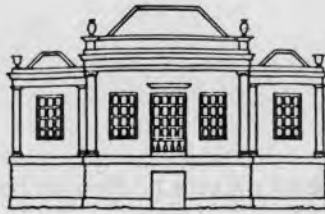
Then there is the Blitz and the shelling period to be narrated largely by those Dovorians who remained behind in the early forties, (John welcomes help with this from all who were there).

The finale is to be a happy one dealing with the monumental attempts at crossing the channel to the accompaniment of more spectacular music and visual effects.

The Presentation was enthusiastically received by the audience.

In his vote of thanks Vice Chairman John Gerrard said that with John Sunderland's tremendous enthusiasm we are more than happy that the project is in his capable hands.

John Owen



The Landmark Trust

The Landmark Trust is a registered charity which was set up in 1965 to restore good buildings which would otherwise fall through the conservation net. We take on properties which are not perhaps suitable for the National Trust or similar bodies, and are too isolated or impractical for private houses. We have rescued well over 100 buildings of many different types all over England, Scotland and Wales. There is a Martello Tower in Suffolk, the House of Correction at Folkingham, Lincolnshire, a folly over-looking the Solent, and a Pineapple building in a walled garden not too far from Edinburgh. One of the buildings we are restoring at present is Kingswear Castle at the mouth of the River Dart.

Our buildings are equipped with a small library of appropriate books so that the visitor may get to know his neighbourhood and we provide an album of historical notes about the building as well as OS maps for local walks.

If you would like to buy our Handbook, please contact:
The Landmark Trust, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3SW.
Telephone Littlewick Green (0628 82) 5925.

PLANNING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Apart from the usual crop of applications to build blocks of flats, during recent months there have been two applications of special interest to us: the proposal to develop land between Poulton Close and Barwick Road (for 214 dwellings!) and the detailed plans for the Crabble Athletic Ground site, some details of which have already been queried with officers of the Council.

Members will be aware that we have been trying to persuade 'B. & Q' to tone down the colour of their new building but apart from provoking some healthy debate in the local press, we have not met with any success.

We have been consulted on two major initiatives by the Council: the guide lines for the proposed development of Western Heights and a car parking strategy for the next five years. The latter was the subject of a presentation to the Executive Committee by the council officer concerned Mr. J. Foster. The opportunity was taken on that occasion to put a whole range of questions, comments and concerns directly to him.

CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK

Jack Woolford

(Reprinted from "Kent Matters" No 27, 1989)

Even more than the Channel Tunnel the Channel Tunnel High Speed Rail Link has concentrated more minds in Kent more powerfully on the defence and protection of the environment than any previous threat and the Federation's efforts and resources have never been more demanded and stretched.

As with the problems of the Channel Tunnel, we have pooled our efforts and resources with our fellow members of the Kent Action Group, namely the Weald of Kent Preservation Society, the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation, the Council for the Protection of Rural England (both the national headquarters and the Kent Branch) and the Kent Association of Parish Councils. Last time round the quality of our efforts was such that Kent County Council stepped in with generous resources for the Select Committee parliamentary proceedings, with impressively successful consequences. This time the County Council was quick off the mark with the Kent Rail Action Group with the resources necessary to attempt better coordination of the even greater levels and extent of environmental outrage.

The Federation itself had initially to fight for inclusion in Krag which was rightly criticised for being insufficiently representative. Now that so many more groups have been included, Krag is now criticised for being a mere public relations exercise. Nevertheless the members of Krag unquestionably persuaded Kent's planners and leaders to take much more seriously questions of legislative procedures, to employ German rail expertise and to insist on much more stringent examination by British Rail of their own route proposals and those of the TALIS and RACHEL alternatives. Consequently British Rail has undertaken much greater environmental protection and expenditure and faces tough opposition to the November deadline for the Bill and to the whole process of getting it through parliament.

The costs of petitioning are horrendous, quite beyond the resources of relatively small voluntary organisations. It is therefore to Kent County Council, which has earmarked £2 millions for the defence of Kent, that we must look for the means to have our reasonable and rightful demands properly and professionally represented. With that and with the help of our Kent MPs, who have also been uniquely active and collaborative on an environmental issue, we may hope for maximum mitigation of the price Kent must pay for the necessary addition of rail facilities as alternative to even more road traffic and motorways.

THE WELLINGTON BANQUET

This grand Banquet was celebrated, at Dover, by the Cinque Ports, on the 30th August, 1839, in honor of their illustrious Lord Warden, the Duke of Wellington. For this purpose, a magnificent Pavilion, which cost £1200, and which covered a space of 20,420 square feet, was erected in the Priory Meadow. It required 400 load, or 20,000 cubic feet of timber to erect this grand edifice; and 100 men were employed sixty days in completing it. Accommodations were provided to seat 2250 persons.

The hall or nave in the centre of the structure was nearly square, and the side benches rose gradually one above another, so as to afford a distinct view of the whole scene. In front of the entrance was the duke's gallery, and opposite to it, over the entrance, was a gallery to accommodate 500 ladies. Over this was the orchestra for 80 musicians. The walls were covered with pink and white striped drapery; and every part of the edifice was decorated with numerous coats of arms, including those of the Lord Wardens from the time of Edward the Confessor to the present day. These were interspersed with stars of bayonets, piles of muskets, trophies, cuirasses, helmets, ancient warriors clad in armour, scrolls and devices with inscriptions, rich tapestry, and a profusion of standards, flags, and banners. The chandeliers were prepared expressly for the purpose; and the transparencies or window lights were grand and superb.

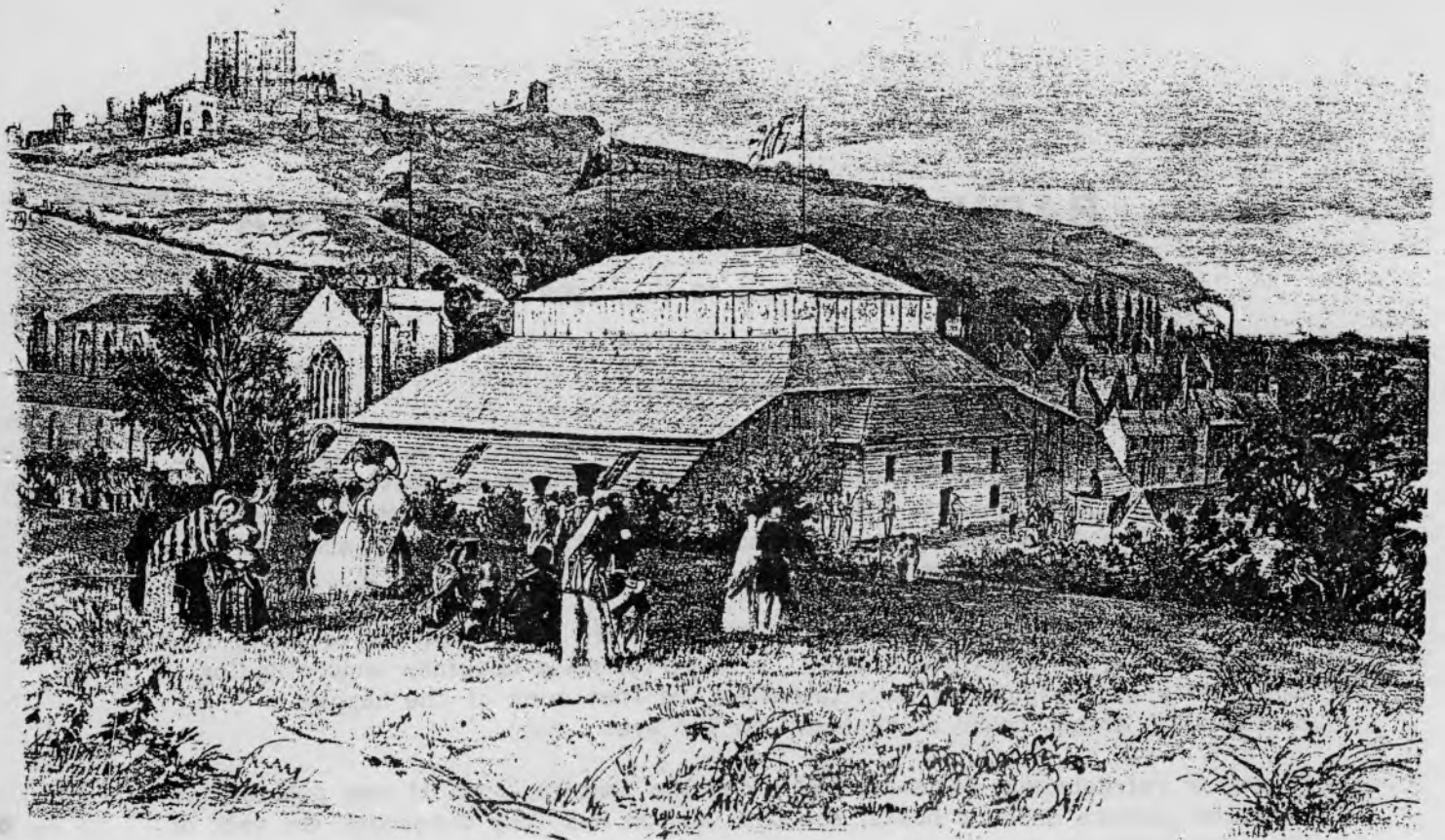
On the day before the banquet, company were pouring in from all parts of the country; and, as Lord Brougham observed in his speech, even from abroad. The following morning was ushered in by ringing of bells and firing of cannon; and the streets were paraded by a large concourse during the day. The duke arrived from Walmer Castle, about half-past four, and was received by a guard of honour, composed of the 27th and 90th depots, and a salute from the artillery on the heights. He was dressed in the uniform of the ports, as their Lord Warden, and was vociferously cheered as he passed through the dense crowd. On entering the Pavilion, the band of the 11th hussars struck up in a most effective and spirit-stirring manner, "See the conquering hero comes." As he passed up the centre of the Pavilion, he was greeted with indescribable enthusiasm and applause. On reaching the gallery, he sat down on the right of the Chairman, (Mr. Walker, Mayor of Romney and Speaker of the Ports;) where also sat -

The Marquis of Bute, Viscount Loftus, Lord Fitzroy Somerset, Viscount Strangford, Lord Sondes, Lord Forrester, Lord Lyndhurst, Hon. and Rev. W. Neville, Right Hon. C. Arbuthnot, Sir F. Pollock, Hon. Col. W. Stratford, Hon. R. Spencer, Sir F. Burdett, Sir A. Murraby, Sir W. Curtis, Sir W. Young, Admiral Moore, Gen. Sir. J. Lyon, Gen. Gosselin, Gen. Montessor, Gen. Ashe, Rev. Drs. Knox & Molesworth.

On the left side of the chair sat the Rev. J. Maule, Earl Cardigan, Earl Brecknock, Viscount Canterbury, Viscount Marsham, Lord Maryborough, Lord Wharncliffe, Lord Brougham, the High Sheriff, Gen. the Hon. Sir E. Paget, Right Hon. Sir E. Knatchbull, Mr. Justice Williams, Hon. and Rev. Sir F. Stapleton, Hon. and Rev. W. Eden, Sir A. Hazlerigge, Sir P.P. Ackland, Sir J.R. Reid, Vice Admiral Sir T. Baker, Col. W.C. Smith, Col. Sir W. Warre, Lieut. General Sir F. Mulcaster, Mr. Lowther, Mr. F. Bonham.

After dinner non nobis Domine was sung in excellent style. The following gentlemen were the principal speakers - the Chairman, the Marquis of Bute, Lord Wharncliffe, Rev. B. Bayley, Lord Brougham, the Duke of Wellington, Viscount Strangford, Mr. E.R. Rice, Sir T. Baker, Sir J.R. Reid, Sir F. Burdett, Sir F. Pollock, Viscount Canterbury, Lord Maryborough, Lord Lyndhurst, Sir E. Paget, Sir E. Knatchbull, the Earl of Brecknock, Mr. Plumptre and Lord Sondes.

At ten o'clock the Chairman, accompanied by the principal guests, withdrew, and the rest of the company soon after broke up. The cost of this banquet exceeded £3000.



Picture from Dover Library Collection. Contact Reference Librarian, KEITH HOWELL, for information.

VISIT TO ROCHESTER June 10

About twenty five years ago, when I finished my schooling in Rochester, I left a rather sad and crumbling town. Many of the High Street shops were boarded-up and decaying. Buildings were being demolished and neglected.

On a sunny day on 25th June this year, I returned with members of the Society to a quite different town. I particularly wanted us to visit Rochester because of the parallels that I saw between the two towns. About ten years ago, a positive initiative to promote tourism was taken - Rochester faced many problems with local industries declining and the closure of the dockyard. With its castle, beautiful cathedral and historic and Dickensian connections, tourism was the obvious choice. It has taken several years to transform a sad neglected town into a delightful place to visit. The High Street is full of individual, interesting and prosperous small businesses, buildings restored and cared for.

Hopefully we will achieve the same - it may take a few years but "Rome wasn't built in a day"!

Lin Clackett

P.S. Our thanks to the City of Rochester Society who provided two excellent guides.

BARN CONCERT BY PRIMAVERA

Updown Farm 18 June 1989



Leo Wright

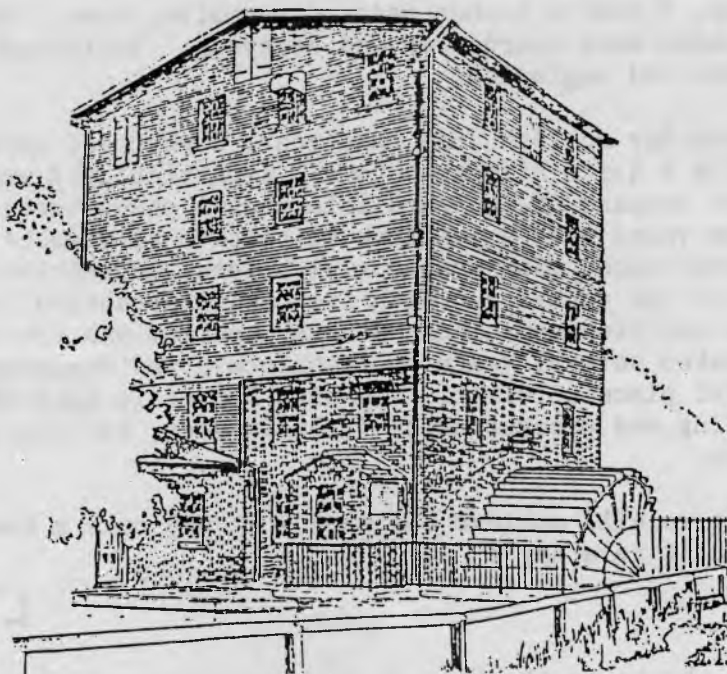
This chamber concert in idyllic weather in a mini-Glyndebourne setting was sponsored by Eurotunnel. Of the audience of 250, 50 were Eurotunnel guests and the Chairman and I (who vie with each other in trying to play Mozart piano sonatas at something remotely approaching the written speed) had accepted the two tickets allotted to the Society.

It was a truly memorable afternoon. PRIMAVERA are young players of whom, I am sure, more and more will be heard. Their performance combines understanding, sensitivity and enthusiasm with technique, so that some of the happiest passages of Mozart could bring tears to the eyes.

Five-star refreshments were offered after the concert, when it was possible to meet the players and our hosts, Alastair Morton and Tony Guterbock (to talk of KRAG and cabbages and Kings).

Could The Dover Society organise a concert by PRIMAVERA in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu as part of next year's programme? We found out from the artists what this entails and, bearing in mind that sponsorship might be available, are exploring this delightful possibility.





CRABBLE CORN MILL

The Mill dates from around 1812 when this country was living in fear of Napoleonic invasion. Thousands of troops were garrisoned in the area, and a number of mills were built along the River Dour to help to feed them. After Waterloo, the troops were largely withdrawn and with them the demand for flour upon which the local millers had thrived. Although Crabble survived for many years in the hands of the enterprising Mannering family providing flour for London's expanding population, even they could not compete with more modern methods and the Mill closed in 1893.

The building stood empty for many years until the early 1970s when it was acquired by the Cleary Foundation. Essential repairs were carried out and the Mill was opened as a museum by the Council who had a leasehold interest. This venture was only partially successful and, following the discovery of serious structural problems during the mid 1980s, it looked as though the building was doomed.

Enter the Crabble Corn Mill Trust set up to restore the building and open it to the public as a working museum making flour once again; with a shop, restaurant and educational facilities. The objective being to render the Mill self-sufficient for the future. As this is a Grade 2* Listed Building, valuable grant aid was obtained from English Heritage with further initial assistance from Dover District Council and the Cleary Foundation when the freehold was transacted in 1988. Soon afterwards contracts were placed with Barwicks for the major restoration work which should be finished this autumn.

The Friends of Crabble Corn Mill was set up alongside the Trust to raise vital funds to finance the remainder of the work. Local volunteers, including many youngsters, have spent hours clearing out the nearby river as well as undertaking much hard work inside. Successful fund-raising activities to date include a well-publicised 'buy-a-plank' appeal, dances, and stalls at the Crabble Boot Fair and River Fete.

The exterior scaffolding was at last removed in June (it had been suggested that this too might be listed!) and sights are now set on opening at Easter 1990. However, much work needs still to be done, some of which still requires funding. Anyone with an offer of help of any kind always receives a cheerful and enthusiastic reception from Neil Anthony, the Development Manager. Why not give him a call on 823102?

A reward for the effort put in by so many people came on June 27th this year when the Times/RBA Community Enterprise Award was presented to the Mill by the Prince of Wales at a special ceremony in London. A keen interest was shown in the scheme which is now well and truly on the map as part of the tourist initiative being established in this area.

Clive Taylor

IN MEMORIAM Elsa King

Mrs. King came to Dover in 1936, as Miss Caldwell, to teach mathematics at the Girls' Grammar School. She married Gordon, of the Boys' Grammar School, in December 1938, and spent most of the war in a remote part of Wales near Crickhowell, with her children Mary and Martin. After settling back into Dover, she taught part time at Folkestone, and eventually in 1955 returned to Dover full time as one of my colleagues in the Mathematics Department. In 1967 she became Deputy Headmistress until 1970, after which she continued teaching in the Sixth Form part time until Gordon retired in 1974.

Elsa was an absolutely dependable colleague; every job which she undertook, every part of a school teacher's duty, was performed meticulously. She treated each child as an individual and many of them will remember with gratitude her love of Mathematics, her elegant presentation of it, her calm and careful teaching, and her kindly interest in their understanding and development.

As Deputy Head she maintained all the good traditions of the school. She always gave her honest opinion on a difficult situation, and then abided loyally by the decision taken. Her example, backed by her firm spiritual principles, was a great inspiration to many generations, and we mourn the loss of a warm and steadfast friend.



Lilian Kay

Members of the Dover Society and others who knew her will be shocked as well as grieved to learn of the death of Mrs Elsa King. At Philomena Kennedy's Exhibition in Deal Library on June 1st she seemed, as usual, to be in good health as well as good spirits with all her habitual animation and sparkling presence. It was not at all apparent that she had been severely stricken with illness for some years and entirely characteristic that she should have concealed it.

My own acquaintance with Mrs King backdates to 1946 when she joined my first WEA History Tutorial Class in Dover. She was not only a doughty student who controverted with me animatedly on a variety of historical and other matters: she was also a most kind hostess, offering me the frequent hospitality of home and family, accompanying my oboe solos on the piano and introducing me to young teacher-colleagues whom she recruited for my class.

I next knew of her as the maths teacher of my two daughters at the Girls' Grammar School. I did not envy her her task but approvingly noted her reputation for strict discipline, intellectual, social and moral. It is more praiseworthy to be respected than to be merely popular.

Mrs King's membership of The Dover Society together with that of her husband Gordon (of local Boys' Grammar School, the Liberal Party (now SLDP) and the Society of Friends associations was the latest stage in our acquaintance. It was a delight to me that Elsa markedly approved of our conservation efforts. Her last words to me at the Exhibition in Deal were pleasing at the time and precious in retrospect. There is no one whose good opinion I more coveted.

Jack Woolford*

Friends of Dover Museum

An invitation has been extended to The Dover Society to join the Friends of Dover Museum at their annual dinner on October 21st 1989 at the Riviera Suite.

The menu will be melon, roast beef, lemon souffle, cheese and coffee and the cost will be £10.50 excluding wine. The guest speaker will be Terry Sutton.

Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Chairman Alex Sumner via Dover museum on 201066.



THE NATIONAL TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE
TOWNWALL STREET

Leo Wright

What a lively and inspiring place this is! I called in merely to buy a White Cliffs sweater (a very good buy) but I stayed to watch the people who were giving it such a holiday atmosphere.

The young people, with their bicycles parked outside, were planning their tour of Kent and Sussex with the maps and brochures available for free!

The brochures are most attractive, including the new White Cliffs series, in several languages. (In France the *syndicats d'initiative* in every commune have been giving away excellent brochures for years but at last we have certainly caught up). There's "White Cliffs Country"; Trails; "*Que voir, où aller, que faire*"; "The White Cliffs Experience", a trailer of what is to come, and many others further afield.

Then there were the middle-aged couples asking about B&Bs and some, Americans or Canadians, who wanted to see and do everything: quickly! The place was animated and busy and my companion from the West Country said: "One really has the impression of a holiday town".

Well Done, Dover Tourist Information Office! Odd to think that it was under threat of closure not so long ago: and is still only temporarily reprieved!

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE - 2 (1)

A. F. (Budge) Adams

To the south west of the locality described in the last issue is another interesting area, in which, in the first half of this century there was significantly more industry and commerce than at the present day. Conveniently, this section of the Golden Triangle readily sub-divides and Castle Street and its hinterland towards Dieu Stone Lane I now attempt to describe.

It is not easy for present-day Dovorians to accept the fact that Castle Street was formed on the top of an embankment built across a low-lying and well-watered meadow used for centuries to fatten sheep and cattle. But that is an established fact corroborated by the bald legal phrases of deeds and leases drawn up when there were changes in the ownership of land or hereditaments. In the 17th century the meadow was owned by Kent's Quaker community and the income derived from it was used to support its indigent members. Later it was owned in three separate parcels by two local men and the Trustees of the Dover Almshouses and in 1835 it was acquired by a local consortium of developers. The new owners' first task was to bridge the river which ran across the meadowland from the east side of the now vacated B. & Q. site and on to St. James's Lane in front of the present-day multi-storey car park.

In the 17th century and until the building of Castle Street, Eastbrook Place was a rural footpath and at the junction of Ashen Tree Lane with Dieu Stone Lane and Charlton Back Lane - later to be transformed into Maison Dieu Road - the open space was known as Horse-pool Sole and was within the bounds of Horsepool Ward. From the Sole to the sea the route was via Ashen Tree Lane to the bottom of Laureston Place then right, into St. James's Street and after crossing the face of St James's Old Church, left into Trevanion Street, very roughly parallel to Woolcomber Street, and thence on to the ropewalk and herring-hang on the foreshore above high water mark.

Castle Street was designed to run from Ashen Tree Lane southwest towards the Guildhall in the Market Square and an embankment was built across the meadow towards Stembrook, high enough at the sou'western end to align with the top of an arched bridge to be built over the river. The extension from Stembrook to the Market Square took place some few years later, after action, not entirely unfamiliar to us today, was taken in an attempt to force the owners concerned to accept the Paving Commission's offer of £1500 for the buildings and land necessary for the scheme. The Commission applied to Parliament for powers of compulsory purchase and though the Bill was approved and the new street was completed and opened up to the Market Square by 1837, the cost to the

Commission was more than double their planned expenditure.

Eastbrook Place was a narrow insignificant lane and Castle Place, a logical continuation from the seaward side of Castle Street to St. James's Street, was no better. When the proposals for the new Castle Street became known it was decided to widen these two lanes as a general improvement to the area and to provide further sites for the speculative building that was proposed. The builders adhered to their plan to begin Castle Street at Ashen Tree Lane but they grasped the opportunity to enhance the aspect of the proposed properties above the new intersection. The three graceful houses, Nos. 1, 3 and 5, built on the northwest side can be seen today but those opposite, with pillared porches and equally elegant, were, in or about 1914, demolished for road widening.

Building in Castle Street began in 1836. The foundations of the houses were about half a metre below the level of the original meadow, the lower floor being a semi-basement, fairly deep at the front, ie below the level of the embankment, but shallower on the garden face at the rear. It is interesting to note that at about half a metre below the surface of the gardens of Nos. 27 - 43, running out to the river at the rear, is a bed of shingle that may well have formed the shore line in Saxon times. (This I discovered as a boy when digging graves for lamented and departed pets, and which, for reasons of public health, my father insisted should be very deep. I do recall one I dug, so deeply that it met the water table.)

The new road, which in its essentials lasted until 1921, was of water-bound macadam and was built with an extremely high camber, the centre being almost half a metre above the gutter level. (I verified this in 1921 when at the re-making of the road after the damage caused by World War I traffic, the camber was reduced to the present level and Castle Street became Dover's first tar-macadamised thoroughfare.

During World War I American soldiers were billeted in Victoria Park and the precarious angle assumed by their ration wagons as they drove along Castle Street, as a consequence of the high camber, caused many 14lb tins of corned beef to "fall" into the road - perhaps not entirely without a little help - where, without the slightest demur on the part of the 'dough-boys' who sat high up on the piled rations, they were quickly picked up by the Castle Street children - of whom I was one - who then scampered home with their prizes as quickly as their legs could carry them.

The five-fold increase in the town's population during the 19th century meant that most of the new houses were immediately occupied, by doctors, dentists, solicitors and veterinary surgeons whilst the remainder were principally used as lodging or boarding establishments.

(to be continued)

KFAS AGM & SPRING CONFERENCE
KENT, PAST & FUTURE: FROM ROMAN
OCCUPATION TO CHANNEL TUNNEL"

SATURDAY MAY 5TH 1990

ST MARY'S PARISH HALL, DOVER

The Dover Society is hosting next year's Annual General Meeting and Spring Conference of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies. After coffee and the brief (but important) AGM, thanks to the generosity of Dover District Council there will be an address by Barry Cunliffe, Professor of European Archaeology of the Oxford University Institute of Archaeology, who heads Dover District Council's Archaeological Advisory Board. His subject will be:

"Dover in the Forefront: an Archaeological Perspective".

There will be ample time for questions and discussion!

After the break for lunch (which the Dover Society will have for sale) there will be a talk on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, speaker to be confirmed.



Castle Street

1909

Photograph loaned by Budge Adams

VISIT TO DOVER COLLEGE July 1

Members availed themselves of the opportunity to visit Dover College on July 1st by kind permission of the Headmaster Jack Ind.

Assembling between 3 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. under the hornbeam planted by Prince Louis Mountbatten we were conducted in small groups past the school homes to the secluded walled garden, on to the chapel (probably originally a guest house) past the site of the former carp pond to the Gatehouse, now containing the Headmaster's Room and finally, via the remains of the cloisters, to the Refectory.

We heard how the school at its inception in 1871 took over a farm, a meadow and the ruins of the former Priory of St. Martin and St. Mary, founded in 1130, where monks were obliged to receive free of charge, a variety of illustrious travellers, including Chaucer, Erasmus and at least two kings. Part of the great Priory library is now preserved in the Bodleian and the name of the sixteenth century organ master Thomas Tallis is commemorated in the college music school. The traditional use of the Priory meadow for the ceremonial installation of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports was already established before the school was founded. The whole site therefore has a long and distinguished history.

The Norman Refectory is the only one still used for its original purpose in Britain and it was here that our tour ended and we were treated to an excellent strawberry tea prepared and served by the staff and greatly appreciated by us all.

Our Social Secretary Lin Clackett is to be congratulated on her efficient organisation of the whole programme and Les Wright and his team of guides on their fascinating historical accounts of the Dover Priory and College, making the afternoon a most enjoyable and informative occasion.

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This course brings together a variety of speakers to cover the major areas of employment, commerce, history, heritage, ecology and tourism. Lecturers will be drawn from Dover Harbour Board, the Chamber of Commerce, the College of Technology and the Museum, with specialist speakers on history and ecology.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 25th September | Introduction
Mr Jack Woolford |
| 2nd October | "The future of the Port"
Mr Jonathan Sloggett, Managing Director,
Dover Harbour Board |
| 9th October | Preserving Dover's Heritage
Ms Christine Waterman, Curator,
Dover Museum |
| 16th October | History & Development From Eighteenth
Century
Mr G. King |
| 23rd October | Customs Brokering 1992 Proposals
Mr Fred Marsh, Divisional Director
Forwarding, George Hammond (Shipping)
Limited |
| 30th October | The Contribution of Further Education
Dr B. Thomasin, Principal, South East
Kent College of Technology |

continued...

- 6th November **Ecology of Dover**
Anne Marie Brennan, MSc GIBiol FLS
- 13th November **Economics & Employment**
Mr R Dryden, Chairman, Chamber of
Commerce
- 20th November **Tourism & Marketing**
Mr Roger Madge, Head of Marketing,
Tourism and Marketing Unit, Dover
District Council
- 27th November **Summing Up**
Led by Ms Grace Jackson OBE, Course
Director and Dover WEA Branch Secretary

N.B. The School reserves the right to cancel a course where there are insufficient enrolments or for whatever reason it deems relevant.

For further information please contact:

**Grace Jackson or Sylvia Stewart
WEA Branch Secretaries
Little Maydeaken
The Street
Denton
Canterbury
Kent**

Telephone: (0227) 831314

TEB174

ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD

The Dover Society has recently received a request from a former Dover resident, Mr. Martyn Webster, to ascertain whether any of its members would be interested in helping him to transcribe the headstones in St. Mary's (old) churchyard.

He initiated this interesting project earlier in the year and during the summer achieved considerable success in persuading the gravestones to give up their secrets. Given the large number of stones propped up against the perimeter walls there remains much work to be done and since the present band of volunteers currently stands four strong, more help would be greatly welcomed.

Mr. Webster also asks whether any member could advise him when the original St. Mary's churchyard was reduced in size to the stones re-positioned along the walls.

If any members wish to contact Mr. Webster to assist with the above his address is:

16 Beechwood
Curwen Place
Brighton
Sussex BN1 6UJ

John Gerrard
Vice Chairman

Tel. 0273 558730

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

16th October Monday 7.30p.m. St. Mary's Parish Centre (parking in Stembrook Car Park) PRESENTATION OF THE SHOPFRONT AWARDS and the result of the Dover Society Quiz. The Mayor, Councillor Newman will speak on the future of Dover.

15th November Wednesday GUIDED TOUR OF BUCKLAND MILL

Numbers for this event are strictly limited so please apply early. MEMBERS ONLY. The group will meet at the main entrance to the Mill at 6.00p.m. for 6.15p.m.

No charge. Guided tour of Buckland Mill Wednesday 15th November
Deadline for receipt of applications: Saturday 28th October

Name/s (please print).....
Address.....
Phone no.....Membership no/s.....

Please send to Lin Clackett, 3, Maison Dieu Road, Dover before October 28th.

8th December Friday CHRISTMAS SUPPER and OLD TIME MUSIC HALL conducted by MICHAEL FOAD in the Refectory of Dover College. BOOK THE DATE !!
Details to follow.

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