

The  
Dover  
Society

# Newsletter

No 8

September 1990



Registered with the Civic Trust  
Affiliated to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies  
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# THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED in 1988

## PRESIDENT:

The Rt. Hon. The Countess of Guilford

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The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rees, Mr Jonathan Sloggett, Mr Terry Sutton.

## THE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Jack Woolford,

1066 Green Lane, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3AR Tel: 0304 822871

VICE-CHAIRMAN: John Gerrard,

77 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 0304 206579

SECRETARY: Leo Wright,

"Beechwood," Green Lane, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3AR Tel: 0304 823048

TREASURER: Ken Berry

30 Waterloo Mansions, Waterloo Cres. Dover CT17 9BT Tel: 0304 214963

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Merrill Lilley,

5 East Cliff, Dover CT16 1LX Tel: 0304 205254

SOCIAL SECRETARY: Lin Clackett,

The Warehouse, 29 Queen's Gdns., Dover Tel: (daytime) 0304 242006

PRESS SECRETARY: Sybil Standing,

16 Harold Street, Dover, CT16 1SA Tel: 0304 210715

CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE: Adrian Galley,

3 Wellington Court, Dover Road, Walmer, Deal. CT14 7JP Tel: 0304 368348

CHAIRMAN OF PROJECTS COMMITTEE: John Owen,

83 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 0304 202207

EDITOR: Philomena Kennedy,

1 Roman Way, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, Dover CT15 6AH Tel: 0304 852042

Jeremy Cope, Phyllis Dobbins, Peter Johnson, Ken Wraight,  
Norman Willis, Mike McFarnell (Advisory Member)

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*Front Cover:* The East Mole at Dunkirk. Approximately two-thirds of those evacuated were taken from this mole. At great risk Destroyers lay alongside.  
*Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth*

# 2 EDITORIAL

Since the foundation of the Society in 1988 the NEWSLETTER has been printed by Dover Harbour Board. We are greatly indebted to Mr Jonathan Sloggett, the General Manager, and to his staff, especially Mr Jeremy Divito in the Printing Department, for their generous help in its production and also for their continuing assistance in other matters.

This NEWSLETTER is the first to be printed by A. R. Adams & Sons Ltd. The Committee is very grateful indeed to Mr A. F. (Budge) Adams for his time and invaluable skill in its production. We hope you like the new format and are pleased to invite you to write to give your reactions to the Editor .

Through the K.F.A.S. we keep in contact with the KENT ACTION GROUP on the CHANNEL TUNNEL and with the KENT RAIL ACTION GROUP on the TUNNEL RAIL LINK.

For GREENFORUM, a new co-ordinating body for environmental protection, our Chairman is to chair a public meeting in the Quarterdeck, Deal, on the subject of 'Deal with Sewage' on Wednesday 5th September at 7.45. We are also taking the issue of Dover's SEWAGE on to our own agenda.

Members of 'CALAIS ACCEUIL,' which welcomes and guides visitors around Calais, are visiting Dover on Thursday, 4th October and we have undertaken to provide guides to escort them from the Eastern Docks to the Castle. If you speak French and would like to help please contact Leo Wright on 823048.

We hope to have good news of our efforts to persuade Dover District Council and others to offer FREE ENTRANCE (or reduced charges) for DOVORIANS to local tourist attractions, including the new Dover Museum (which should, perhaps, be free to all) and the Heritage Centre.

The WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRY TOURISM ASSOCIATION has invited us to help judge Shop Fronts for their appeal and Public Houses for their welcomes. Any volunteers?

We are pleased we have been able to support the ST. MARGARET'S BAY TRUST in their successful efforts to have part of St. Margaret's Bay designated as a Conservation Area,

Our Secretary, Leo Wright, is co-ordinating arrangements for another CONCERT by PRIMAVERA which *will* be held in the Stone Hall on Saturday 20th April, 1991. Eurotunnel will *not* be involved this time.

Our Chairman has now completed our case against the Home Office for further spoiling the skyline of the WESTERN HEIGHTS and the Ombudsman will soon give his verdict.

Sir Clifford Jarrett, Dover-born former Chairman of Dover Harbour Board, will speak on 'A Dovorian Remembers' at our AWARDS MEETING on Monday, 15th October in St Mary's Parish Centre. Award-winners will be asked to give brief presentations at this meeting.

Please read the details of WINE AND WATERWORKS and fill in the application form *as soon as possible* if you would like to join the trip.

We hope you will show the NEWSLETTER to friends and relatives who are not members.

PHILOMENA KENNEDY



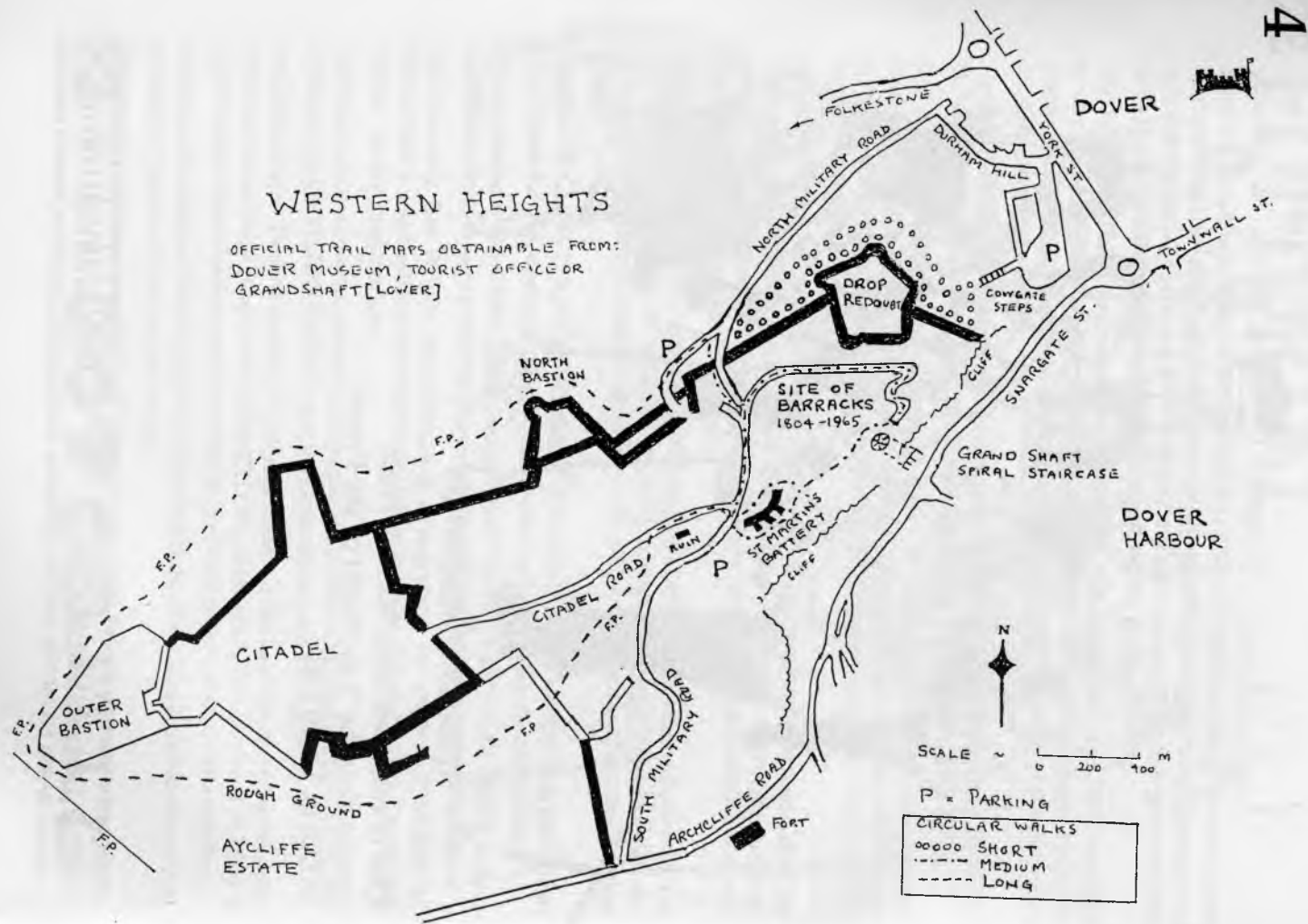
One of our members, Michael Foad,  
conducting the 'Last Night of the Proms'  
at Dover Town Hall



DESIGN BASED ON MOTIFS ON THE VICTORIAN PAINTED CEILING OF THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR

# WESTERN HEIGHTS

OFFICIAL TRAIL MAPS OBTAINABLE FROM:  
DOVER MUSEUM, TOURIST OFFICE OR  
GRANDSHAFT [LOWER]



# Wardens Walk the Western Heights

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## NEW AREAS FOR ALL TO EXPLORE AND ENJOY

A more pleasant Saturday morning would be difficult to imagine. It was 14th July in high summer at Dover, the skies were blue, the sun shining and a gentle breeze kept us cool as our small party of a dozen or so wended its way over the Western Heights.

At the invitation of Mrs Melanie Wrigley, one of the full-time officers of the White Cliffs Country Project, we had come together to share our interest in the welfare of the area.

Also present were those who have a special interest in birds, trees, butterflies, wild flowers and the like. Much formal but informed discussion took place concerning the sometimes conflicting interests of the various species. Inevitably when man changes the landscape or its use, there is a knock-on effect and we discussed how best to reconcile matters to the best advantage.

The Western Heights is largely chalk grassland in its natural state and much has been done by way of restoration by removing the scrub and introducing grazing and Mrs Wrigley stressed the importance of getting the balance right.

Perhaps some hedges could be planted in selected areas to maintain the habitat of birds as a substitute for cleared brushwood? Can some grasses be left rough for the insect life? What of the enhancement of the geological and architectural features of the fortress by judicious removal of trees? What about rotational grazing? These were some of the questions asked as we continued our walk.

To those whose knowledge of the Western Heights dates back a while, the changes have certainly resulted in a general tidying up, to become what is now an attractive and readily accessible public amenity which well merits a visit.

We found that clearance work and the provision of steps, gates and fencing have all helped bring about established pathways and circular trails, which makes for comparatively easy strolls (with or without dogs) but watch the steps! Pause awhile frequently; all the better to absorb the quite exceptional panorama of this stretch of coastline.

Many more people are beginning to discover this great fortress, which is one of the last to be built in Britain, and are enjoying it for free. A good view of the Drop Redoubt is now possible. The area, having short, medium and long circular walks is ideal for family picnics and outings. The Dexter cattle are harmless, fascinating to watch but need to be left to themselves.

Historical information panels which we found at intervals on our way are new this year. Provided by Dover Museum, they are an effective and useful addition.

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What of vandalism? To be fair there is little evidence of this and it was generally felt that the more people are on the ground in the evenings and at weekends would help considerably. An exploratory visit is recommended before it becomes too crowded!

The White Cliffs Countryside Project and its officers want our help in a unique voluntary partnership to make the Western Heights a success and one of the best ways is to get ourselves there as often as possible just to walk over it and enjoy it. Those who wish to do a little more, as and when they can (for no regular commitment is expected), are invited to become volunteer wardens. Further information on Dover 241806 – Mrs Melanie Wrigley, White Cliffs Countryside Project, 6 Cambridge Terrace, Dover.

Excited by the taste of somewhere new but handy some of us soon followed up this outing by walking all three trails which have been established (as shown on the accompanying map). The short walk took 35 minutes, the medium 40 minutes and the longer, more rugged walk, 90 minutes; on separate occasions, you understand, but we had lots to see and of course we had frequent rests. The long walk we think is best done anti-clockwise, at least initially.

Perhaps you would want to do each more quickly or indeed do all three in one go! Certainly there is enough to suit all tastes.

JOHN OWEN



One of the Dexter cattle hard at work clearing the Western Heights of coarse grass and scrub.



# GREEN FORUM



LEO WRIGHT

An inaugural meeting in June founded a Green Forum in Deal, of which many exist in other parts of the country. The Green Forum is a-political and aims to provide links between local environmental groups and would join forces to encourage desirable or discourage undesirable developments.

The Dover Society was represented at the first business meeting of the Forum on Tuesday 24 July. Some 25 people met, representing 14 organisations. Two subjects were discussed:

Sea pollution and long sea outfalls.

The management of small areas of woodland.

The subject of sea pollution and sewage disposal was authoratively presented by Martin Jackson who had made substantial contributions to the Commons Environment Select Committee, whose report was published on 25 July. The Forum needed no persuasion and plans were immediately put in hand for a public meeting to be held at the Quarterdeck, Deal, 7.45-10.00 on Wed. 5th September., which our Chairman has been invited to chair. Representatives from Southern Water, the National Rivers Authority and environmental organisations will be invited to attend. The penny-pinching plans to deal with sewage disposal at Ramsgate, Dover and Deal by simply lengthening the sea-outfalls, will be debated. It is encouraging that the Commons Select Committee is critical of the use of long outfall pipes to discharge raw sewage into the sea.

The second topic was presented by Susannah Peckham from "Trees in Kent" which was founded by the K.C.C. the day after the Great Storm of 1987. The advisory and management services and financial help which are available were explained, with ample literature. This was very encouraging for the Dover Society's long-term project for clearing and re-planting Lousyberry Wood, Temple Ewell. In that connection, Lydden and Temple Ewell are among the relatively few parish councils which have no tree warden. Volunteers please apply!

The Green Forum meeting was a rewarding occasion. It was most encouraging to hear of so much concern and action about the environment. A great many areas were touched upon and gave food for thought about future action.

scaling the scaffolding

# The Town Hall Renovations

SHEILA COPE

**O**n a clammy Friday in late July, when yet more criticism of the lengthy nature of the Town Hall renovations had appeared in the 'Dover Express,' over a dozen Society members met in the cool Stone Hall for a tour of the work. Immediately we began to revise our ideas of the time scale involved as the Council's architect Nigel Bambridge described a project to arrest the decay of the whole building. This would eventually take 10 years to complete and would cost as much as £10 million. The contractors, Szerelmey (U.K.) Ltd., may be unfamiliar to us in Dover but they have restored many national buildings.

## THE HIGH STREET FACADE

Feeling slightly self-conscious in our hard hats we went outside and climbed a series of ladders through the scaffolding which we had been accustomed to walk beneath for the last 18 months or more. Soon we were high above the tea-time traffic and level with the Zeebrugge Bell on the balcony. Ron Goldsmith, Clerk of Works for the contract which is now in its second phase and costing about £950,000, shewed us how the stone window mullions were being completely renewed. The roundels of the balcony and the crockets – ornamental projections beyond the coping stone of the roof apex – have also been replaced. Much stone had been turned once already and now had deteriorated beyond repair. Unless laid

in the correct alignment as it was originally bedded in the quarry, rain and ice soon penetrate the stonework and it begins to break up. There were at least eleven different types of stone formerly used, including limestone which causes a chemical corrosive reaction when placed alongside other types such as Portland. Each original stone had been numbered, measured and photographed – a survey which took many weeks to complete. The new stone, Stokes Ground, comes from a quarry near Bristol and although workable, should be hard enough to withstand Dover's saline conditions for at least another century. Much preparation takes place at the quarry, but we were reminded of the craftsmanship required on the site by

Dave Seear, the stonemason who accompanied us.

At close quarters we admired the quality of the knapped flints which are among the finest in the country. We also observed that much of the pointing between the flints had been incorrectly renewed many years ago and stood proud. This fault must be rectified to prevent water from penetrating behind the four-inch-thick flints. Once again, good craftsmanship is essential. Modern epoxy resin repairs carry no more than a 10-year guarantee. The total thickness of the walls is about 18 inches with a filling of rubble between the outer flints and the inner brickwork.

#### THE CONNAUGHT HALL

Inside Connaught Hall we could see from the balcony how the west windows had been stripped down, re-leaded and the glass cleaned. Fortunately Goddard & Gibbs, to whom the work was entrusted, had needed to replace very little glass. The lead framework had become malleable, partly due to acid rain, but mainly because of the heat from inside the building when events were held. This movement enabled the wind to enter and to break down the original cement, now replaced with a formula containing linseed oil to retain flexibility. In addition new bronze parallel supporting bars have been used instead of iron.

#### THE TOWN HALL ROOF

How many of us had guessed the existence of the narrow spiral staircase, inside a tower, which leads to the roof? From a wide valley between slate slopes Ron described the first phase of the project, now completed at a cost of approximately £300,000. Fortunately the

roof timbers had been sound, requiring only treatment against woodworm. Thick Welsh slates had been secured to the slatting with copper nails. The lead on which we were standing was of 8lbs a square foot quality and had replaced the original. All the chimney stacks are new. Shrapnel was found in the dovecot-like ventilators surmounting the ridge. These louvred structures, like other ironwork, have been painted the characteristic blue which was favoured in Victorian times before black became fashionable.

#### THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR

Inside again, we crossed the Connaught Hall where we could contrast the renovated windows with those on the Ladywell side, not yet tackled. Looking forward to interior changes, we wondered whether modern taste would approve the restoration of the deep red ochre walls designed by William Burges. In the Mayor's Parlour there was more speculation. Who had commissioned the mystery door, not illustrated on the still extant site plans but of undoubted Burges style? Sadly the designs for the walls and ceilings had been lost and could only be revealed by painstaking removal of subsequent paint layers. We were told that the former pictures of The Muses on canvas had been removed in 1911. Christine Waterman, Curator of Dover Museum, described how an expert from the Victoria & Albert Museum had been amazed to hear that the valuable circular table and distinctive rounded chairs, now shabby brown, had been in recent regular use. We heard that the original overall effect would probably have seemed garish to our eyes. To restore the chairs with bright red morocco would cost £700 a piece for the upholstery alone.

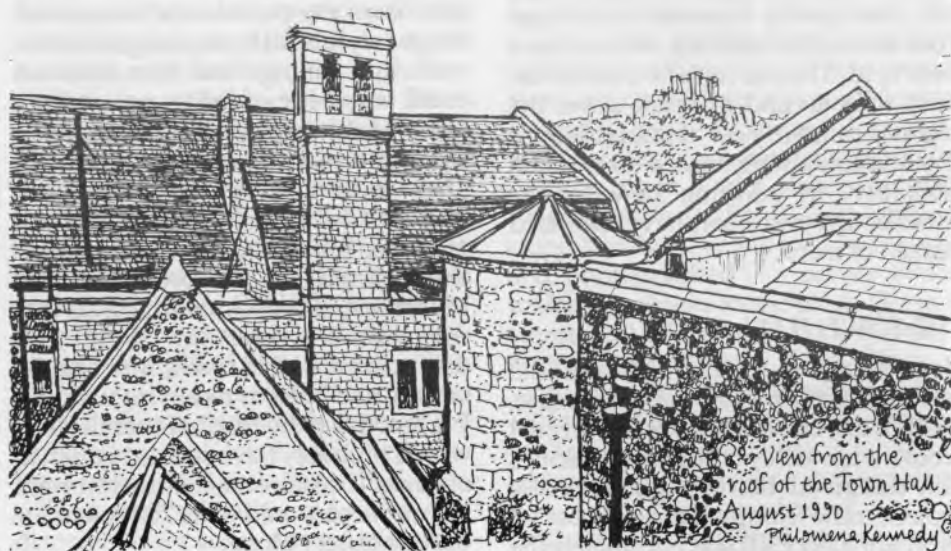
## 10 THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

In the Council Chamber, partly blocked off because of the removal of the windows at the Biggin Hall end., we saw for ourselves the crumbling wall plaster, its crumbling caused by rain penetration. It was interesting to speculate on the method used to light the Sun gas burner high up under the roof. The warm air rising drew cooler air from ducts behind wood-panelled projections on the wall, thus ventilating the room when crowded. As we considered the future of the painted plaster panels on the vaulted ceiling we realised the dilemma facing future planners. To restore the interior decor of the Victorian sections of the Town Hall could provide another tourist attraction. William Burges was a local man and apparently his work at Cardiff Castle has been renovated to good effect. Nevertheless, his designs might seem strange nowadays and provoke criticism of unjustified expense.

## THE SOUTH ELEVATION of the COUNCIL CHAMBER and the STONE HALL

Outside again, we viewed the Council Chamber from ground level. Six tons of concrete have been used to embed the base of the scaffolding which supports the rolled steel joists while the end wall and the windows are being renovated. The principle is that of a flying buttress. Here we observed the urgent necessity for the third phase of the scheme – the obvious erosion of the side elevation of the Stone Hall, estimated cost £1.65 million.

We had a most interesting and informative tour of the work in hand. We should like to thank those who were involved in the arrangements and who accompanied us: Councillor Kit Smith who initiated the visit, Richard Pollard, the project architect, Roger Madge, Director of Tourism and Councillor Sheila Whisker, Chair of the D.D.C. Tourism Committee.



View from the  
roof of the Town Hall,  
August 1990  
Philomena Kennedy ©

## Temple Ewell Doomsday 1990

William the Conqueror's Doomsday in 1086 was to assess the taxability of the newly conquered kingdom: ours in 1989 was to measure not only what the village was in terms of numbers and properties etc but what the village thought of itself and what it wanted. It was an interesting and informative exercise and involved a lot of people, amateurs all, doing a lot of work. As with membership of an amenity - or any other - society, it brought together a group of people, strangers to each other for the most part, and turned them into working partners and friends.

The sponsoring body was, of course, the Parish Council, assisted materially by the District Council and advised by Miss Helen Bovey of the Kent Rural Community Council. We read the booklet, looked at several other local appraisals and, skilfully guided by Councillor Joan Parkin whose only principle was to proceed by consensus only, formed ourselves into subject groups, drew up the questionnaire, distributed and collected it, analysed, summarised and published it, with an

exhibition in the village community centre to crown it. It took just less than two years and was worthwhile both as a record and as a programme for future action. It also yielded a surprisingly salutary vote of confidence in itself at a time when discontent and disruption are not uncommon. Here are some extracts from the booklet.

... "The number of households, less than fifty in 1086, which had only doubled by 1600, has multiplied almost sevenfold (to 658) and the population (now 1436) almost fifteenfold. Agriculture with its associated crafts and trades, so long the virtual monopolist of employment, is now the occupation of only a tiny minority (2.3%) whereas professional and clerical employment together have risen to 40%. Of these, despite the revolutionary increase in personal mobility, no less than three-quarters still work in or around Dover.

Hasted's "meanly built flint cottages" have all become desirable residences, detached, semi-detached or terraced. Two thirds of their residents have been attached to them for more than 10 years, a third for more than 20 and a fifth for more than 50!

The reasons for these improvements, in housing, employment and health etc, of



Temple Ewell. A drawing by Roy Chambers

course, lie well outside and beyond Temple Ewell and in some ways the comparisons are ludicrous. But what is unquestionable and shouts loud and clear from the survey questionnaires is the sense and valuation of community and community itself is entirely dependent upon generations of kinship and continuity. People live and stay, even if they were born here, because they have chosen to do so. They cherish their environment, will work to improve it and will fight to defend it against improper development. They are attached to their church, their school and their pub and they admire and approve of their Parish Council. Let us hope that Temple Ewell's next Domesday survey, whenever that may be, will, whatever the inevitable changes, bear further witness to that tradition of local attachment that dates back to Anglo-Saxon if not to Roman, Neolithic and Palæolithic times...

**HOUSEHOLDS:** ... They own 221 dogs and 264 cats, 585 cars and (at least) 46 bikes, and 389 houses with 185 garages. Apart from the 19 who were born here, they live in Temple Ewell by choice, many managing to combine family connections, housing and jobs with their delight in the environment and they like it because it is a friendly rural village community with good access to Dover, Canterbury and the sea...



The Community Centre in 1990. Formerly the 'George & Dragon'. *photo: Victor Nelson*

The 'George & Dragon' c1890

*from collection of Budge Adams*



**PARISH COUNCIL CONTENTMENT:**

... The Parish Council is entitled to be very gratified by the 60% vote in its favour and there is much additional praise, including the absence of party politics, in other comments. There are, of course, criticisms too. It is suggested that members should be younger, more pushful and more powerful. ... Only one voice says it should be abolished as unnecessary and expensive. ... There is only one complaint of too much policing! Over half think there is too little ...

**AMENITIES:** ... As to village amenities, there are inevitably a lot of small minorities who would like a variety of services ... There is much more agreement on the need for a pharmacy, a Post Office, newsagent, and general shop and for improved public transport facilities...

**HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT:**

**NOT MUCH!:** ... Two thirds oppose any kind of development and of the one third in favour, only two want a lot, some a moderate amount but most as little as possible. Such development as is favoured is mainly for housing ...

**E N V I R O N M E N T a n d**

**CONSERVATION: YES PLEASE!** ...

Comments on problems suggest that parishioners are deafened by traffic, sleepless from barking dogs, howling

cats, screaming parrots, army manoeuvres and heli-copters; stepping from rubbish dump to rubbish dump past eyesores along broken or non-existent pavements in ill-lit streets; and surrounded by piles of litter as they slip and slither in stacks of dogmess. Such is not the case. It is because they live in so pleasant a village that they complain and it is good to know that so many people really care about their environment and will do something about it ...

**TOO LITTLE TRANSPORT: TOO MUCH TRAFFIC:** ... There are many complaints both of inadequate car parking facilities and of consequential dangerous parking and inadequate access for emergency services. Many suggestions are made for sleeping policemen, more traffic signs, chicanes, access only limitations, speed traps and mirrors. Heavy goods vehicles should be banned and the police more determined. Complaints are heavily repeated

about bad roads and bad pavements or no pavements ...

**CONCLUSION:** ... In 1989, the Year of Revolutions in Eastern Europe and beyond, and despite all the criticisms, the emergent picture of Temple Ewell is of a substantially socially homogeneous, stable and contented, predominantly middle class community, deeply aware of its virtues and advantages and understandably very anxious to preserve itself. It is well-housed, almost fully employed close to homes, and prosperous.

JACK WOOLFORD

*Copies of the full appraisal (with maps, illustrations, histories of church and school, reminiscences and suggestions for the future) from: Jack Woolford, 1066 Green Lane, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3AR: £2.30 including postage.*

## *The Objectives of the Dover Society: founded in 1988.*

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture.
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archaeology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest.
- And commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton, Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, St. Radigund's, Town and Pier and Tower Hamlets.

Members receive three *Newsletters* a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events - 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.

# 14 Membership News

Membership £3 per person per year. (1st April – 31st March)

Current Membership is 281

Welcome to all our new members.

Many thanks to all members who paid promptly at the beginning of the year and also to the forgetful who responded with alacrity to our July reminder.

Good luck to members who have moved from Dover. Thank you to those "exiles" who have kept up their membership, especially those who have written to say how much they appreciate the Newsletter, their link with Dover news.

Thank you also to all members who have written letters and/or completed the "special interests" sections on the Application/Renewal forms. Now, with almost 300 members, we hope to collate this information, which may provide useful guidelines when planning annual programmes.

Merril Lilley

*Membership Secretary*

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## *An opportunity to help with a Society Project*

Among the projects planned for the months ahead is that of helping to re-generate a local area of woodland devastated in the 1987 hurricane.

If you and your family would like a few hours out in the open on a Saturday or Sunday in the winter months re-planting trees, or can help in any other way, please contact John Owen on 202207.

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# Woodland Wild Orchids 15 in the Dover Area

PAT PENNINGTON

Britain has nothing to rival the displays which delight spring-time visitors to Crete, the South of France and Italy. *Orchidaceæ* is the second largest family of plants in the vegetable kingdom, numbering between 15,000 and 35,000 species depending on which authority is consulted, yet the British Isles has only just over fifty. Even so one would have to be extremely persistent to track them all down since some are elusive, like the SPURRED CORAL-ROOT which pops up mysteriously in one place and then disappears for years, and the LADY'S SLIPPER ORCHID which has been reduced to just one closely-guarded plant in the north-west Pennines after years of collection by plant hunters.

However, residents in this area are fortunate in that a remarkable number of plants and a good variety of species grow locally on the chalk which most orchids prefer. No doubt many readers know of sites they have personally discovered so this list is not intended to be comprehensive but more of an encouragement to country walkers to keep their eyes open (though taking home nothing but photographs, of course). One interesting point to help orchid spotters is that they are more abundant on north-facing slopes.

The most abundant orchid is the COMMON TWAYBLADE (*Listera ovata*) found in the majority of local woods but particularly fine specimens up to two feet high in woods along the Alkham Valley. It escapes human depredations because its yellowish green or bronze flowers merge into the woodland vegetation, yet its lax flower spikes like little hanging dolls are very beautiful. It is just as well it escapes attention since it takes up to 14 years to flower from seed.

The most well-known orchid is the EARLY PURPLE (*Orchis mascula*) because its bold reddish-purple spikes and spotted leaves stand out in contrast to bluebells which flower simultaneously. Nearly all the local woods support a few plants but the outstanding local wood is between Denton and Wootton, conveniently bisected by a recently cleared public footpath. There is a great variation in colour from white to deep purple and the flowers smell strongly of cats' urine.

Less common but widespread are GREATER BUTTERFLY ORCHIDS (*Platanthera chlorantha*) which can be found in many local woods, Frandham Wood, River, being usually home to a few dozen. It is a tall beautiful flower glistening white with a greenish tinge with a strong perfume, more pronounced at night since it is pollinated by moths.

LESSER BUTTERFLY ORCHIDS (*Platanthera bifolia*) are far less common but grow in a wood near Martin. As their name suggests they are small and more dainty and have

16 differences in the reproductive organs. One wonders why they are so restricted in distribution when the more flamboyant Greater Butterfly is quite widely distributed.

FLY ORCHIDS (*Ophrys insectifera*) are also found in Frandham Wood and also in various places around Barfreston. They are difficult to spot being rather weedy in habit and, as their name suggests, have a strong resemblance to flies with a rectangular blue patch on the brown lip. It is fertilized by a small burrowing wasp which mistakes the flower for a female and thus pollinates it. The BIRD'S NEST ORCHID (*Neottia nidus-avis*) derives its realistic name from its tangled mass of roots. Being almost devoid of chlorophyll its stems and flowers are uniformly light brown so it is quite possible to walk right through plants especially as they seem to prefer undergrowth – free beech woods whose leaf litter is an almost exact match. Picnicking families in Barfreston Woods have possibly never noticed the good colonies of these orchids almost under their car wheels.

Also in Barfreston Woods, Lousyberry Wood, Kearsney, Waldershare Park and in fact in any beech woods, are LARGE WHITE HELLEBORINES (*Cephalanthera damasonium*) whose name is rather grander than the reality. The off-white flowers never open wide and the broad leaves are frequently brown and chewed round the edge giving the whole plant a tatty appearance but if the flowers are examined closely the florists' orchid in miniature springs to view.

The LADY ORCHID (*Orchis purpurea*) is the most famous and spectacular, rarely found in Britain out of Kent. Many people go to Yockletts Bank, Petham, to the K.T.N.C. reserve which is renowned for these lovely plants with maroon hood and pale pink lip but once I started searching, I found isolated plants in woods on each side of the Alkham Valley, Barfreston, Martin, Acrise, and Lydden, so they must be widespread in the area.

"WILD ORCHIDS OF BRITAIN" by V.S. Summerhayes in the Collins New Naturalist Series is the most comprehensive book on native species but for anyone travelling on holiday "WILD ORCHIDS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE" by Davies and Huxley, Hogarth Press, is unrivalled for clarity of text and the beautiful photographs which simplify identification enormously.

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# Deadline

## for CONTRIBUTIONS

The Editor welcomes contributions suitable for the *Newsletter*. Illustrations to articles, and other appropriate visual material are particularly appreciated..

The deadline for the next issue is 14th December. Please note that it is essential *to state at the beginning of the article the number of words it contain.*

Publication in the *Newsletter* does not necessarily imply the Society's agreement with the views expressed and all published material remains the copyright of its authors.

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# Talking Helps



Janet Johnson, *Centre Manager*

In times of crisis, loss or dramatic change, people often experience a deterioration in their important relationships, their ability to work or to lead a normal life and, quite often they turn to alcohol, tranquilisers or other drugs to relieve their stress. **PUT UNDER ENOUGH PRESSURE, ANYONE CAN BREAK.**

The Dover Counselling Centre came into being in July 1988 because, apart from the loss of the 'Herald', it was generally felt that the Dover Area and its community was experiencing changes as a result of undertaking the largest civil engineering project in the world – the Channel Tunnel. It was appreciated that there would be many difficulties for the community to adjust to and for many they would be traumatic. Added to this would be the changes in working practices for the EEC's 1992 target date for trading harmonisation and that too would have a serious impact on our way of life.

Additionally –

one in three marriages is likely to end in divorce and one in eight dependant children live in a one-parent household;

up to 25% of problems at work are directly linked to problems at home;

Dover has one of the highest drinking problems in Kent as a result of easy access to cheap alcohol;

the large number of people on shift-work imposes particular stress.

Against this background, the concept of offering a general counselling service to the community in conjunction with the CRUSE Bereavement Care, the KENT COUNCIL on ADDICTION, and RELATE Marriage Guidance was realised. A suggestion was made to these three agencies to try to establish a Unit

18 where we could not only provide counsellors to work in their own specialist areas but we could also try to meet the needs of people whose difficulties were outside of these three areas but who were suffering from different 'non-specific' stresses. We hoped to be able to meet the many and differing needs of the community by creating a centrally-run Counselling Centre to offer skills and services to meet the needs of the people in the Dover area in the most effective way.

Counselling is 'offering a person skilled assistance to help them to explore their thoughts, feelings and behaviour. This enables clearer self-understanding, which can be the basis for people to redirect their strengths more effectively by making appropriate decisions or taking relevant action.'

THE DOVER COUNSELLING CENTRE now exists at 9 Cambridge Terrace, Dover, CT16 1YZ, phone Dover 204123, and the office is open between 10 am and 4 pm, Monday to Friday. Anyone who needs help with a personal problem, or indeed is affected by someone else's difficulty, can visit or telephone the Centre and discuss their concerns. The 24 Counsellors are drawn from the three voluntary organisations in the partnership, and are trained by them. Most of them are volunteers. Those who approach the Centre are helped in a number of different ways, some with a counsellor alone, or with other members of their family; some will be invited to join a group of others sharing similar experiences like the Baby Bereavement Group which meets once a month at the Centre.

The Dover Counselling Centre is a Registered Charity and a Company whose members are the Dover District Council, the Dover Christian Council, P & O European Ferries, Sealink U.K. Ltd., Kent County Council, statutory agencies and the three voluntary agencies, CRUSE Bereavement Care, the KENT COUNCIL on ADDICTION and RELATE Marriage Guidance.

Anyone can receive help from the Centre free of charge, although those who have the means to make a contribution towards the work of the Centre are encouraged to do so. The management and administration cost of running the Centre is £45,000 a year and more help is needed to raise the finance to continue to make this possible.

I am hoping we can find a volunteer to chair a willing group of fund-raisers to ensure the survival of The Dover Counselling Centre. We are secure for a year and I hope will also be for the next ten!

In the *whole* of 1989 296 people received ongoing help from the Centre as against 236 in the *first half alone* of 1990.

Help us to help those who need help.  
TALKING HELPS!

S. JANET JOHNSTON  
*Centre Manager*

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THE DOVER COUNSELLING  
CENTRE,

9 Cambridge Terrace, Dover.  
Tel. (0304) 204123.

Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm

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# Encore Primavera! <sup>19</sup>

## BARN CONCERT, UPDOWN FARM, BETTESHANGER

It is one thing to think oneself thoroughly familiar with musical masterpieces via tapes or discs or radio or T.V.; it is an experience of a very different order to hear them re-created in the flesh at a live concert. This is a commonplace of musical appreciation but commonplaces come to life when one is confronted again with an exceptionally vivid reminder. It happened at our Primavera concert in the Stone Hall on April 21st last and it happened again on Sunday June 17th when Primavera returned (after a year) to Updown Farm.

The Barn itself, available again by the kind courtesy of Mr & Mrs Michael Willis-Fleming an re-restored after recent hurricane damage, offers a resolutely plain venue in the midst of an unpretentiously beautiful garden but it is welcoming with something of farmhouse homeliness, well-matched indeed to the atmosphere and ambience of a chamber concert.

"Chamber" music has acquired unfortunate but unfair overtones of dullness and inaccessibility but it means only "small": music composed for small groups (or individuals) to play and hear in small, indeed domestic, rooms. There are, of course, difficult composers (in large as well as small compositions) but neither Mozart at his most genial and lyrical best nor Brahms, in his late autumnal richness, are in that category. If we regard their clarinet quintets as concertos for small groups (just as string quartets are symphonies for small string orchestras) we may remove an unnecessary barrier to enjoyment.

In less than four years Primavera has established a very marked if not unique capacity to involve its listeners in the music. They are, of course, all of them distinguished professionals and would command respect for the technical distinction of their playing; but whereas some professionals (\*not necessarily improperly) maintain aloofness and social distance from their patrons or clients, Paul Manley and his colleagues make it plain as they enter the auditorium by their very gait and their smiles that they have come joyfully to share an important experience with their audience. Their exchanges of glances between each and every one of them bespeak deep and well-founded friendliness as well as musical necessity so that their attack, when it comes, and their entries are warm as well as precise; they resume the work they have so meticulously rehearsed with the added fervour of communicating with more friends. There must be a leader and that leader is obviously Paul Manley but he is first only amongst equals.

20 The physical mannerisms of musicians are a part of the performance and sometimes, unfortunately, they get in the way, either by being too wooden or too demonstrative: I could name names! With Primavera they are an asset. The music is mirrored in their faces and their movements as well as in the notes. They clearly feel as well as play the music and their nuances of movement, tiny as well as vigorous, underline the nuances of the music. It communicates as genuine and spontaneous, not forced: and the sequence of masterpieces (nothing less) they choose to build into their programmes is discrimination personified.

Although it is unusual, their decision to play both the Mozart and Brahms Clarinet Quintets in one concert was inspired. Both brilliantly exploit all the resources of the instrument but both use them not for virtuoso display (though they were writing for particular virtuosos) but because their music integrally demands it. Angela Malsbury is less demonstrative than her fellow musicians but her performance, especially in the Mozart and most especially in the slow movement, was rapt in its intensity. Necessary agilities were brilliantly executed but it was the feeling in quiet passages which was most moving and it was her stillness at the end of each of the movements at the end of the two works which commanded the audience's own stillness for long seconds before they applauded which was the measure of their just appreciation. It is said that musicians have failed if the applause at the end of a piece is immediate. There could be no greater testimony to the near perfection of Primavera than the hush which greeted their concluding silences. I do not myself recall ever having been more moved in seventy years of listening.

What to play between two masterpieces by two composers of the first rank? The Dvorak Terzetto was the unfamiliar but aptest conceivable answer. Trios for two violins and a viola must be few and kit sounds an unlikely combination: all top and very little bottom. In fact it is both perfectly contrasted and perfectly balanced and has the particular virtue of allowing that most modest of instruments, the viola, to shine, to show that, undrowned by the cello, it has its own unique and distinctive timbre and power, as Matthew Soutar obviously delighted to show. It also allowed us to see that Catherine Hart, the second violinist, is also a virtuoso. As when they played the Bartok Divertimento in the Stone Hall, the trio performed this work standing up and it was again amazing to feel the difference of power and attack. There is nothing small about the Terzetto. Its four movements have all the contrast and harmony of a suite if not of a symphony and Dvorak could not help writing both spritely and solemn tunes with all his characteristic Bohemian drive and variety of rhythmic invention and orchestration.

The conclusion is, I trust, obvious. We must have Primavera, ideally with wind as well as strings back in the Town Hall as soon as possible. Thanks to our generous sponsors we can negotiate a date with them, confident that our members and friends will wish to re-savour an unmatched musical experience.

JACK WOOLFORD



The Little Ships. A Drifter towing the 'Nydia' from Dunkirk, 1940.  
Vessels such as 'Nydia' were used to ferry troops to ships waiting off-shore

*Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth*

## DUNKIRK *The Evacuation*

In May this year Dover commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the Evacuation of British and Allied troops from Dunkirk.

Some eighty of the original Little Ships sailed again from Dover, through a choppy sea to Dunkirk, watched by huge crowds.

An excellent exhibition in Cambridge Road is open until the end of September.

Don't miss it!

The Society's thanks are due to Jon Ivison of Dover Museum for obtaining permission to use the Dunkirk photographs.



1. Members of the British Expeditionary Force boarding a vessel at the East Mole, Dunkirk, 1940 *The Times Newspapers, Ltd.*
2. Grenadier Guardsmen arriving at Dover from Dunkirk, June 1940, towards the end of the evacuation *The Times Newspapers, Ltd.*
3. H.M.S. Keith at Dunkirk the day before she was sunk. *Major-General Ramsay*





# DOVER: SEPTEMBER 1940

WAR-TIME MEMORIES

JOE HARMAN

When asked about my recollections of September 1940 I turned out an old diary and I realised we had been through Dunkirk and that shelling had started; the Battle of Britain was raging around us but no bombs had fallen on the town itself. The barrage balloons had arrived to protect us as fighters were needed elsewhere. German planes came in and shot down the balloons and the crews gallantly put them up again, after dis-entangling the cables from our chimney-pots.

The real danger was from stray cannon shells and one of the bus drivers had a narrow escape in Barton Road when a shell entered his cab; the scar shewed on the dash panel until the vehicle was taken out of service. The bombs up till then had been dropped in the harbour or on the surrounding hills, although we did have Air-Raid alerts because of the battles in the air, and we saw and heard bombers going through to attack the airfields.

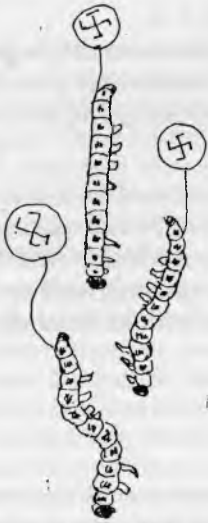
On the 4th I noted that I went to the allotment to collect potatoes, carrots and beans. There were no cabbages as the caterpillars had reduced them to bare stalks. We were reliably informed that this was one of Hitler's secret weapons!

On the seventh and eighth we had bombs on the outskirts. Things began to change on the ninth as there were bombs at Temple Ewell, possibly aimed



War Damage, c1940: Wellesley Road runs from L to R. Camden Crescent is in the foreground, Liverpool St. heads off to the east. The Grand Hotel and Granville Gardens are at extreme right and at lower left is the site of the new car park where once stood the "Dover Stage". Left of centre is the Dover Patrol Hostel where many sailors died.

at the railway line. Soon after six we had a bout of shelling, and another at about 10.30. The first batch of six appeared to come from separate batteries, judging by their arrival times. I noticed that one included a hit on the Burlington Hotel and I am convinced that the German gunners could see the tower from their side. I now possess a photograph which was taken when a shell struck the building.



The 10th was quiet as I read in my diary that I went to bed from two till eight p.m. On the 11th we had a rude awakening but fortunately we had taken cover in our East Kent blast- and splinter-proof shelter when a stick of bombs was dropped with the last bomb landing a short distance away. When the ground had stopped shaking, and the dust had settled, we emerged to view the devastation.

I grabbed the First Aid Bag and went along an alley to find the 'Sussex Arms' was just a heap of rubble. We then went through to Liverpool Street and found that the 'Grand Hotel' had lost a complete wing. I ran up St. James's Street to get help from a First Aid Post, skirting a bomb crater, and reported the extent of the damage. I was politely told that they were awaiting instructions from Central Control. Some houses opposite the garage were damaged and we concentrated on getting the residents out of cellar shelters. One very large lady was extricated covered in soot and taken into our shelter. She told us exactly what she would do to Adolph if he ever showed up in Dover. The office girls did their best to clean her up and then produced a welcome cup of tea; I



One of Hitler's Secret Weapons

applied a sticking plaster in appropriate places. The next day Council staff arrived to demolish the houses by attaching a rope from a lorry to the window frames. This method proved useless as the buildings were old and timber-framed with modern brick fronts. I should have mentioned that shelling started at about the same time on the 11th in the Western Dock area.. After 10.30 that night we had bombs in the Folkestone Road area near 'The Engineer'.

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The 12th was reasonably quiet but on Friday the 13th we had three bombs in the Elms Vale area without warning. A bus was standing at the terminus near the recreation ground and the crew had the presence of mind to throw themselves on the floor. Every window was blown out. I remembered bringing this bus (JG 9917) back from the paint-shop in Thanet the week before. My diary records that I developed a carbuncle on my right arm and I still have the scar to prove it!

On the 15th I was on duty with the Auxiliary Fire Service at the peak of the Battle of Britain and I remember this was the day when most planes were destroyed. I had a week off work because of the carbuncle and at the same time my mother became seriously ill.

It was fairly quiet with various incidents until I returned to work on the 26th when we had shelling in the afternoon, and shells fell again on the 27th. On Monday 30th I went to see our doctor about Mother and he said that she would not last the night through. I came up Ladywell and soon after I reached home we had a bout of shelling which included a direct hit on the Fire Station.

#### POSTSCRIPT:

On October 2nd we had bombs in the Clarendon Street area with casualties but on Friday 4th, the day of the funeral, the only incident was that barrage balloons were brought down in high winds. We felt very exposed as we wended our way up to Charlton Cemetery.



The Grand Hotel in 1947, five years after it was bombed.

The site is now occupied by the west end of The Gateway

photo:  
*Dover Express*

THE (2.4)  
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

THE HINTERLAND to the N. W.  
of CASTLE STREET

*A.F. (Budge) Adams*

This area, well known to me in the 1920's, on the N. and N.W. side of Castle Street beyond the river Dour but also including the east side Church Street, was one that was not destroyed during the war but where, to facilitate re-development, all buildings were razed to the ground in the years 1948 to 1950.

The hub or focal point of the area that, as the Roman harbour silted up became the flood plain of the river, was at the minor crossroads behind St Mary's Church from which radiated clockwise from the NE, Caroline Place, Stembrook, Church Street and Church Place. Caroline Place, until its demolition was an L-shaped cul-de-sac, its short leg leading out from the cross roads and the longer turning right, towards the river. It is very probable that Stembrook also was originally a cul-de-sac with the river at its blank end. The present upward slope at its eastern end, steeper before 1948/50, was formed, probably in 1835/6, to give access, at the level of the bridge, to Castle Street, the new thoroughfare then under construction. Stembrook Cottage, almost exactly where now is the front entrance to the derelict store, was built on the new slope.

Taking Stembrook first, on the left from Castle Street, where now are the gates into the car park for Martin Walter and Stembrook Court stood the "Ancient Druids" public house, the licence of which was transferred to the "Roman Quay". There were nine little houses on the SW side and a tunnel-like entrance leading to a row of houses in the rear, on

the site of the car park just mentioned. On the same side, in 1936/8, were two small general shops, one owned by Mr George Le Gryns and the other, much better stocked, and very efficiently run, by the Walker family. Between them lived a Mr Walter Lyus and as a boy I often wondered—and still do so—why two men with such interesting names lived in adjoining houses and, indeed, where they came from. Wilson's shop was tucked in behind the last house in Church Street which, curving round from the bottom of Castle Street, finished half a metre into the road width of Stembrook. This appeared to be a rum piece of planning, though little planning, in the modern sense, was done in the early 18th century.

On the N.E. side, on the slope down from Castle Street, Stembrook Cottage, with a tiny garden in front, was next to the entrance to Brace's Mill and to Mr Bacon's tanyard. The mill had by the early 1930's already been demolished and then the tanyard closed down, the pits were filled in and the buildings were used by the Castle Concrete Co. for the production of concrete and breeze blocks. On the other side of the entrance, at right-angles to the road, was a row of four tiny cottages.

At the corner of Stembrook and the L-shaped Caroline Place, named after George II's Queen, was a workshop and stores for the Corporation Waterworks' distribution network. Next to the workshop was a yard used as a builder's store and beyond it, at the turn of the century, was "The Old Fountain" public house, in my time occupied as a private dwelling. Then were two or three small store-places before Caroline Place, with 21 houses on its longer leg, turned to the right.

At the angle in Caroline Place and facing the eastern end of St. Mary's Church

were, in my youth, two buildings used as a store, and "garage" for its barrows, by Partington's Kent Bill-posting Company, and I clearly recall seeing the men folding, on huge tables, 8-sheet Double Crown posters ready to be posted on the numerous sites in many East Kent towns.

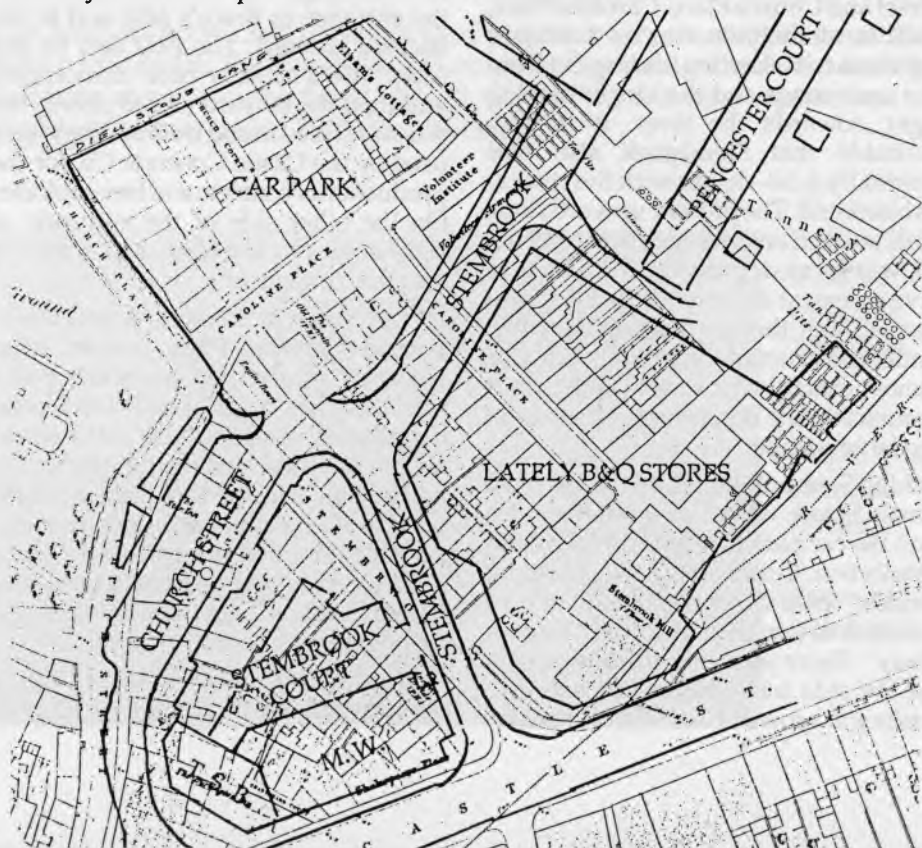
In the 80s or 90s of the last century the buildings housed the Gordon Boys Orphanage, conceived by Mr T. Blackman and later, still under his direction, moved to its more well-known place in St. James's Street at the northern corner of today's Moat House Hotel.

When, in 1900 and earlier, my father was a member of the Royal Cinque Ports Volunteers, - Queen Victoria's version of a territorial army, - Partington's two build-ings were respectively the Volunteer Institute and the Volunteer Armoury. When the premises were no

longer needed by the R.C.P. Vols., Mr E. Morgan, later the manager of Partington's, formed the Boy Messenger Brigade whose members would deliver notes and parcels anywhere in the town..My last memory of the places before the war whisked me away, was that Hedgcock Warner & Co. used them as furniture showrooms.

On the NW side of the short leg were two dwelling houses, several indifferent small store places, and a tall bill-boarding, possibly three storeys high, on the blank wall of a store and it was a source of perpetual amazement to me that the bill-posters could, with a bucket of paste, a long-handled brush and a huge shoulder bag in which the folded sheets of the 8-sheet posters were stowed in correct order, climb a tall ladder and do their tricky job at a height of eight or nine metres.

*continued on page 41*



## CASTLE STREET, DOVER

*After reading Budge Adams' recollections in the January 1990 Newsletter Jean Skinner has contributed some of her own memories.*

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### RECOLLECTIONS of MY CHILDHOOD

"I remember the time I knew what happiness was, let the memory live again." So sang old Deuteronomy in Lloyd Webber's musical "Cats."

Those were golden days when my brilliant mother, ex-Guildhall music student and father, Captain in the first World War, ran between them Pettit's Commercial College in Castle Street, then the business centre of Dover. It was a tremendously successful enter-prise, most of the aspiring would-be secretaries in the area attending their school.

We had to rely heavily on "domestics" to allow my parents more freedom to run the business. I remember my first "nanny" – Julia, a French girl and extremely pretty with, naturally, many admirers. A delicate child, I was fed on port wine and bananas and cream in between copious doses of medicine. My brother was of tougher calibre and was a true Scottish rebel from a very early age, having to be chased round the table with a large wooden spoon!. Another "domestic" was Biddy Bodman – who had a beautiful pet rabbit, whom she adored and, to my mother's horror announced one day she had killed and eaten bunny for Sunday lunch!

Memories come flooding in of our delightful Sunday excursions to the Warren in my father's high powered Silver Bullett racing car – Stirling Moss was not in it! We had to walk up the hills; while at the top, my father poured water into the steaming tank!

Opposite us lived a retired Customs officer and his Chinese wife "femme de mystère" – her hat draped with a heavy veil.

"Non, rien de rien, je ne regrette rien" – for we were surrounded by love – the salvation of the soul

JEAN SKINNER



Caroline Place c1925, from E. end of St. Mary's Church. The buildings on right are approximately on the line of the side wall of the late B & Q Store

*photograph by courtesy of R. E, Hollingsbee and Dover Library*

# Cream Teas & Gunpowder

## The Society's Outing on 30th June

This was a marvellously various and diverse day, with a visit to the ancient and historic town of Faversham, rich in architectural survivals from the middle ages and the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a tour of the majestic and expansive Edwardian gardens of Mount Ephraim, and a brief look at the Longmarket at Canterbury, powerfully evocative of Roman and Saxon times. Such an outing cannot be comprehensive, of course, but it affords opportunities for tantalising glimpses into what may be explored in more depth; one longs for visitors so that one may find an excuse for second and third visits.

On this morning we were taken first to the Fleur de Lys, an ancient house, once an inn, and now the headquarters of the Faversham Society, by whom we were warmly received and given coffee and biscuits. After an excellent short video of the town the party divided; some explored the admirable museum in the building, while others went forth into the streets to have a preliminary look at the town. Old Faversham has a large number of ancient houses, some timber-framed and brought up to date in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries with tile or brick cladding, others exemplifying masterpieces of decorative plasterwork. Many of the shops keep their old-fashioned Victorian or Edwardian fronts. In the Market Place there was indeed a Market, crowded with shoppers and sightseers; the whole scene presented a most pleasing spectacle of animation and bustle. We sought our own lunches, many of us finding a pub that was pleasantly old-fashioned in comfort and hospitality. After lunch well-informed and enthusiastic guides took us on a tour of some parts of the town past the elegant Guildhall, half Tudor and half Regency, though the Market place with its elegant houses and their heavily decorated arcades, and then over the Creek by a swing-bridge and along delightful Westbrook Walk with its fascinating view of the backs of the medieval houses in Tanner Street to the Gunpowder Mills. These have been restored with great skill and devotion by the Faversham Society. We spent a happy hour here, and then it was time to move on to Mount Ephraim. No time today for the splendid parish church, or Abbey Street, but they are still there.

Time at the gardens had to be rather short in the interests of tea and getting to Canterbury. Not all of us saw everything, but there was much to see. I found the individual 'subjects' deeply rewarding, but felt that the gardens lost something in being so dispersed. There seemed to be a lot of grass. But there were lovely roses and fine trees (everyone went to look for the Wellingtonia) including splendid cedars, and a gorgeous herbaceous tree-mallow before which everyone paused with



pleasure. There was also very fine topiary, for those who enjoy such sights as a yew clipped into the shape of an elephant, complete with howdah. And here we had tea. Real cream, not the whipped polystyrene that one is so often fobbed off with, flavoured translucent home-made raspberry jam, and delicate scones!

Then we hurried off to Canterbury, to have a look at the excavations now being carried out at the Longmarket. We were taken up on to the gallery built around the site, and looked down upon the grey, pitted ground. The only Roman feature apparent to the ignorant eye was a series of pillars which were not, of course, Roman at all but the concrete piles which had been driven by the post-war builders. The woman who was our guide was an historian, and the account she gave us of the site was a model of how historical information should be imparted – distinction between fact and conjecture, what inferences might properly be drawn, clear and articulate expression. We learnt about the Roman villa and its bath-house, the abandonment of the site when the Romans left, how it became a clearing in the woods, and then how it was settled by the Saxons. We learnt about medieval occupation too – of disaster in the pottery when a whole trayful of beakers had to be thrown away, and of the shop of Theoric the Goldsmith and how one of his forges collapsed into a cesspit.

So our day started with one market, in a sense, and ended with another, from Faversham to Canterbury, from a modern market to a medieval one. It had been a lovely day, and we thank the organisers for their skill and efficiency.

HUGH BAX



The Guildhall at Faversham. Dover's Guildhall in the Market Square was similar.

15th August, 1990

Dear Ms Kennedy,

Every day two million gallons of liquid radioactive waste are discharged into the Irish Sea from Sellafield. This has led to nearly half a tonne of plutonium being dumped on the seabed. The House of Commons Environment Select Committee has described the Irish Sea as the most radioactively contaminated sea in the world.

Despite Sellafield's notorious record, reprocessing operations at the plant are set to rise massively, making the pollutions problems of the past seem tame in comparison. British Nuclear Fuels intend to open a huge new reprocessing plant at Sellafield. Called THORP (Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant), it will be fed mainly by spent nuclear fuel from abroad. BNFL are currently importing and stockpiling thousands of tonnes of spent fuel from Japan, West Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Switzerland awaiting reprocessing at

THORP when it opens in 1992. Approximately 250-300 tonnes of spent fuel is being imported into Britain per year but this is due to rise to between 450 and 500 tonnes annually within the next few years. This highly dangerous material is entering Britain through two ports; through BNFL's own dock at Barrow-in-Furness *and through the commercial port of Dover*. It is shipped to Dover on an ordinary roll-on, roll-off ferry.

Imports of spent fuel through Dover are also about to increase dramatically. From two flasks in 1988 to 16 in 1989, 37 planned this year and over 50 per year by the mid-nineties. This considerable traffic will greatly increase the risk of a major nuclear accident in Dover. Greenpeace recently published a report from an independent engineer which shews that spent fuel flasks are vulnerable to fire. If a flask were to be engulfed in a fire for more than two hours at the relatively moderate temperature of about 900 centigrade it would rupture and release a deadly cloud of radioactive smoke into the environment. In short, a major nuclear accident would occur



A wagon of nuclear waste at Dover.

with catastrophic consequences for the population of Dover and surrounding areas.

Greenpeace is actively opposed to the importation of spent fuel into Britain. It is a dangerous activity in itself and is turning this country into the world's nuclear dustbin. It is particularly dangerous to import spent fuel through a busy commercial port like Dover on notoriously unstable roll-on, roll-off ferries. These vessels and the port itself are ill-equipped to deal with a serious nuclear accident.

The cross-Channel train ferry, which carries spent fuel from Dunkerque to Dover, crosses one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. We have witnessed a spate of tragic ferry accidents in recent times and the Inquiry into the *Herald of Free Enterprise* disaster has concluded that we can expect to see more serious ferry accidents in the near future. Even more worrying, from the point of view of shipping spent nuclear fuel, is that official shipping records show that the incidence of fires on ships is increasing.

At present, Dover is being used as a convenient 'main gate' by BNFL who are


placing short term profits before the health and safety of the local population and the environment. It is clear that BNFL have not informed Dover District Council nor the local emergency services of the real hazards posed by the transportation of spent fuel; no warning of the arrival of shipments of this material is given to the Fire Brigade, the Police or the Coastguard. Greenpeace believes that unless these shipments through Dover are stopped a major nuclear accident involving a flask of spent fuel is bound to happen sooner or later. Finally, a proportion of radioactivity contained in every flask of spent fuel which comes through Dover, en route to Sellafield, will be dumped into an already severely polluted Irish Sea and potentially lead to more cancer in young children. It is for these reasons that Greenpeace seeks the support of the people of Dover to make it a 'nuclear waste-free' port.

Yours sincerely,

P. C. Woodward,  
St. Margarets-at-Cliffe,  
Dover

## UPDATE on the LONGMARKET EXCAVATION SITE, CANTERBURY

The excavation is now down to Roman floor levels. A further area of Roman floor mosaic, approximately 3' square, has been revealed. Nearby there is another hypocausted room and what may have been a furnace, complete with arched tunnel. The town house now being excavated must have been two or three storeys high, judging by the foundations.

The plan of the house was  with an ornamental fishpond in the courtyard. Great quantities of pottery fragments, from ordinary domestic to Samian ware, have been found as well as coins, of no great value but much interest.

The archaeologists are excavating what appears to be a Saxon hut which, as a result of a fire, caved in, trapping loom weights and pottery shards beneath it. A cellar below, some 3' deep, was probably used for storage.

The excavation finished and the developers move in at the end of September. Its well worth visiting this fascinating site (again) before then.

P.K.

# 34 THE END OF THE EASTERN DOCKS PENS

As part of its battle to offset the possible adverse effects of the Channel Tunnel and develop new shipping facilities at the port, the Dover Harbour Board recently commissioned a demolition contract for the removal of that well-known wartime landmark the 'Submarine Pens.'

Contrary to local opinion they were never designed nor used to protect submarines, but provided invaluable protection to the many MTBs and air-sea rescue launches that used the port during the second World War.

They were designed and constructed by the Royal Marine Engineers in 1941 and a total of 14 Pens were provided. The massive 3 metre thick roof structure which contained eight layers of reinforcement and weighed 23,000 tonnes, was supported on a grid of large reinforced concrete columns which in turn were founded upon large concrete-filled caissons driven into the chalk sea bed.

The "Sappers" certainly made an excellent job of the construction because it took 26 weeks for a major demolition contractor, using a fleet of special hydraulic concrete breakers, to complete the work. It is interesting to note that the concrete and steel by-products of the demolition contract have since been re-processed for hardcore and steel smelting and thus the Pens' 'ghost' lives on in a reconstituted form.

As well as providing protection for small vessels the Pens also incorporated operations rooms, as well as offices and quarters, and these were visited by many famous wartime figures such as Winston Churchill and H.R.H. Prince Bernardt of the Netherlands.

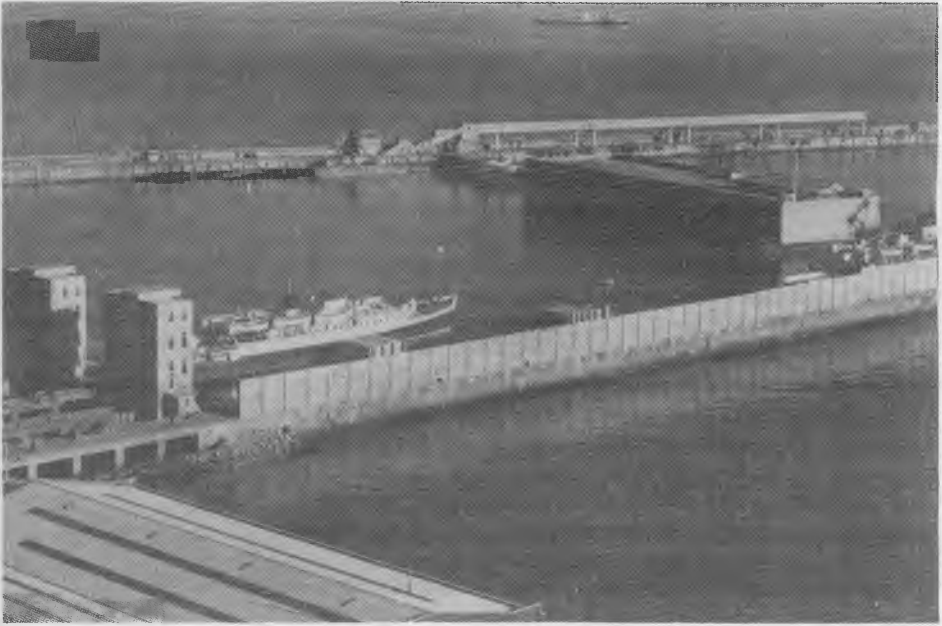
In the post-War years the Pens were used to house a variety of small vessels including the M.O.D. range boats which are used at the Hythe firing ranges, the Harbour Board's survey and patrol craft, the local Dover lifeboat and other small craft.

With the infilling of the Camber in 1988 to provide much needed vehicle parking areas and a new No. 3 Berth, maritime activities at the Pens came to an end and small vessels were transferred to the Tughaven at the Western Docks.

Unfortunately the design of the structure did not lend itself to conversion for other commercial uses and since it precluded access to a valuable deep water berth site, the Harbour Board concluded that its commercial interests would best be served by clearing the site and redeveloping new general cargo facilities there.

As a result, members will shortly see two large lightweight steel sheds being erected some 20 metres or so back from the quay edge, and by the end of the year the Board expects to see a healthy increase in its general cargo trade. In the process it will be providing more local employment, a greater diversity of trade, about 10,000 cubic metres of hardcore and a bit of smelting steel!!

JOHN GERRARD



The 'Submarine Pens' in the late 1950's after the construction of the pioneer ro-ro berths. In the background is the Southern Railway coal saithe on the Eastern Arm.



The pens as demolition started and showing the in-filled Camber.



Further stages as the demolition progressed.

*The illustrations on pages 35 and 36 are by courtesy of the Dover Harbour Board.*

# MARBLING, DRAGGING, RAGGING and SPOIGING 37

Our Social Secretary inserted an advertisement in the July edition of the Parish News (of St. Margarets-at-Cliffe with St. Peter's, Westcliffe, E. and W. Langdon)

This is how it appeared.

THE WAREHOUSE     Antique pine, painted furniture & cane. Lin Clackett  
20/30 Queens Gardens, Dover, Kent. CT17 9AH 0304 242006

SPECIAL PAINT     Two day courses in special pain techniques e.g. marbling,  
TECHNIQUES     dragging, ragging, spoiging etc. £45.00 inclusive



Not surprisingly, there were no applicants, not even an enquiry. The two-part presentation was puzzling, the threat of pain enough to deter any curious mind.

An amended printing was expected in the August/September number, and was confidently awaited. We were in for another surprise; this time the tone was lively and entertaining, but still did not make the message clear.

Re the advert in the July Magazine for a 2-day course in special pain technique e.g. marbling, dragging, ragging, spoiging etc. Gosh, yes, I've had all those pains, except perhaps the spoiging - but even then I can imagine it - sharp and sort of just below the ribs. I am relieved to know that at last something is being done about those dragging and ragging pains which are such a trial to we who suffer from them.

Why not satisfy your curiosity? Come along and see Lin, who will make light of the mysteries of marbling, dragging, ragging and spoiging. You could transform your furniture, fireplaces and fittings, have the fun of learning new skills at the same time, and I can assure you it will be quite painless!

FLORENCE WHALEN

# The Castle Clinics

Dover

Complementary Medicine Centres

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Osteopathy, Chiropody, Homoeopathy,  
Acupuncture, Hypnotherapy, Massage, Reflexology,  
Counselling and Psychotherapy.

The Castle Clinics were established in July 1988  
in order to provide a centre for complementary medical  
disciplines to serve the Dover/Deal area.

The Clinics are staffed by a group of practitioners  
who have been assembled with great care. All practitioners  
are fully qualified, registered and insured, so that the  
patients of the clinic can be assured as to their efficiency  
and safety.

The Clinics are manned daily from 9.30am till  
evening, Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings.

22, Castle Street, Dover. 0304 202352

40, Victoria Road, Deal. 0304 380310



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(formerly Abbots Fashions)

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Styles to suit all age groups*

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*Our workshop offers a professional service in the  
Conservation of prints, drawings & watercolours  
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# Wine and Waterworks SAT. 29th SEPT. 39

A DOVER SOCIETY OUTING for Members and their Guests – £11.50 or £10

9.45 Join Seeth's coach in Pencester Road *or* outside Buckland Mill (opposite to the garage) *or* opposite 'The Pickwick' at Temple Ewell.

10.00 Note: The coach will also stop at these places on the return journey,.

10.30 Arrive at Staple Vineyard. Tour of vines (due to be harvested in mid-October) Wine Tasting. See machinery for pressing grapes and making wine.

12.00 Lunch at the 'Eight Bells,' Wingham. A Ploughman's Lunch is included in the cost of £11.50 (but you can opt out and order from the full menu if you prefer).

After lunch see the ancient chalk workings. Opinions differ as to whether these are Roman or made by medieval monks as hiding places from the Danes.

Please note that it will necessary to climb down a ladder and that it may be rough underfoot so appropriate clothing and footwear is advised.

2.00 Wingham Waterworks for a tour. The late Victorian waterworks serve Thanet.

4.00 Cream tea at the Sixteenth Century Tea Rooms, Sandwich.

The Cost, £11.50 includes transport, entry fees, guided tours, lunch and cream tea.

If you wish to opt out of the Ploughman's Lunch the cost will be £10.

Please be prepared for a raffle en route!

## WINE AND WATERWORKS 29th SEPTEMBER 1990

I/We wish to join this outing. Cost £11.50 (or £10 without Ploughman's Lunch)

Name of person who can be contacted (please PRINT).

.....

Address .....

.....

..... Post Code ..... Phone .....

Please delete as appropriate: £11.50 / £10 enclosed

Name ..... £11.50 / £10 enclosed

Name ..... £11.50 / £10 enclosed

Name ..... £11.50 / £10 enclosed

I/We will join the coach at: Pencester Rd.  Buckland Mill  Temple Ewell

Please tick appropriate box and then make a note of which lunch you have opted for.

I enclose .....cheques for total of £ ..... Please make cheques payable to The Dover

Society and send with this slip, as soon as possible but before **20th September**, to:

Phyllis Dobbins, Bottom Flat, 5 Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RW.

**St. Margaret's Bay Trust**  
 (reg. Charity No. 260153)



**The Pines Garden & The Bay Museum**

Beach Road, St. Margaret's Bay  
 Tel: 0304 852764

**Gardens Open Daily** 10.00am - 5.00 pm

**Museum Open Daily** 2.30 pm - 5.00 pm  
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May 26 to September and Bank Holiday Weekends

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 Dover 830466

**ADVERTISING**

The Society thanks advertisers for their support. We hope that members (and other readers) will, in turn, support them.

If you would like to advertise in forthcoming Newsletters do please contact Miss Joan Simmonds, at 1 Knight's Way, Dover, tel. 822611.

from page 28

This row of eight tall, unpretentious but pleasant houses faced St. Mary's Church and each had a forecourt with steps leading down to a semi-basement. At the end of Church Place, on the other side of Dieu Stone Lane and lying parallel with it, was Flashman's cabinet makers' and upholsterers' workshop and on the ground floor their undertaking department. Further to the N.E. along Dieu Stone Lane were Church Court and Elsam's Cottages, two more cul-de-sac, but regrettably there is not space to describe them.

Church Street was much narrower than it is now, but the buildings on the Cannon Street side are substantially the same as they were 80 years ago. From Castle Street to Stembrook on the other side of the street the Strict Baptists met where now is the corner of the T.S.B. and then there was a hairdresser, the Burlington

Inn, a private house, two shops, one dealing with wireless components and battery charging and the other a fish and chip shop. Then followed two more private houses and Farley-Woodhams's Central Dairy, the biggest private dairy in the town. A house or two came next and then the Star Inn, whose proprietor was, early in this century, the enormous Mr-Longley who weighed, I believe I am correct, 302 kilos!, 48 stone. It is said that to help him get into bed he had a derrick installed, with double-sheaved blocks and a leather sling. His wife could then easily hoist him up and, presumably, drop him in the appointed spot!. I have mislaid my photograph of Mr Longley but many others in this town have a copy. (cont)

Correction; In the 1990 column of the occupation list in the previous issue at No. 40 please read "Vegetarian Restaurant." (Mr Hately was the occupier in 1920.)

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
or RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP of

**THE DOVER SOCIETY**

Please note: Annual Subscriptions become due on 1st April

RENEWAL  NEW APPLICATION  Please tick as appropriate

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 the Dover Public Library. It is based on the Model Constitution published by the Civic Trust.)

MEMBERSHIP: £3.00 per person per year.

Please make cheques payable to The Dover Society and forward to the Membership Secretary: Mrs Merril Lilley, 5 East Cliff, Dover Ct16 1LX

---

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

Special Interests .....

.....

.....

If you belong to other relevant organisations would you note them, please.

.....

.....

.....

Can you offer any expert knowledge or experience? Please state.

.....

.....

## *The Objectives of the Dover Society*

*founded in 1988.*

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archaeology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest.
- And commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton, Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, St. Radigund's, Town and Pier and Tower Hamlets.

Members receive three *Newsletters* a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events – 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.

# PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER  
Saturday, 29th  
9.45 – 5.30

WINE AND WATERWORKS  
Visit to Staple Vineyard, Wingham and Sandwich  
Members and Guests  
Please see page xx for details

OCTOBER  
Monday, 15th  
7.30

St Mary's Parish Centre  
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS  
Sir Clifford Jarrett will speak: 'A Dovorian Remembers'  
Open Meeting

NOVEMBER  
Monday, 19th  
7.30

St Mary's Parish Centre  
MEMBERS' MEETING

DECEMBER  
Saturday, 8th  
7 for 7.30

Dover College Refectory  
CHRISTMAS FEAST  
Members and Guests

1991  
JANUARY  
Monday, 21st  
7.30

Dover Harbour Board Hall, Slip Passage, Cambridge Rd.  
THE MODERN DEVELOPMENT OF DOVER HARBOUR  
Illustrated talk by John Gerrard  
A sequel to last year's fascinating history. Members only

FEBRUARY  
Monday, 25th  
7.30

St Mary's Parish Centre  
WINE AND WISDOM  
Another popular evening of fun-raising quizzes with  
refreshments. Members and Guests

APRIL:  
Monday, 8th  
7.30

St. Mary's Parish Centre  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
More details in January *Newsletter*  
Open Meeting

Saturday, 20th

Dover Town Hall  
CONCERT BY PRIMAVERA  
A return of this very popular orchestra at the invitation of  
the Dover Society  
More details in January *Newsletter*

Among other attractions in 1991 we are also planning visits to Wye College and to Finchcocks

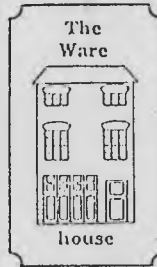


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## The Warehouse



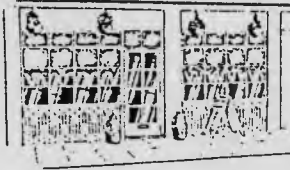
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