



# Newsletter

No 6 January 1990

Registered with the Civic Trust  
Affiliated to the Kent Federation  
of Amenity Societies

Registered Charity no. 299954

## EDITORIAL

Greetings for 1990! We hope that the new year heralds a splendid decade for Dover and its villages and the Dover Society.

Sadly, in December, we heard of the death from cancer of one of our Vice-Presidents, RAY WARNER, who was very well-known and much-appreciated as a photographer and film-maker in the district. It is good to know that this year's Dover Film Festival will take place, as a tribute to Ray, and that his work will always be part of the history of the town and port.

Since the publication of the September Newsletter we record THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES: the very successful River Dour Clean-up, the presentation of the Shop Front Award and prizes for the Dover Society Quiz at which we also heard views on the future of Dover from our Member of Parliament and our Town Mayor, the first Members' Meeting, a visit to Buckland Paper Mill and our Christmas Feast. In addition your Committee and Planning Sub-Committee have continued their work.

We regret that the course jointly organised by the School of Continuing Education of the University of Kent and the Workers' Educational Association on 'HAS DOVER A FUTURE?' attracted too little support for it to take place.

Everything seems set fair for the CONCERT by PRIMAVERA on 21st April. We do very much hope that a good number of our members will offer sponsorship and help to encourage the development of the arts in Dover. *PLEASE* read the enclosed letter from the Chairman and consider it. *PRIORITY BOOKING* is offered to members; do take advantage of it by returning the enclosed slip as soon as possible.

Sir Donald Murray, an entertaining speaker, who served in China and Poland among many other places, will be talking on 'Diplomatic Bag and Baggage' at our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

We are pleased to be hosting the Kent Federation of Amenity's Society's A.G.M. on 5 May and delighted that we will have the chance to hear the eminent archaeologist, BARRY CUNLIFFE, as well as other interesting speakers.

The Society is following with great interest the proposals for the WESTERN HEIGHTS and monitoring developments closely.

We note that the route of the A20 over Shakespeare Cliff has now been announced. We continue to be actively concerned about the plight of the people of AYCLIFFE and about the damage to such a sensitive site. We hope that the authorities can be persuaded to provide well-designed and appropriately-sited underpasses in the town.

Our congratulations go to one of our Vice-Presidents, A. F. 'Budge' Adams, who celebrated his 80th birthday recently.

Thanks are due to Maggi Waite who edited NEWSLETTER No. 5 during my absence in Foreign Parts.

Finally, please note this year's events in your new DIARY and show this Newsletter to at least one non-member.

PHILOMENA KENNEDY

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PRESIDENT: The Rt. Hon. The Countess of Guilford.  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Mr. A.J. 'Budge' Adams, Brigadier Maurice Atherton, Mrs. Sylvia Corral, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Ennals, Mr. Ivan Green, Mrs. Marion Horsfield, Mr. Jack Ind, Mr. Peter Johnson, Miss Lillian Kay, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rees, Mr. Jonathan Sloggett, Mr. Terry Sutton. Mr. Peter Marsh.

COMMITTEE

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Jeremy Cope, Phyllis Dobbins, Mike McFarnell (advisory member), John Owen, Clive Taylor, Maggi Waite, Norman Willis, Ken Wraight, Peter Johnson (Vice-President) also serves on the Committee.

Back numbers will be on sale at some meetings, price 50p, while stocks last.

**DEADLINE for Newsletter no. 7 is 21 APRIL.**

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Ray Warner 1914-1989

## RAY WARNER 24 November 1914 - 15 December 1989

Ray was born in Folkestone and educated at Harvey Grammar School. He joined the photographic firm of Lambert Weston before serving as a photographer with Bomber Command, R.A.F. After the war he returned to Lambert Weston to run their Dover branch, later taking over the business in his own name. In 1958 he became a freelance cameraman for BBC TV and later also taught photography at the Adult Education Centre.

When the Dover Society was formed Ray was delighted to be elected a Vice-President. The Society's tribute to him comes in the thoughts and memories of some of his many friends.

Our President, The Countess of Guilford, writes:

When trying to express these thoughts about Ray I find it necessary to reach for the essence of the man. For me he was firstly a gentle man of God with all the simplicity and completeness that this commitment implies. He was a man with a profound love of beauty. This appreciation and sensitivity for all forms of beauty gave him great joie de vivre, he loved life. The joy with which he perceived light, a sky, a flower or a landscape, the drama of a rough sea under those great white cliffs or his enjoyment of a good theatrical production were all illuminated by his faith in God.

He understood and loved Dover unequivocally and with a constant sense of new discovery which gave his remarkable films and photographs a freshness and topicality so enjoyed by us all and always allied with his innate sense and appreciation of its special place in the history of this island of ours. Through his films and photographs he was able to document and interpret every day events and give them perspective and context in history and this made his documentation unique and very special.

On a personal note he was a constant and unfailing friend during the 33 years we knew him. He supported us and our beloved Waldershare through thick and thin. He made, with great skill, a film of life here on the Estate and captured many of the lovely characters of people who lived and worked here making it a precious record of life at Waldershare in the 1970's. He photographed our son, Piers, many times during his 18 years and these photographs are greatly treasured.

Few people could have had as many really good friends as Ray. He was very much part of the community and life of the Town and he always had time for everyone. He was enormously kind and caring. He was a real family man. He and Kay were a wonderful couple and so complete in their happiness and their pride in their children and his tender loving care during her last illness was an inspiration to witness.

Ray loved life and relished its every facet. He was a great respecter of persons and he was always a gentleman and, with all this, he had a great sense of humour and a lovely chuckle. I like to think of his dear face breaking into that wonderful smile. He made the World a brighter, nicer place.

Historian, Ivan Green:

I knew, and cooperated with, Ray Warner on a number of projects over the last quarter of a century. He was a fine photographer, a good organiser and a most loyal friend with an enormous circle of personal and business contacts which kept him in close touch, not only with local events and happenings, but also with local feelings, needs and concerns.

He worked right up to the end and only a month before his death, when he was desperately ill, he telephoned me concerning details of the next Film Festival which, in addition to his wonderful series of yearly Dover Films, became one of his major preoccupations.

He leaves behind him many happy memories and friendships, but even more important a rich store of historical and sociological records of enormous value to future generations.

Ray Newsam remembers Ray as a professional colleague:

My memories of Ray are mainly as a colleague teaching photography at Westmount. Ray took the beginners' classes which usually, because of his name and reputation, had such high numbers that they in fact could not all be accommodated. The students would then be fed into my classes, and we found that with Ray's enormous experience, particularly of portraiture, and my technical knowledge of modern equipment, we complemented each other's skills. The students often benefitted from Ray's numerous friends and contacts in Dover. These would allow us, on the summer location courses we taught together, to take students into places not generally accessible to the public and the evenings often finished with the whole class going for a drink together, and provided some of my most enjoyable photographic memories. Ray jokingly referred to me as 'my young colleague' when introducing me to the students, in spite of my forty-some years and greying hair, but he in fact often left us wishing we had his seemingly endless enthusiasm and energy. Although Ray retired from business in 1977 he never retired from photography. He would often say that he must cut down on his commitments but we all knew he found it almost impossible to say "No" to a request. He has left a legacy of films and photographs of Dover that is unique and historically important, and memories of a kind and dedicated gentleman.

Journalist, Terry Sutton, writes:

Ray Warner loved Dover and nothing was too much for him when it came to helping the community. He was a reliable businessman who, through his camera skills, became a respectable media man - and there's not many of them about.

He could mix well and seemed as at ease with Royalty as he was with the man in the street of his adopted town.

Ray had a keen sense of history, as witnessed in his series of life in Dover over the years. This link with yesteryear was also evident with his active work for St Mary's Church, Dover,

He loved the beauty of nature, be it the flowers blooming on the sea front, the sun throwing its reflected light on Dover Castle, or the tranquility of his subjects in his days as the town's premier portrait photographer.

It will be a long time before Dover finds someone willing to devote the hours of voluntary work to the town that Ray enjoyed contributing.

"It is my way of returning some of the happiness that Dover has offered me", Ray told me one day during his final year.

From the President of The Rotary Club of Dover, Reg Burrows:

The motto of Rotary is "Service above Self". Ray joined the Dover Club in 1952 and we have probably never had a member with a better record of living up to that motto.

We remember Ray particularly for his years of service to the RNLI which culminated in the stationing in Dover of the lifeboat "Rotary Service", to the building of which the Rotary movement in Britain contributed substantially.

Ray was for many years responsible for organising the Rotary Christmas Tree outside St Mary's Church. Unhappily we were unable to tell him before he died that this year's collection, over £1700, was the largest ever. He would have been so pleased for he had great faith in the kindness and generosity of the people of Dover.

From the thoughts of Ken Farmer, former Head of Astor School:

His manner was quiet, I never saw him ruffled or pricked to anger or petulance. Small towns such as Dover are fortunate in that from time to time they allow the flowering of many small talents which can enhance the value of the lives of their people. Ray's talent was not so much as a film-maker but as an archivist, a careful selector and recorder of the days of Dover's years. In this he had no equal and I know of no other town which has been so well and lovingly portrayed on film.

And from Ken Ruffell, formerly of Dover Grammar School for Boys:

My very special memory of Ray is derived from the autumn of 1959 when we jointly made a colour film of the Christmas story. We called the film 'Nativity' and I believe it was Ray's first work in colour. A farmer at Martin provided a daughter to play Mary as well as a stable, horses for the three kings, cattle, sheep and a donkey for Mary to ride in her journey to Bethlehem. The film was in part a farewell Christmas card to Mr Booth, the headmaster who was about to retire. The film went into the KEC Film Library and we continue to receive pleasant notes from schools who have enjoyed it.

Janet Young, Dover Players producer:

I remember Ray as the one to whom I could always turn when a crisis arose in a Dover Players' Production. No matter what it was, Ray was always on hand to help and not just with advice or even reference to one of his many contacts in the area, but by giving me his time and treating my difficulty as if it really mattered to him to help - as, indeed, it did. I remember Ray as always enthusiastic and cheerful and fun to be with. Who else but Ray would have been working away as the Gravedigger in Hamlet and, forgetting the words of Shakespeare's song, have chanted clearly "I've forgotten the words tra-la-la. I've forgotten the words tra-la-la" - Cue for Prompt!

And Ray as the Demon King! Impossible - nothing could disguise his kind face and manner. I remember Ray as the friend who, for more than forty years came to all our Family celebrations. The friend who brought his camera with him and who left us with happy and serious and poignant photographs which now form the visual memory of our Family life.

We will always remember Ray.

Maggi Waite, Area Schools and Childrens' Librarian, writes:

With death of Ray Warner, the Library Service has lost a very good friend whose unfailing courtesy and helpfulness will be sadly missed by all of us who have worked with him over many years.

Along with Ivan Green, he gave time tirelessly to awaken interest in local heritage particularly amongst young people in Dover. Always flexible, patient and kind to anyone who asked for help, his passing will leave an unfillable gap in our community life.

Peter Johnson, Vice-President, writes:

I couldn't believe Ray was 75 when he died, I knew it was true but all the time I had known him he'd been such a young man. I met him first when I moved from London to Dover in 1953 and, photography being one of my hobbies, it was not long before I found myself in Lambert Weston's shop on the seaward side of Townwall Street next door but one to Frank Vickery, an old Dover character who was proud of having sold crabs to Queen Victoria. We talked photography for a bit and Ray took me through to the studio at the back of the shop. It was a ramshackle old building, timber and corrugated iron I think, and the River Dour flowed close by. Ray showed me some of his recent portraits and I was amazed at the high standard. In both composition and quality they would have held their own in comparison with the portraits I had so often looked at in the windows of the famous and fashionable photographers in Bond Street and Baker Street. I made some comment to that effect but Ray did not reply, he just smiled.

Happily for Dover Ray never aspired to join the ranks of the fashionable and the famous. He loved his adopted home town and he loved the people and he expressed that love over the years by giving his time, his talent, his energy and his enthusiasm to the wellbeing of Dover and the surrounding district. And he did all those things with the same gentle smile I had seen when I first met him.

When I saw him a few days before he died I asked how he was feeling and he replied "Better today, Dover 1989 has come back from being edited and they're going to show it to me in the morning." And although he was suffering much pain and discomfort he looked up at me - and smiled.



# 17th Annual Conference

Withersdane Hall, Wye. 16 & 17 September 1989

HIGH SPEED KENT: RAIL, HOUSES, LAND

Michael Burchell - Countryside Strategy for Kent

We were very favourably impressed by Mr. Burchell - Chief Environmental and Business Manager K.C.C.

He said there would be major changes both from Channel Tunnel and motorway pressures and from agricultural competition with new members of the E.E.C. A survey was needed to mark landscape changes and to record surviving woodland - changes of land use from agriculture should not be irreversible: there might again be food shortages. Government was, however, regrettably reducing planning controls.

Professor Bryn Green - Conservation and Countryside Management

Prof. of Countryside Management at Wye College, London University, Bryn Green, said it was economic forces which through farming hand shaped the landscape since the 2nd World War. Planners had concentrated on towns leaving the countryside to the farmers. The current favourite image of the countryside was the product of low input - low output dog and stick farms of the 30s. Since these days home food production had increased from 30% to 80% but at great environmental cost. Farmers must now reduce surplus and produce less. With a stable population, 2.5% annual increases in productivity would result in a million spare hectares of land by the year 2000. The great challenge to amenity organisations was to say what kind of countryside they wanted to see and to work out how to achieve and pay for it.

Mary Allwood - Village Homes for Village People

Mary Allwood of the National Agricultural Centre Rural Trust, talked on the problems of housing in the rural community. Conversion of redundant buildings was generally more expensive than new building. Small numbers of houses available to local residents only and in perpetuity could receive exceptional consents for land in Local Plans and could be made available for renting and for shared ownership.

A Conference Discussion Group reported on the need for

- Sensitive design for changes of use of redundant farm buildings and the exclusion of inappropriate uses.
- The insistence that planning permission should be required for medium sized agricultural buildings with reference to siting, design and materials.
- Tighter control of shopfront and garage forecourt design in and between villages.

Bob Dunn MP for Dartford, spoke on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link chiefly as it affected North West Kent. Dartford was already badly affected by motorways and bridges and he was critical of British Rails "high handed" attitude. It was pointed out that the House of Lords Select Committee could be powerful in securing amendments and that we should be in close contact with Kent members.

#### Harry Roberts - Rail Freight Through Kent

As External Affairs Manager British Rail Board, Mr Roberts said British Rail plan an 8% return on investment given the threefold increase in traffic expected by 1994/5-mainly of manufactured and tertiary goods. Traffic would be taken off the roads by better integration of rail and road facilities, with B.R. concentrating on swapbody intermodal containers. Trains would be assembled at Crewe and Willesden. Thus Kent will be a conduit for business generated North and West of London. Classic freight would not use the Channel Tunnel High Speed Rail Link because of gradients, axle loading, etc.

#### John Dean - Town Improvements

The Leicester City Planning Officer and Professor of Planning at Nottingham University gave an illustrated talk on what had been achieved in Leicester. The City spends up to £2.5m a year on car parking, cleaning buildings and maintaining and enhancing its 8 mile-long, wardened, riverside parkland largely created from industrial wasteland.

#### IMPACT: In Gravesend and Ramsgate

Kent County Council has organised impact schemes for urban renewal in Gravesend - now complete, and Ramsgate - in progress. Local societies reported on how they viewed their respective schemes. In Gravesend publicity for impact has used excellent on site notices. It was suggested that a shop window exhibiting a rolling programme of everything completed, being tackled and projected would be useful together with a suggestion box.

In Ramsgate representatives of local societies met the Impact Manager, the Assistant Planning Director, whose main concern is conservation and any interested councillors - to thrash out matters of mutual interest. Called FORS for Forum of Ramsgate Societies - it sends representatives to the decision making committee of Impact comprising members of Thanet District Council, Kent County Council and National Trust.

## Planning Matters

Martin Bacon, Canterbury City Council's Technical Director, spoke about Local Plans. With the January 1989 streamlining proposals structure Plans were to be replaced by county planning policy statements which would be final without further reference to the Secretary of State. He repeated Nicholas Ridley's view that houses were not pollution but that they do need space, and that concentration may be more appropriate than pepper pot development.

Conference discussion group on Local Plans thought main pressures in order of importance, housing, infilling, employment and shopping.

Lack of houses to rent - Price of land - High tech businesses employing few people - Pressures of hypermarkets & supermarkets.

Brian Briscoe - County Planning Officer said the Revised County Struction Plan had been completed though not yet passed by the Secretary of State.

Expenditure on the Environmental programme which included the White Cliffs Country Project would be £100,000 higher this year. Demand for building materials was exceeding forecasts and new extraction permissions would be needed for brick, clay and chalk. Dept. of Transport traffic forecasts for the County were high-140% plus in 10 years - a good reason for maximising rail freight.

Michael Odling - Chairman of the Development Planning and Transportation Committee K.C.C. said his aim was to ensure that decision making was local. Judgement of the right balance was better made in County Hall and Town Hall than in Whitehall. Speaking on British Rails plans he said Kent needs environmental protection from the impact of noise on communities next to existing lines and K.C.C. would initiate a campaign to change the law to achieve this.

*Ken Wraight Committee Member*

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# DOVER FILM FESTIVAL

## 12-15 March, Dover Town Hall

The annual film festival will take place this year as a tribute to the late Ray Warner.

The Dover District 1989 will be shown along with Ray's marvellous film of the River Dour. Ivan Green will be presenting "Then and Now". and Dover Film Society will be showing a film of their choice. The exhibition by Dover Library and Dover Museum will feature the history of tourism in the area.

Make a date in your diary! Matinee performance on Wednesday 14th.



# The River Dour - A wasted asset

Rivers can be an asset to any town when they are properly maintained and the surroundings landscaped. Although it may seem that the Dour, from the official point of view, is little more than a way of removing surface water, this is disproved by the attractive use of the river at Bushy Ruff, Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens. The latter make the contrast with the main length of the rubbish-strewn river all the more stark.

One member, Deborah Turner, was so moved by the state of the river that she asked The Dover Society to do something to remedy the neglect and organise a clean-up. As a result a group was formed to organise the task.

The group decided that there must be two aims: a short-term clean-up and a consideration of the future of the river.

The clean-up took place on 1 October, basing its success on an appeal to that noble breed, the beer-drinkers of Dover. About 115 people from local pubs turned out. Whitbread and Shepherd Neame generously supplied 50 dozen cans of beer for the workers and also funds. The clean-up was carried out from Temple Ewell down to New Bridge and the haul of rubbish was prodigious.

As a result of achieving our first aim we moved to the second and came to these conclusions:-

1. Ordinary people do care about the appearance of their town and will help with properly thought-out schemes for improvement.
2. Businesses will support such schemes and are happy to be associated with them.
3. We do not possess the resources to make a permanent impact. We should use our influence to try to persuade the District Council to undertake the care and maintenance of the river and its environs. The council has accepted the idea of a riverside walk. We should encourage it to develop the river and its banks as an area of beauty and enjoyment for the public as part of its tourist promotion.

The Society is asking the Technical College and Dover College to carry out surveys of the river and to suggest ideas.

Other ideas include a prize for a riverside garden and an annual Society River Walk (including visits to pubs en route! )

4. Black Spots: (a) The Breakers Yard at Cherry Tree on land owned by KCC.  
(b) The Royal Victoria Hospital. The rear (by the river), is even worse than the front.
5. Deborah Turner deserves special mention for her efforts which will, it is hoped, encourage other members to initiate schemes.

Since the clean-up I have looked at the river with more interest than before. Sadly the rubbish is returning. Part of the problem is the low level of water but a wet winter will improve the flow.

Please help to put pressure on the Council by writing to your local councillor to ask that the Dour should be turned into an asset to Dover. I hope that this article offers some suggestions as to how improvements might be made.

*Jeremy Cope - Committee Member*

The following pubs are to be congratulated on their teams which did such a splendid job on 1 October:-

The Dublin Man o' War  
The Royal Oak  
The Old Endeavour  
The Louis Armstrong  
The Park Inn

The Fox  
The Cricketers  
The Red Lion  
The Falstaff  
The Lord Nelson

and three which are not by the river:-

The Alma                      The Boar's Head                      The Archer

David Elms and John Morgan of the River Dour Society joined the clean-up.

Mike McFarnell of Dover District Council organised removal of the rubbish.

It is noteworthy that Alan Causey, Paul Gravenel and a group of nearby residents have, over several years, transformed the area between Buckland Paper Mill and the Old Endeavour. It is well worth a trip through the pub to view the scene.

Adams Printers have, in agreement with Dover District Council, dedicated a strip of land to the Riverside Walk alongside Goodfellow Way by their new premises in Dour Street.

Editor



# The White Horse

Charles Willetts

The White Horse Inn, St. James Street, built in 1357, is the oldest Pub in Dover and probably also the oldest residence in the Town. It is reputed to have the most varied mix of customers in the Country and is the home of the Dover Rowing Club, founded in 1846.

The tragic news is that on the retirement of the present Innkeepers, Charles and Sue Willett, Whitbread Inns will move in. This means that the interior may well be completely ripped out and replaced by standard panelling, lighting and music. It will also mean the end of the unique customer mix.

The Innkeeper, his family and friends are doing their best to make sure this does not happen by compiling a list of names and professions, trades and other occupations. This will be sent to Sam Whitbread at Chiswell Street, hoping that commonsense will prevail and vandalism will not occur.

Charlie says that anyone who wishes to sign is welcome. No need to buy a drink!

# AWARDS EVENING 16 October

St Mary's Parish Centre was full for the presentation of the Society's awards by the Mayoress of Dover followed by speeches from the Mayor - Councillor Bill Newman and Dover's MP David Shaw.

## Cleaning of the River Dour

This project had been undertaken by a sub-committee of the Society following a suggestion from Mrs Deborah Turner. Sponsorship was obtained from brewers Shepherd Neame and Whitbread. Nine pubs along the river- Cricketers, Fox, Dublin Man o' War, Old Endeavour, Red Lion, Louis Armstrong, Falstaff, Royal Oak, Lord Nelson - and three others - Archer, Alma and Bull's Head - had organised teams of at least 6 volunteers to clean sections of the river. The landlords were congratulated and presented with framed certificates to mark the Society's appreciation of their efforts.

## Shop Front Award 1989

On behalf of the judges Peter Marsh of Dudley Marsh, Son & Partners reported on the nominations received. They had been disappointed by the slow response and low number of nominations submitted. The winner, Brodys of Worthington Street, was praised for the retention of original features including side-panels and fascia, and the relationship of the front to the interior of the shop. The Society's ceramic plaque was presented to Mrs Brenda Filtness of Brodys.

In other nominations the judges had looked for features leading to future overall improvement and they particularly commended Bonnies Antiques in Beaconsfield Road as a building treated with care and interest, especially its window boxes.

## Dover Society Quiz

Philomena Kennedy thanked the Editor and Deputy Editor of the Dover Express for their help and support. She had been very impressed by the amount of local knowledge displayed by entrants of all ages from 7 upwards. The prize-winners were Mr D E Gavin - £50, Mr A Belsey - £10, and under sixteen, John Whitehead and Anneliese Sencicle.

## The Future of Dover by the Mayor

As a native Dovorian Councillor Newman spoke with enthusiasm of the beauty of the town's natural surroundings, its magnificent man-made harbour, castle and fortified heights. In this setting the River Dour should be a jewel. Sadly, in the past, no thought had been given to proper planning of buildings or transport so that random and piecemeal development of land had occurred. For the future we needed to look beyond short-term market gains and to remember our history, ceremony and amenities as well as quality of life. Our environment should be kept and cared for. Attempting to subjugate it could destroy it.

The quality of life could be improved through the social dimension. People needed to be encouraged to join in activities like sports, music, libraries, cinema, cafes, pubs, restaurants, churches, voluntary and charitable work. These needed to function in the town centre to give it life, but also in outer parts such as Buckland or St Radigunds which were totally devoid of social facilities.

A concert hall and theatre were needed, and the present intermittent arts events could perhaps be brought together in a 'Dover Week' which might later grow into a larger Dover Festival.

Dover in a Changing Britain by David Shaw MP

The recent formation of the Dover Society had delighted Mr Shaw as so much was changing in the economy and environment of the town. He briefly reviewed the town's history over 2000 years with its fundamental dependence on the sea. In spite of the Channel Tunnel trade in both passenger and freight traffic should continue successfully with the expansion of trade with other EC countries as well as to Eastern Europe.

For the future there would be both expansions and reductions in employment opportunities. The country's population was ageing, with a 30% growth in the 65 plus age group. Dover had 20% more retired people than the national average and this proportion would increase. Most of these would be the active retired, socially involved, and more prosperous than in the past because of second pensions. Thus demand for hotels, restaurants and shops, and leisure developments like theatre and the arts should increase, providing jobs and perhaps new buildings more attractive than the poor quality post-war structures. Mr Shaw's preference was for Georgian style, but good modern design was acceptable for work buildings. He also stressed the need for the town to remain open and accessible to the sea.

*Phyllis Dobbins Committee Member*



## FIRST MEMBERS' MEETING

On Monday November 20th our first meeting for members to raise and discuss matters of current concern was well attended by some 60 of us in our habitual venue, St Mary's Parish Centre.

The Chairman presented a brief sequence of slides to illustrate potential housing sites, successful initiatives like the river clean-up and Wiggins Teape's landscaped new entrance, and controversial developments like B & Q and the threatened trees on the Halford site opposite the Red Lion.

The Western Heights was obviously included and Vice-President Peter Johnson then outlined the options for the future of the area and explained the Society's decision not to oppose the limited high class development by Dover District Council. Mr Johnson said that the first option was to do nothing and leave the area in its current overgrown, unsightly and hazardous state, with continued tipping and vandalism. The second was to clean it up and restore the Napoleonic fortifications, moats and other features and open it as a tourist attraction; but the cost, including maintenance, would be millions of pounds. The third was the option of partial development (10% out of 200 acres) for high quality, low density housing, with public access both safeguarded and protected for the Drop Redoubt, St Martin's Battery and the Grand Shaft. There would be no skyline development, views and open spaces would be retained and car parking screened with trees. Appropriate building materials would be specified and there would be an archaeological survey. The Society accepted, and would defend, the

District Council's stringent conditions. It would also protest to the Home Office about new development at the Citadel which has further vandalised Dover's Western skyline.

Mrs Lorraine Sencicle said that the petition organised by Mr Jack Phillips did not propose to leave the site as it was but envisaged an English Heritage style clean-up and access. Mrs Violet Jones said that the Council should do the clean-up and Miss Phyllis Dobbins said that 20 years of "dereliction" had provided a nature reserve which should be preserved. The Council's proposals would lead to the loss of 80 mature trees. Governmental pressure to sell off land should be resisted and new housing restricted to infilling existing sites in the town. The Society's Treasurer, Ken Berry, bemoaned the site as a dump and a disgrace to Dover. Society member Councillor Barry Williams said that balance was needed between council expenditure on improvement and the need to raise money as government required.

After the agreeable break for refreshment and raffle, the Chairman said that some members had requested a straw vote. It would have no validity and must not consume any more time in points of order. Six members voted against the proposed development at the Western Heights. The remaining fifty-odd endorsed the Society's stance.

The new Chairman of the Planning Subcommittee, Adrian Galley, outlined our policy on the Riverside Walk, which was pioneered by our predecessor society the New Dover Group, accepted in principle by the old Borough Council and was now being implemented by Dover District Council. His acceptance of the need for security for the residents of Goodfellow Walk, when the walk was extended by Adams Printers, was re-emphasised by Councillor Williams. On the conflict between industrial and commercial developments at Honeywood Road, Mr Galley said it was the Dept of the Environment, not Dover District Council, which was responsible for the consent to Texas. The Chairman added that the District Council's dilemmas between the desperate need for development (eg at Honeywood Road) on the one hand and its limited controls of location and the need to maintain and revitalise the town centre on the other was almost impossibly difficult.

Secretary Leo Wright spoke on Society projects. The cleaning of the Dour had been first suggested by a member, Mrs Deborah Turner, and more members' suggestions were needed. He himself instanced the need for clean-up of the East Cliff, West Cliff and Shakespeare Cliff steps. The St James steps also needed brickwork and a handrail. The Society would attempt to persuade Dover District Council to follow the example of Canterbury City Council and adopt the river. The initiatives of Father Tanner to preserve St Edmund's Chapel and of the Crabble Mill rescuers were quoted as illustrations of what could be achieved.

The Chairman wound up this successful members' meeting by promising to account for what had been undertaken at similar subsequent meetings and at the Annual General Meeting (on Monday April 9th 1990 at 7.30 p.m in St Mary's Parish Centre, (please note!).



# Dover Grammar School for Girls REUNION 50 years on

On June 2nd 1940 an intrepid band of County School girls, accompanied by some understandably apprehensive schoolmistresses, journeyed forth into the unknown. This turned out to be a small village called Caerleon in S. Wales. We made a forceful impact on the local community and the experience also left life-long effects on us, the evacuees.

On June 2nd 1990 we are having a reunion at the school in Frith Road to celebrate, if that is the right description, the event. Anyone who was a pupil in Caerleon between June 1940 and late 1944, when the school returned, would be most welcome. Through the auspices of The Dover Society may I publicise this event? Anyone needing further details may write to me (an s.a.e. would be appreciated) at:

74, Beauxfield,  
Whitfield,  
DOVER CT16 3JH

BESSIE NEWTON (née LAURIE)

P.S. Perhaps members may know of relations or friends not living in the area who were in Caerleon and may care to contact them.

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## Planning for the 1990s

As Dover braces itself for the next decade, which will bring great changes to the town in terms of the increased emphasis on tourism together with the completion of the Channel Tunnel, the Society's Planning Committee will be carefully examining the way the town is, quite literally, 'shaping up' under the inevitable developmental pressures which these two events will bring.

The Committee will continue to study the plans of developments that are likely to have a significant impact upon the character of the town, whether it be visually or economically, and will strive to have a greater input towards them. Whether it be the replacement of a shop front or the creation of a new superstore the Committee has continued (and, indeed, will continue) to raise its voice above the level of simple criticism to that of constructive comment. Therefore its aim and resolve for the New Year will not be merely to achieve adequate design and development for the town but the very best possible.

If you would like to discuss the work of the Planning Committee in more detail please feel free to contact me.

ADRIAN GALLEY

3, Wellington Court,  
Dover Road,  
WALMER.  
CT14 7JP. (0304 368348)

Chairman, Planning Committee

# VISIT TO BUCKLAND PAPER MILL

On 14 December about ten or twelve of us turned up for the tour of Wiggins Teape Paper Mill. The company had produced three excellent guides in the form of William and Harry English and Bert Bailey. They had all completed 51 years service at that location so we stood little chance of stumping them with our questions.

We started at the furnace, which is automatically fed by small coal from hoppers - 350 tons every week - and which drives the turbine supplying all the power required throughout the plant. Some power for lighting can be obtained from the national grid but otherwise the business is self sufficient.

That also applies to the water used for production purposes which is obtained from an artesian well. The depth is not known but in all its history it has never failed to meet requirements which suggests it is below the known water table.

Our guides explained that the main ingredient used is Linters, or cotton seed fibres obtained from the Lancashire and Californian mills. Waste and recycling, as high as 20% also plays its part.

The structure is composed largely of steel, bricks and concrete so any fire hazard would appear minimal. Nevertheless an efficient water sprinkling system was evident throughout.

We watched number two machine producing chart paper for the Admiralty and various shipping lines. It took sixty tons of water to produce one ton of paper but I hasten to add that 90% of that is recycled for reuse as the heated rollers extract it from the product.

My small mind found that it got a bit technical from now. The use of endless nylon fibres and a vibrating mechanism ensured the fibres and water were suitably integrated and as we walked along the machine the heat from the cylinders was stepped up gradually so that the moisture was extracted by degrees. Eventually it even went through a mangling process and a 'Dandy Roll' was used to incorporate the famous Conquest imprint.

Starch was added and a polishing or glazing cylinder played its part and the end product, about seven miles of paper in length on the end roller. I did not note the width so I hazard a guess of four metres.

It was then moved to the 'Autotorque' which transferred it from its metal spindle and replaced that with a cardboard centre. I might add that the machine did that at a speed of 1,500 metres per minute.

The automation that we next witnessed was quite frankly out of this world. The paper was next fed to the Pasaban machine which not only counted the sheets and stacked them, two magic eyes meanwhile cut out anything unsatisfactory and rejected it. (For reuse).

The Wrapmatic machine neatly cut the paper to size before efficiently wrapping it ready for the shop counter and then loaded those packets on to pallets which were then covered by waterproof plastic sheeting. All without a word being spoken as it were. The machine being the complete master.

There was little time left to see number three machine which during our visit was producing what was described to us as a high wet strength, melamine treated product, for the use of the Ministry of Defence.

To summarize. I had never seen automation on this scale before. The whole, backed up by a computer system which only those engaged could possibly hope to interpret. Our thanks go to the management and our three guides who gave us a warm welcome and a very informative and enjoyable evening.

Barry Smith

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## CHRISTMAS FEAST

As in the previous year the venue for our annual Christmas supper evening held on December the 8th, was the fine old medieval refectory at Dover College, kindly arranged by courtesy of Mr. Jack Ind, the Headmaster.

Our guests for the evening included our local M.P. Mr. David Shaw, the Town Mayor Mr. Bill Newman, Mr. Ind and their respective ladies, and together with 90 other members enjoyed a delightful cold buffet, the size and range of which must surely have catered for all tastes and appetites.

After this splendid meal we were able to enjoy the musical entertainment provided by Michael Foad and a number of members of the Dover Choral Society. His team were elegantly attired in Victorian dress and we were treated to a wide range of well-loved Music Hall favourites, and as is usual on such occasions there was considerable audience participation. Whilst the gentlemen in the audience were captivated by the charm and elegance of those ladies of the chorus who visited their tables, first prize for the most outstanding twinkle undoubtedly went to Ken Berry's wife Delys.

Whilst a lot of teamwork went into the organising of this highly successful event, I would like to make special mention of the efforts of our Social Secretary Lyn Clackett who amongst other things organised the provision of wines and the raffle and negotiated the catering arrangements.



John Gerrard Vice-Chairman

A member of the choral group.





Delysia

Michael

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## THE TURRET A LITTLE HISTORY

Jim Butler spoke with enthusiasm and specialist knowledge when he addressed our party in the Admiralty Pier Fort, on the occasion of our visit to the Western Docks, last September. ( Reported by Jeremy Cope in our 4th Newsletter. ) We could have listened to Jim for much longer than time allowed. However, out of the considerable bibliography available on the " Turret " ( as it has long been called by Doverians ) he has given us a summary of its history by David Burridge. This is itself too long to reprint here in full but the following basic facts will, I hope, cast further light on what our party was able to see. ( Some parts of the interior of the Turret are still unsafe. )

Construction of the fort began in January 1872 and the two independently-mounted 16-inch 80-ton breech-loading guns were finally installed in the completed Turret in 1882. From

then on, until the Turret was superceded, before the First World War, by the development of longer-range weapons, it was being constantly improved. Its story is almost the history of the progress of technology.

1883 -85. The Turret was still at the pierhead, not half way along the pier as it is now, and was given the rounded corners which are still visible.

Electric lighting, powered by a dynamo, driven by its own steam engine, was also installed by 1885, replacing gas lamps. There were four additional steam engines used in the operation of the Turret. One ran the guns in and out, elevating and depressing them and worked the ammunition lift and the rammer. The main engine rotated the Turret. An auxiliary engine and a donkey engine supplied the boilers and drove the pump for the " Hydro Pneumatic accumulators " which were used for hosing out the guns.

Compressed air was " applied as a substitute for steam " to the Turret's engines as early as 1886. The compressed air was supplied through iron pipes from compressors belonging to the then Channel Tunnel works, two miles distant. A lift for raising the 112- pound shells was installed and " an overhead traveller " , a gantry with a travelling crane, to transfer them.

There was constant rearrangement-improvement of the accomodation and the ammunition storage. For the present all that we, the public, are able to see is the guns themselves and part of their inclined slides, which used to let them descend until their muzzles protruded from the gun ports, ready for firing. But someone with the informed historic eye of Jim Butler can point out what remains of the items listed above - or the site of them if they are gone.

I hope that these brief notes may recall the interest and pleasure of that September visit to those who were there and arouse the interest of those who may be able to visit the Turret in the future. One thing is quite clear : the Admiralty Pier Fort is a site of the greatest historic interest and if , one day, it could be sufficiently restored for safe public visiting, as Jeremy Cope wrote : " The tourists would flock to see it. "

*Leo Wright Secretary*

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## THE FIRST BOMB

Earlier this year I contributed to the Dover Society Newsletter a review of "DOVER IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS" compiled by Mark P. Smith. One of the photographs in the book intrigued me particularly. It was a picture of a fragment of a German bomb mounted on a wooden stand with an engraved plate on the base recording that it was a piece of the first hostile bomb dropped on British soil. The bomb had been dropped at 10.45 a.m. on Christmas Eve 1914.

The text of the book tells the reader ". . . Lieut. von Prodzynsk dropped the bomb from his Taube aircraft. It fell in Mr. Terson's garden in Leyburne Road breaking a number of windows and blowing a man, who was cutting holly, out of a tree. Fortunately no one was killed. Members of the Anti Aircraft Corps collected the fragments and presented the mounted objects to the King." (In fact only one piece was mounted and presented.)

It prompted me to ask myself two questions: Where exactly did the bomb fall? Should this spot not be marked in some way? It was after all a milestone in the history of war, a milestone of considerable significance when one has in mind the appalling destruction of life and property caused by aerial bombardment since then.

The incident is described in Bavington Jones' book "DOVER AND THE WAR" as follows ". . . There were prizes offered in Germany for the first German airman to bomb Dover, and a well-known German flyer, a designer of some of the most effective German aeroplanes, who had been in England earlier in the year, named Rumpler, won it." (There seems to be a difference of opinion about the name of the pilot.) The description continues ". . . Shortly before eleven o'clock on December 24th, an aeroplane of the shape of the German Taube machines, was seen flying down the valley, and it dropped a bomb which burst in the kitchen garden of Mr. T. A. Terson, at the end of Leyburne Road. The bomb was probably meant for the Castle, and where it burst it did no damage beyond breaking adjoining windows and throwing a gardener, named Banks, who was working at St. James' Rectory, out of a tree to the ground slightly injuring him. Only this one bomb was dropped, and the aeroplane at once flew back in the direction of the Flanders coast."

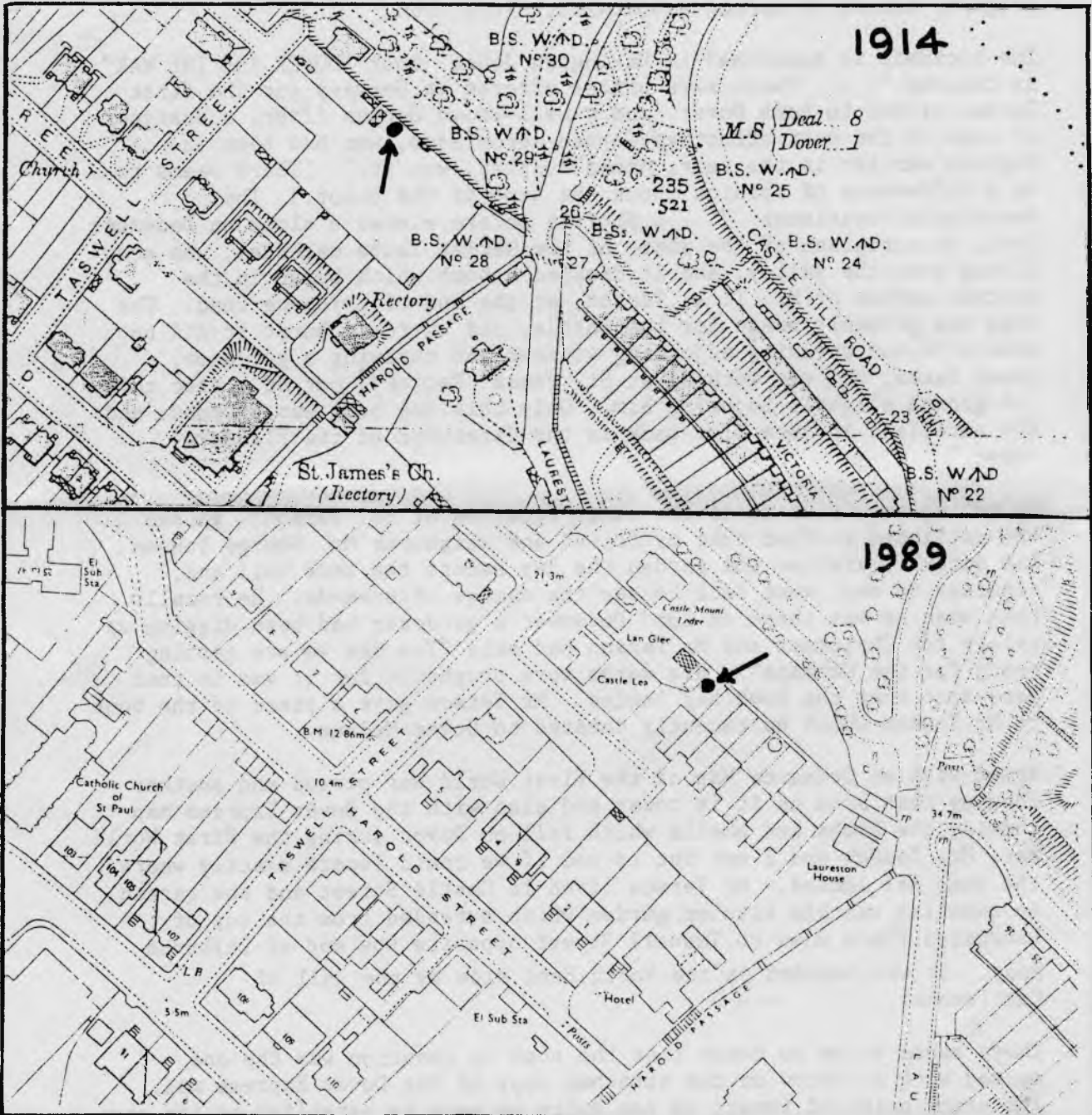
On making enquiries as to the exact location of Mr. Terson's garden I was delighted to find that my friend and neighbour Mr. George Youden had actually visited the garden the day before the bomb fell and, needless to say, went back to see the damage afterwards. He recalls that when he was there on 23rd December a gardener had been digging up celery for Christmas and Mr Terson had said "You see we are getting ready for the Germans". His words were prophetic for it was in that very spot that the bomb had landed. Mr Terson gave a piece of the bomb to Mr Youden which he recently donated to Dover Museum.

Armed with an Ordnance Map of the First World War period and another showing that area as it is today and also with the Dover Express map showing the bombs and shells which fell on Dover during the First World War, Mr. Youden and I set out to see if we could locate exactly where the bomb had landed. Mr Terson lived in Castle Street and the garden in question was his kitchen garden which extended from the top of Laureston Place down to Taswell Street opposite the end of Leyburne Road. It was bounded on the North East side by the wall of Castlemount.

There seems to be no doubt that the bomb in question was the one marked with an arrow on the attached copy of the Dover Express map. The exact point of impact is not quite so easy to establish as the area changed considerably when Taswell Close was developed a few years ago.

As closely as I can assess the location the bomb landed in what is now the garden of No 1 Taswell Close.

The gardener, Banks, who was blown out of the tree was Mr James Alfred Banks the elder brother of Mr Ted Banks who is well known to many Dovorians. He was himself a gardener and for many years had the nursery off Salisbury Road. He retired only recently and when I spoke to him he recalled well the historic incident in which his brother was unwittingly involved. He told me that his brother had been gathering greenery for decorating the church when he heard the aeroplane approaching. He apparently climbed higher up the tree to get a sight of the plane but he was unable to see it. He was climbing down again when the bomb landed and blew him to the ground. Happily, he landed on a pile of greenery which he had already assembled under the tree and suffered no injury.



Peter Johnson Vice President

# EAU DEAR DOVER

Dover citizens have, almost overnight, become acutely aware of the absence rather than the presence of a water supply. Still in January the ban on hosepipes persists and our trains remain unwashed, as well as our cars.

While national attention to water supplies has been focussed on the newly privatised water companies, little has been said or written about the old statutory companies of which the Folkestone and District Company is one.

We are now told that levels in our legendary deep and inexhaustible aquifers in the chalk are at a record low. There is some criticism of the quality of our water; some even say it is undrinkable and bottled water sales are soaring. There are headlines of a "drought crisis". Finally we learn that the large French company Compagnie Générale des Eaux is sufficiently interested in our assets to buy shares in our water. This is the company which supplies Paris with water and is active in cleaning the city. Perhaps they will contribute their know-how?

It is perhaps the moment to look back to see how our water supply system developed. It began in Folkestone in 1848 when the Folkestone Water Company was founded, and in Dover, in 1855 with the setting up of the Borough of Dover Water Supply. It was not until 1970 that the two were amalgamated, primarily to ensure a substantial injection of capital "in order to improve supplies." In effect the Dover company was sold to Folkestone for £210,000 and the Dover water rate went up.

In the seventies, in order to maintain adequate supplies of water, it was proposed to build a large reservoir at Broad Oak valley, near Canterbury. This scheme was defeated by public opinion. With water levels continuing to fall (Remember the headline? Washing machines threaten our water supply?) the project has been revived and perhaps made more ecologically palatable by including a nature reserve and leisure facilities. Which comes first? Ecology or cleanliness?

The extract below is from the "Account of Dover's water supply" in the Handbook on Dover prepared for the British Association in 1899. One hopes that the British Association members, meeting in Dover, enjoyed taking the waters. Have we progressed in the 91 years since? How can you progress on perfection?

## BOROUGH OF DOVER WATER SUPPLY

In addition, the inhabitants enjoy that inestimable boon, a supply of water, derived from works belonging to the ratepayers, constant in supply and constant in its purity. The water is procured from deep wells in the chalk, an absolutely unexceptionable source of supply, and is as pure to-day as it was years ago, when analysed by that well-known chemist, the late Dr. Letheby, who reported it to be remarkably bright and clear, free from all traces of organic matter, and well suited for domestic purposes."

The analysis of the water is as follows:—

Color	...	...	...	...	Pale blue.
Appearance	...	...	...	...	Very clear.
Smell	...	..	...	...	None.
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	1.54.
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates	...	...	...	...	Absent.
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.33
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	None.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0008.
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins.	...	...	...	...	Trace only.
..	..	..	..	..	4 hours ...
..	..	..	..	..	0.022
Hardness before boiling (total)	...	...	...	...	17.3
..	..	..	..	..	after .. (permanent)
..	..	..	..	..	1.8.
Total Solid matter	...	...	...	...	22.40
Microscopical Examination of deposit	...	...	...	...	Very slight and unimportant.

I hope that members have put in their new diaries Saturday 29 September "WATER AND WINE", when the Dover Society will visit the Waterworks near Wingham, as well as a vineyard.

*Marjory Wright*



## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

13 November 1989

Readers of the "Sunday Telegraph" may have noticed in Mandrake's column a few weeks ago his dissatisfaction upon arriving in Dover from Europe. Describing an excellent French meal he enjoyed in Boulogne (where else?) he regrets the fact that driving along Snargate Street he saw nothing but fish and chip shops. In fact there is only one fish and chip shop in Snargate Street, albeit several greasy spoons. Had he bothered (and it seems he didn't) to turn back into Dover he would have come across several Indian, Italian and other restaurants of a high standard. In Dover High Street there is an excellent restaurant and several reputable Chinese restaurants. We now have a French restaurant as such (the first as far as I am aware) but with a mere twenty odd miles separating us from France does it matter? Vive la différence, Mandrake! After all we would not expect to find a British fish and chip shop in France. Perhaps he and Sir Clement Freud could have a tefe-à-tête on this subject. They would realise that tourism in Dover is improving all the time and he and Sir Clement Freud might be agreeably surprised. Mandrake invited comments and views from Dover residents upon this subject. Has anyone had a reply from him?

Marjorie Wiggins  
Dover resident for 10 years

# TREE WARDENS

If you have a love of trees and a little spare time then the County Council would like to hear from you.

Kent County Council is anxious to recruit still more volunteers to become tree wardens in their civil parish. This scheme is supported by the 'Replant the Garden of England' Trust Fund set up in the wake of the October 1987 storm.

Councillor Brenda Trench, Chairman of the County Council's Environment Subcommittee, said: "Parish tree wardens with their local knowledge have a vital role to play but the work isn't excessively time consuming.

"A little spare time, enthusiasm and a love of trees are the main requirements. Training courses are available.

I do hope more people will offer their services so that before long every parish in the county will have its own warden."

Anyone interested should contact either their Parish Council or Nick Brown on 0622 (Maidstone) 671411 ext 6400.

## TREE PLANTING GRANTS

Grants of 30% for hedgerows, 40 or 50% for trees are available for approved schemes of over £200. Preference will be given to the planting of native species. All must be visible to the public when full grown.

For further details and an application form contact:

TONY CHILD, STORM RECOVERY ADVISER,  
LAND AND COUNTRYSIDE  
LAND AND PROPERTY, KENT COUNTY COUNCIL,  
SPRINGFIELD, MAIDSTONE,



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# White Cliffs Countyside Project

The White Cliffs Project has been formed to help care for the countryside around Dover and Folkestone, and make it more accessible to people. The local authorities have joined in partnership with the Countryside Commission, Nature Conservancy Council, Kent Trust for Nature Conservation and Eurotunnel, with the aim of managing the chalk grasslands to benefit wildlife and provide a place for quiet enjoyment by local people and visitors alike. We hope to improve footpaths to provide a clearly way-marked network, including circular walks and guided walks. The project is part of a larger programme of environmental improvements to attract tourists and new industry to Dover.

We will initially concentrate efforts on Dover's Western Heights. We will be gradually reintroducing grazing, using a rare breed of cattle, the Dexter. This will entail fencing areas of the Western Heights, but it is emphasised that everyone will still be welcome to wander. Kissing gates will be installed at all existing entrances. All we ask is that dogs are controlled when livestock are present. Some simple improvements to footpaths and waymarking will make for safe and pleasant walking. We intend to provide leaflets and interpretation boards to explain about the historical wildlife and geological attractions of the area.

You can help us protect the local countryside. We need local people to watch over areas like the Western Heights to discourage vandalism, flytipping and dogs attacking livestock. We need volunteers to help with practical conservation work. We need local experts to lead guided walks, and people interested in natural history to survey and monitor the effects of management on wildlife.

If you would like to know more about the White Cliffs Project, or would like to help, please contact Kirk Alexander at 6 Cambridge Terrace, Dover (Telephone 241806).



## ARTSWORK 1990

The IFS/British Telecom Artswork scheme is partly funding a photographic project in Dover this term. Financial support is also coming from South East Arts and Kent County Library.

Artswork aims to encourage new initiatives and opportunities in the arts for young people, and helps them to present their work to a wider audience and to contribute to the life of the community.

The Dover project will be led by teachers, Ray Wilkinson from St. Edmunds R.C. High School and Tony Goodwin from Astor High. The aim is to record Dover as it is now through the eyes of its teenagers who will be encouraged to input their own ideas and choose their own subjects and approaches. The artistic quality of the photographs is very important to the two project leaders and it is intended that the work will eventually form a travelling exhibition, which it is hoped, will be shown at a meeting of the Dover Society, amongst other venues.

A selection of the photographs will be housed permanently in the local history collection at Dover Library.

The schools and the Library Service are very excited about this project which will involve a professional photographer to work alongside the teachers and pupils to enable a new look to be taken at the town. The young people will be asked to make their own contacts in the community and may be approaching Dover Society members for help and information.

*Maggi Waite Committee Member*



# Primavera 21 April 1990

Music lovers among our members who read , in Newsletter No. 5, the appreciation of last summer's Primavera concert and noted that we were planning to bring Primavera to Dover , will be delighted to hear that we are able to do so.

Primavera rightly describe themselves as " South East England's resident professional orchestra , based in Kent " and aspire to present concerts of artistic excellence to an international standard." Among their patrons are such names as Sir Colin Davis, Sir Charles Groves , Sir John Pritchard and Antony Hopkins. In 1989 they gave 35 concerts in London , the South East and abroad.

The programme to be given , by a fourteen-piece orchestra , in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu on Saturday 21 April 1990 is the following :

HANDEL Concerto Grosso in B minor Op.6 No.12  
HAYDN Cello Concerto in D  
INTERVAL  
MENDELSSOHN Sinfonia No 12  
BARTOK Divertimento

It is not the intention to make a profit on this occasion but the Society needs sponsorship in order to ensure financial success. We already have some sponsorship. If you are willing to help sponsor the concert - even with a small sum - please use the enclosed form to send a donation , which will be most gratefully received.

PRIORITY BOOKING is available for members of The Society and their guests. Please fill in and send the form on page 31, with your cheque, as soon as possible. Tickets are £5 and £6.50. Booking for the public will be available at the DOVER TOURIST OFFICE, FORWOODS of Canterbury and DOVER TOWN HALL.

Leo Wright Secretary

'Primavera' (meaning 'Spring' in Italian) indicates the vigour and freshness of this orchestra. The word also inevitably reminds me of 'La Primavera', the beautiful, poetic painting by the Renaissance painter Botticelli which is in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence. Ed.

LETTERS to the Editor are welcome. Publication does not necessarily imply agreement with the writers' views.

## THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE – 2(2)

A. F. (Budge) Adams

In Castle Street in my childhood and early teens there were, on the NW side of the street, a dentist, a doctor, three firms of solicitors, two builders, an estate agent, a dairy, the Registrar of Births and Deaths for the St. James sub-district, a cycle and perambulator dealer, a confectioner's shop, and a corn and seed merchant. At the southern corner of Stembrook were the original offices of Elwin & Lambert, solicitors who doubled as the legal and administrative side of the almost embryonic Dover Rural District Council. Next a small opening and a flight of steps led to a row of cottages at right-angles to the street and then there was a German taxidermist named Hesse, a hairdresser, a photographer and a small cul-de-sac, Shakespeare Place, in which were just two houses and a single storey building that, in 1909 when I was born, and for some time later, was the long established printing works of Mr "Snatcher" Smeeth. On the corner with Shakespeare Place was the well-used back entrance to the Burlington Inn, the main frontage being in Church Street. The premises of G. W. Chandler, plumber, sign-writer and decorator were next and when the business failed, in the early 30's, the whole family decamped to Lydden Spout where for five or six years they lived in a tent on the foreshore. Then came Florence Igglesden's most exclusive milliners establishment, a very small tobacconists shop and finally and most well-known of all, the bearded Mr. Hubbard's Umbrella Shop, where now is the wide pavement in front of the Trustee Savings Bank, and, incidentally, the last local building to be destroyed by enemy action.

In the early years of this century on much of the site of the recently vacated B. & Q. store was Brace's Flour Mill, taller than anything in Castle Street and covered with white-painted horizontal lapboarding. The remains of the brickwork supporting the bearings of the mill's water-wheel may be seen today in the river at the side of B. & Q.

No. 27, now occupied by Johnson, Dudley Marsh, the architects, was the home and the offices of the Terson family, the founders of the present-day house and estate agents who are now in No. 29 and part of No. 27. The stocky figure of Thomas Achee Terson, irreverently known to the children of the area, for very obvious reasons, as "Red-faced Terson", daily could be seen, bowler hatted, with two inches of stiff white cuffs and a high white collar prominent against a formal dark suit, striding purposefully down the street, intent on a deal perhaps, and we children were in awe of him. The house, "Riverside," is large and double-fronted and from my childhood until the 1950's was entirely covered by a striking red-leaved creeper obliterating all and every architectural feature. At leaf fall in the autumn the street was carpeted with deep purple-red leaves and yet the building, and another diagonally eastward across the road, No. 16, still remained cloaked, though perhaps a little more thinly, in the brilliant creeper.

I have a distinct memory, as quite a small child, of the spreading of straw between Nos. 17 and 33

approximately, to cushion the sound of traffic passing the house of someone who was extremely ill, though I cannot recall for whose comfort this was done.

No. 37, exactly opposite Russell Street, was the base from which, in my childhood and early teens I explored the "Golden Triangle" that I am attempting to describe. Even in the dark, or blind-folded (part of a game we used to play), I would know where I was by the sound of my footfall on the many kinds of pavement or, do I imagine it?, from the ambient noises of particular streets or lanes. The smells from the brewery, the malshouses, the corn chandlers' and coal merchants' stores, the stables, the hotel kitchens, the public houses, the sweet-sour nostalgic smell of a water-bound road sprayed in the summer from a water-cart to lay the dust and, yes, the smell of the "gents" in Woolcomber Street and behind the Sea Baths, all played their part and helped to make me, and my peers, know and feel that we were an integral part, not only of the life, but of the actual sticks and stones of that most interesting part of the town in which we grew up.

On the south-east side of the street at the corner with Maison Dieu Road on the site now occupied by M.F.I. were two interesting establishments, Webber & Son, watchmakers and gunsmiths (the son, John, was a member of the Bisley 100) and the piano and musical instrument warehouse of Mr Robb, where, almost always, a grand piano dominated the front showroom. The architects, Fry & Miller and later Knocker, Elwin & Lambert, solicitors, were in the double fronted house now occupied by the Solitaire computer firm and at that time covered with the same type of red-leaved creeper as was the Terson house nearly opposite. Next, at No. 18, was the Castle Creamery and at No. 20, the offices of the Castle Concrete Co., founded by a Capt. Noble who lived in Victoria Park and which produced concrete and breeze building blocks on part of the tanyard site now occupied by the B. & Q. store and Pencester Court. From this firm grew the builders' merchants business operated in Tower Hamlets at the foot of the path leading to Priory Hill and later to become a constituent part of the firm of Castle Harris.

A little lower down, at No. 28 Mrs Skinner operated Pettit's Commercial College, and most of the town's aspiring shorthand-typists or secretaries were her pupils, my sister amongst them. Mrs Skinner's rather eccentric husband bought, sold and repaired typewriters, but his pride and joy was a large open tourer motor car to which he had fixed, at the four corners, poles almost a couple of metres high and which supported a wide green canvas sheet stretched tightly across them. I was reminded of Mr Skinner's car when later, in India, I was to see basically similar but much more ornate canopies covering the seating arrangements for native princes riding in ceremonial procession on elephants. The Skinners in and about 1914, were part of the compulsive migration from Snargate Street that finally stripped all glamour from the town's erstwhile main street.

(cont)

In Golden Triangle 2(1) para 3, for "17th" read "18th" and in para 5 for "1914" read "1936". My apologies.



above: Castle Street in 1904, showing part of Stembrook Mill on the site of the recently vacated B & Q warehouse, Stembrook Cottage and, at extreme left, Mr Penn's furniture shop.

left: A reconstruction from memory of a placard hung behind the glass in the front door of Mr Hubbard's shop c1920.

**KENT**  
FEDERATION of  
Amenity Societies

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
& SPRING CONFERENCE  
St Mary's Parish Centre, Cannon St., Dover  
SATURDAY 5 MAY  
From Roman Occupation to Channel Tunnel  
(The past and future of Kent)

10.00 COFFEE

10.40 Welcome by The Dover (Host) Society

10.45 AGM; separate agenda to be distributed

11.45 DOVER IN THE FOREFRONT; AN ARCHEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Barry Cunliffe, Oxford University Professor of European Archaeology and Adviser, Dover District Council Archaeology Board

13.00 LUNCH

13.45 STRATEGY FOR KENTISH ARCHEOLOGY

Dr John Williams, newly appointed Archeologist to Kent County Council

14.30 CHANNEL TUNNEL AND RAIL LINK

Brian Briscoe, County Planning Officer

15.45 Tea and disperse; members of the Dover Society will be pleased to guide interested parties to e.g Dover Castle, Painted House, Town Gaol, Channel Tunnel site at Aycliff.

APPLICATION SLIP IS ON PAGE 31 . LUNCH AVAILABLE AT £1.50

# RED CLIFFS COUNTRY

From the South Rim of the Canyon de Chelly we could see the apparently tiny White House Ruin, which once had about eighty rooms, far down the immense vertical slab of red sandstone cliff of the north side. From a viewpoint further east we looked down on the astonishing 800' high monolith of Spider Rock rising from the floor of the canyon and sacred to the Navajo people.



SPIDER ROCK

It is a long way from the white chalk cliffs and rolling downs of our area with its gentle, pearly light. Last September I was so fortunate as to visit the South-West of the U.S.A. with its amazingly varied landscapes and people, its warm, dry climate and strong, clear light.

Here we see the effects of coastal erosion; in southern Utah erosion takes very different forms and is, in part, the result of the extreme dryness. Bryce Canyon is named after Ebenezer Bryce a Mormon cattle-rancher<sup>who</sup> took the view that "it's a helluva place to lose a cow!" He had a point. The red, pink, orange, vermillion, cream, lavender rock appears sculpted into strange and varied shapes - ridges, arches, cliffs and thousand upon thousand of pinnacles or 'hoodoos'. Like much of the S.W. this area is over 6000 feet and the canyon descends to 700 feet below the rim. Walking up and down through this wonderland was a remarkable experience, especially the ascent through a great ravine which has two 750-year-old Douglas firs at its lower end. As always in the States, the trails are superbly done.



BRYCE CANYON

Here we take our two thousand or so years of history almost for granted. There it can sometimes have a different meaning as in the 'historic' El Rancho Hotel in Gallup, New Mexico. This was built in 1937 by the brother of D.W. Griffith (the great movie-maker). Rooms were named after film-stars who used it as a base while filming in the locality; ours was 'James Cagney' which may have the original air-conditioning in the shape of a fan attached, to the chandelier, and the original plumbing to judge by its gurgles. In the entrance lobby with its curving rustic staircases, draped with Navajo rugs, are internally-lit steer-horns and life-size models of an Indian brave and his squaw propped on a sofa. The whole effect is rather kitsch.

However, there are some remarkable ancient ruins. All over the S.W. are the remains of buildings of the Anasazi ('old ones' or 'old enemies' in Navajo) which, like the White House Ruin, were abandoned about

1300 A.D. for reasons which can only be guessed at. One of the most impressive is Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde in Colorado. Under a great overhang of rock, part-way down a cliff, are the substantial remains of a stone-built complex which had over two hundred rooms & up to four storeys.

The pueblos (villages) of the native Americans, with their flat-roofed adobe houses the colour of terracotta, are very different from ours. One of the most remarkable is Ácoma perched on top of its 365 ft high mesa. From choice the few members of the tribe who live there have no electricity or mains water. As we walked along the dusty streets with our guide people came out of their houses to offer their distinctive pottery for sale. The views over the high, arid plateau are marvellous. We could see Enchanted Mesa inhabited until, so the story goes, a great storm washed away the only means of access while the people were working in the fields below. Only an old woman and a child were left, stranded, and they leapt to their deaths. We clambered down an ancient path from Ácoma with its well-placed and essential foot and hand-holds.



ENCHANTED MESA FROM ÁCOMA

A Hopi village called Walpi was fascinating. Unfortunately, though understandably, we were not allowed to take photos or sketch, even for a fee. In the adjacent village two women invited us in to watch them painting pottery with a long, thin leaf. In Taos Pueblo in New Mexico we saw men and women renewing their adobe (sundried brick) walls with liquid clay.

The mission churches of the Spanish are built in adobe. San Francisco d'Asis is famous for its sculptural, asymmetrical shape, much painted by artists, including Georgia O'Keeffe. The basic plan: nave, chancel with altar at the east end and, occasionally, transepts, is about the only resemblance to our Norman, Gothic and 19th century churches.



CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO D'ASIS, TAOS.

At its widest the Grand Canyon is 15 miles across, about two-thirds of the distance between Dover and Cap Gris Nez, and a mile deep. Its rocks are worn into an extraordinary variety of shapes by erosion & the Colorado.

Mexican food seems to make up a large part of the local cuisine. I was unadventurous there but did try blue Hopi pancakes. 'Short stack', two, and 'long stack', three pancakes were, along with English muffins, always on breakfast menus. I didn't try another American speciality, peanut butter and jelly (jam). We much enjoyed the rustic restaurant of Cliff Dwellers Lodge, at the foot of the well-named Vermillion Cliffs, with its offer of 'Fine Food Fixin's'.

Only recently have I realised that the mournful, evocative sound of the trains on the Santa Fe Railroad reminds me, a little, of the melancholy hooting of the fog-horn in Dover Harbour. But they evoke different sensations.

I am grateful to Phyllis Dobbins for firing my enthusiasm to visit the American South West. It made a marvellous contrast to White Cliffs Country.

Philomena Kennedy

# PROGRAMME for 1990

JANUARY 17, Wednesday, 7.30 p.m. Harbour Board Hall  
DOVER HARBOUR

Illustrated talk by John Gerrard  
Members only.

FEBRUARY 16, Friday, 7.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Centre  
WINE AND WISDOM

Fund-raising Quizzes and Refreshments  
Members and Guests.

(see insert about February and March meetings)

MARCH 10, Saturday

VISIT TO CRABBLE MILL

Presentation of Award and Conducted Tour  
Members only.

APRIL 9, Monday, 7.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Centre, Cannon Street  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SIR DONALD MURRAY ON 'DIPLOMATIC BAG AND BAGGAGE'  
Open Meeting

APRIL 21, Saturday, 7.00 p.m. Dover Town Hall  
CONCERT BY PRIMAVERA

Priority Booking for Members  
Open to All.

MAY 5, Saturday, 10.30 a.m. St. Mary's Parish Centre  
KENT FEDERATION OF AMENITY SOCIETIES CONFERENCE  
Speakers on Archaeology, the Channel Tunnel and Rail Link  
Barry Cunliffe, John Williams and Brian Briscoe  
Ploughman's Lunch - £1.50  
Members Only.

JUNE - Details to be announced later

DOVER CASTLE UNDERGROUND WORKS

Guided tour

Members only.

SEPTEMBER 29, Saturday - Details later

WATER AND WINE

Coach trip to Waterworks and Vineyard

Members only.

OCTOBER 15, Monday, 7.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Centre  
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Open meeting.

NOVEMBER 19, Monday, 7.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Centre  
MEMBERS' MEETING

DECEMBER (date to be arranged), Dover College Refectory  
CHRISTMAS FEAST  
Members and Guests.

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

It has become obvious that this project, outlined in Newsletter No 4 - May 1989, cannot be done properly without professional guidance and support. This is not available at present but we hope that the project can be developed in 1991 or 1992.

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### WALK AROUND DOVER by Philomena Kennedy.

If you have, or obtain, a copy please alter the date in paragraph 2, page 19, from 1919 to 1910. My apologies.

Published by Dover Harbour Board at £1.85, it is available at some book shops and newsagents locally, the Tourist Information Centres & Dover Museum.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF

THE DOVER SOCIETY

NAME (Please Print)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .....

ADDRESS (Please Print) .....

.....

POST CODE ..... TELEPHONE .....

I agree to abide by the Constitution of The Dover Society.

Signed ..... Dated .....

(A copy of the Constitution may be read in the Reference Department of Dover Public Library. It is closely based on the Model Constitution published by the Civic Trust).

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY - tick as appropriate:

One year: £2.50

Five years: £10

Please make cheques payable to The Dover Society and send to the Membership Secretary: Ken Berry, 30 Waterloo Mansions, Waterloo Crescent, Dover CT17 9BT

-----

It would help us in our planning if you could fill in some or all of this section.

Special Interests: .....

.....

Do you belong to other relevant organisations?: .....

.....

Can you offer any expert knowledge or experience?:

.....

Further copies of this form are available from the Membership Secretary.

Members receive three Newsletters a year. There are usually ten events during the year— talks, tours, visits, a Members' Meeting, a Christmas Feast etc.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

Please cut along this line

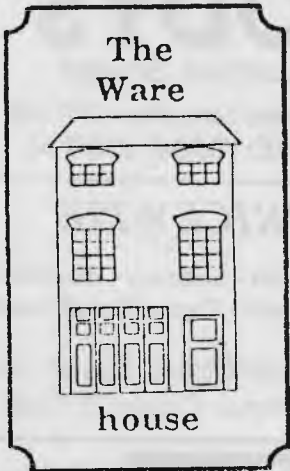
The Dover Society was founded in 1988.

The objectives of The Dover Society are:

- 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.

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