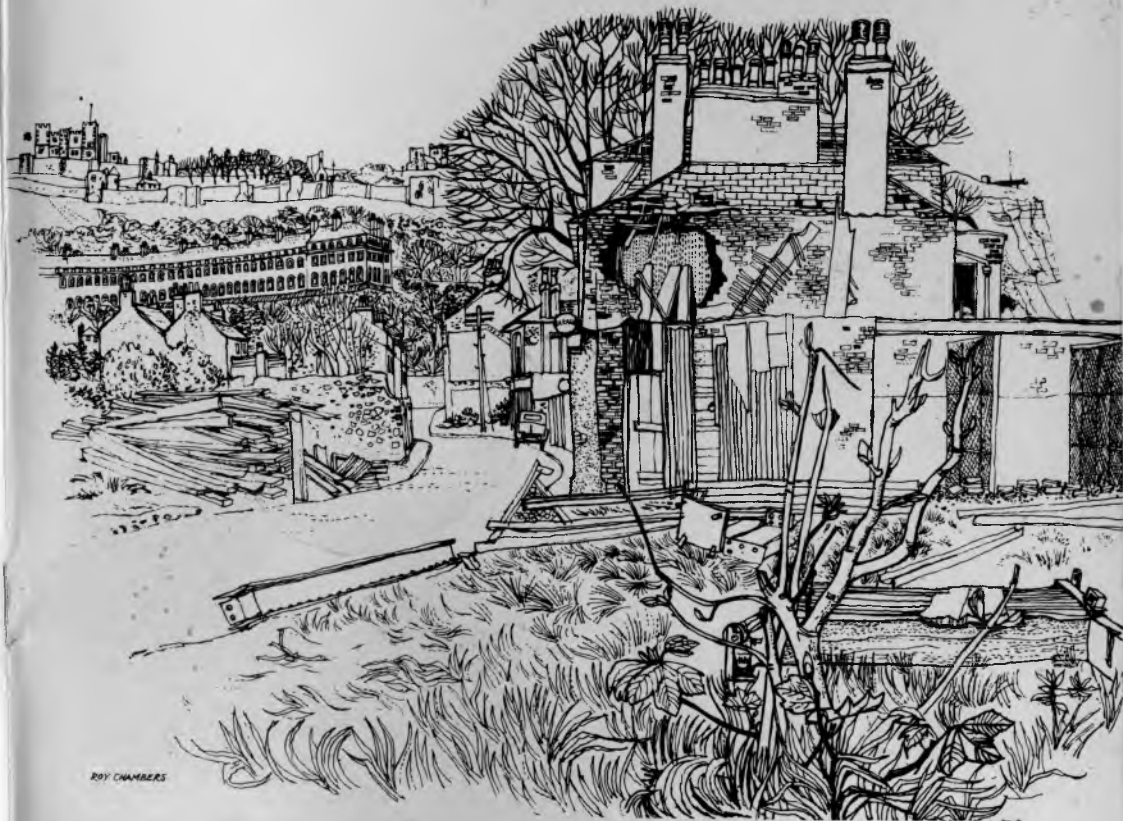


The  
Dover  
Society

# Newsletter

No 12

January 1992



ROY CHAMBERS

Roy Chambers' 1940 drawing of the devastated Townwall Street.

12 BOLD  
£1

# THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED in 1988

Registered with the Civic Trust. Affiliated to the Kent federation of Amenity Societies.  
Registered Charity No. 299954

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## 2 EDITORIAL

A Happy New Year to all Dover Society members and other readers.

The New Year being a time for reflection, I wonder what changes there will be in 1992 in our rapidly-changing Dover. The last five years have brought substantial changes; the pedestrian precinct, the improvement in Castle Street; the opening of the Heritage Centre, new museum, cinema and Town Gaol; the opening up of the whole area at the end of Dour Street, with Adams Printers, Leo's and B & Q.; the building of Tesco and Texas at Whitfield; the improvement of Pencerster Gardens; the re-furbishment of the Town Hall; the coming of the new super-ferris and the Sea-Cat; the building of the new freight berth at Eastern Docks; the addition of extra moorings in the Wellington Dock; and, finally, the start of work on the new A20. All this in five years!

Imagine what might be done in the next five years, and in the five years following that, into the twenty-first century. Meanwhile there is much to be done in the way of planning and preservation; of job creation; of promotion of tourism; of conservation, development and improvement of the town centre. In this future development we hope that the Dover Society, with its increasing influence will have a crucial rôle to play.

Already changes are imminent. Dover is to benefit from a project for environmental assessment and improvement called "Impact", a regeneration scheme already applied to Thanet and Ramsgate and supported by the Kent County Council. Those who attended the Members's Meeting on 25th November heard Adrian Galley, our Planning Committee Chairman, and Councillor Paul Watkins, Chairman of Dover District Council, give an encouraging and positive view of Dover's future, outlining the details of the plans for an economic regeneration for Dover District, supported by the East Kent Business Centre and the Dover Society (for further details see Local Issues Update).

In the words of Councillor Watkins, "it's not all gloom and doom — things are moving forward." After this optimistic news, Dover residents will be observing, with increased interest, each stage of the new developments, especially in Cannon Street.

As Budge Adams reminded us later in the evening, we must not be too concerned or upset at major changes in the town, as it has been said that historically, town centre sexperience major changes approximately every seventy years. It is an inexorable process but it can be influenced by societies such as ours.

Certainly the next two years will be crucial to Dover's future development and, with the completion of the new A20/M20, the appearance of Dover will be substantially altered.

In walking the route of the projected A20, from Aycliffe to the Eastern Docks, it is difficult in places to visualise the finished dual carriage-way. One tends to think only of the noise, dust and inconvenience which must be endured before it is completed, particularly by the people of Aycliffe, Snargate Street and East Cliff. At East Cliff, despite the dust and din, there is a strange fascination in observing the contest between the sea and the contractor. From the top of Aycliffe, however, it is possible to imagine the finished highway. All roads into Dover have splendid views, but surely this will be the most spectacular and panoramic for the motorist, cresting Shakespeare Cliff and sweeping down into the town, via Aycliffe, past the Granville and Wellington Docks; the planned alterations to Wellington Dock enhancing the approach in future years.

Since our last issue one of our major concerns has been with the Dover Society Awards, reported in detail in the centre pages of the *Newsletter*. Congratulations to all the Award winners and our thanks to all who helped to make the October Awards ceremony a success. Our three successful September functions are also reported here, all thoroughly enjoyed by the members who attended them.

Our programme for 1992, detailed on the inside back cover, is a varied one. We hope members will be able to attend all the functions which interest them. The first meeting of the year, on 13 January will be held, as in previous years, in the Harbour Board Hall and the subject of the talk, by Melanie Wrigley, will be The White Cliffs Countryside Project, a fascinating undertaking which has recently been granted a three-year extension to its programme. On 24 February an evening of Conundrums and Conviviality will be held in Dover Museum, with the whole of the museum available for our use. Members who took part in last year's Conundrums evening at St. Margaret's Bay Museum will, I am sure, recommend this event as an evening not to be missed.

I hope that all readers will enjoy this number of the *Newsletter*, my second venture into editorship. In conclusion, I put forward a suggestion to any and every member who feels inclined to contribute to future issues, listing three ways in which you could help; firstly, by sending in more memories of old Dover (I estimate there are at least twelve more members who have not sent us memories and could do so!); secondly, by offering to review local exhibitions, concerts or books and, thirdly, by writing letters to the editor on matters of interest and concern to you. Please write. We welcome a wide variety of views, opinions and voices.

MERRIL LILLEY

COVER ILLUSTRATION: In 1940 the area around the junction of Wellesley Road and Townwall Street was almost entirely destroyed by a stick of bombs. In the centre of the picture, behind the telephone pole, is Buckland's carpenter's shop (see pages 205/206 of the last issue) The two gable ends left of centre are of the Fox Inn at the corner of St. James Street and Fox Passage. The main building on the right was almost on the line of Wellesley Road which, transformed, still connects Townwall Street with the Sea Front.

We are grateful to Mr Chambers for allowing us to use his picture.

# <sup>4</sup> *The Society visits Calais*

CALAIS  
ACCEUIL

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A WARM WELCOME — 5 October 1991 — SHEILA COPE

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WE were roused, unusually early for the majority, by the sound of thunder. What sort of omen was this for an 'invasion' by the Dover Society of Calais from which the English had been banished in 1558? Undeterred, eighteen of us enjoyed a calm crossing and were greeted on arrival by the President, M. Roger Pilate, and other officers of Calais Accueil. Some of us had been concerned about the competence of our O-level French to cope with any but the basic civilities. Leo Wright's command of the language, together with the fact that Mme Marian Lefebvre, Liaison Officer of Accueil, is native to Colchester, enabled us to relax. As we arrived in hazy sunshine at the Musée des Beaux Arts and our hosts began to circulate among us to explain the exhibits, we felt real anticipation for the day ahead.



The HÔTEL DE VILLE, CALAIS

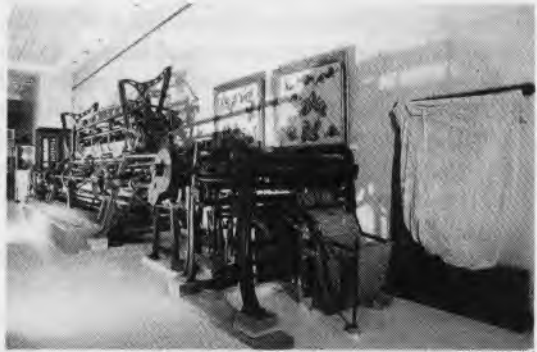
The Accueil or 'welcome' movement is a national one in France although the groups, which exist in most large towns and cities, are autonomous. Newcomers to an area, especially wives and children, can immediately begin to get to know each other and become involved in local events. The Calais group comprises about 190 families at present. The programme includes eleven regular activities (language teaching, gymnastics, painting on silk, for example) together with about five social events each month – exchange visits, outings, dinner dances, talks, friendly bridge contests, etc. A shopping trip to Canterbury will take place in December and our own visit was organised in return for that made to Dover by Calais Accueil a year ago. (Newsletter No, 9).

As our time at the Museum was limited we concentrated on specific exhibits, starting with a large model of Calais in 1904. This showed an attractive old town and revealed at once how 75% of the buildings were destroyed in the last war. The system of waterways around Calais was also evident, together with its very clear division into two separate districts – Nord and St. Pierre. The construction of the Town Hall on a former sandbank between the two areas has ever since helped to foster a greater sense of unity.

Passing showcases of maritime and other costumes, ceramics and implements typical of Calais from the 17th to the 19th centuries, we came to the lace room and the immediate reminder that it is for machine-made lace that Calais has been famous for over 150 years. Fishing and lace-making, which in its hey-day employed 30,000



THE FERRY TERMINAL



INSIDE THE MUSEUM



LES & BOURGEOIS – Rodin

6 people, were once the main industries of the region. The old looms and machines were fascinating, representing to some extent the emancipation of women from eye-strain and drudgery. One of the largest looms was stamped "Built in 1875 by T. Kendrick, Radford, Notts." and much of the technology came from Britain. Only a few hundred workers are required by the industry nowadays.

The Sculpture rooms nearby are a complete contrast. Although this is one of the most important collections of 19th and 20th century sculptures in Northern France, we concentrated on the studies and models made by Auguste Rodin between 1886 and 1895 for his monument *Les Bourgeois de Calais*. We saw, for example, one of the plaster maquettes and the life-size bronze male figure demonstrating the beseeching raised hand-movement characteristic of Rodin's style. The famous sculpture, known to us through its casting at the Victoria Tower Gardens in London, was originally placed on a high plinth at the Place d'Armes in Calais. Now, more obvious to all, the *Bourgeois* stand before the Hôtel de Ville.

Finally, we moved to a breathtaking exhibition for a provincial gallery – a selection of about 30 late Picasso paintings given to the State by Jacqueline Picasso in lieu of death duties. Although some works seemed familiar from reproductions, nothing can reduce the impact made by coming face to face with the original canvas for the first time. This collection, which will move on to Amiens in December and will subsequently be dispersed, would surely prove a worth-while attraction to modern art enthusiasts in Kent. The K.M. Dover Extra is to be commended for its new section, "What's On across the Channel" which should help to publicise such opportunities. Do local French papers perform a reciprocal service?

Within a short time we had retraced our steps down the Rue Royale and arrived at the Hôtel de Ville. Here was another warm welcome from M. Desitter, one of the deputy Mayors of Calais. We were one of many groups who are shown, with great pleasure, around the Town Hall, begun in 1911 and completed in 1927. The apparently solid wood roof beams cover some of the first experiments in the use of ferro-concrete. On the ground floor there was much evidence of the *Colours of Calais* – a white cross on a blue background – interspersed with the French Tricolor.

In the *Salle des Mariages* on the first floor, one's first impression was of richness combined with simplicity. The lower walls were wood-panelled, with green and gold above, and we sat, as wedding guests would do, on red velvet-covered benches on either side of the matching central carpet. We gazed at a romantic painting reminiscent of Arthur Rackham entitled;

Spring, the youth of the year,  
Youth, the spring of life.

We could believe the claim that few other French towns, even Lille, had a Marriage Room superior to this. Civil weddings, under the Mayor's jurisdiction, are obligatory in France, though some people choose an additional religious ceremony. 506 marriages took place in that room last year, unless special judicial permission had been obtained for a ceremony elsewhere.

All the public rooms, including the central corridor, seemed spacious and lofty. The architecture might be termed Flemish Baroque but the style of the Council Chamber was more ponderous. Here, as in the *Salle des Mariages*, the far wall was dominated



by a painting, the work of the same woman artist. This was *Dévouement des Bourgeois de Calais 1347* and the wife of Edward III is seen pleading for their lives. We were told that during the summer, when the Council organises play schemes for 1200 children, these public rooms are used for rôle-play so that young people may understand their future civic duties.



DENTELLE DE CALAIS

In the Council Chamber, where the Mayor sits eight times a year with his 14 deputies raised to his right and 49 councillors facing them, M. Desitter outlined the French system of local government. Deputy Mayors chair committees dealing with education, buildings, etc. and their decisions are implemented by 900 local government officers. There is no central control of local taxes which are levied and spent locally. Mayors have real power. The present Mayor of Calais, who is a Communist, has had four sessions in office and is in daily contact with local citizens. Elections are held every six years and seats allocated by a type of proportional representation. The present majority party holds 60% of the seats. Unemployment was 20% in Calais before tunnel construction began. The problem has been alleviated temporarily because much labour was recruited locally. Asked about the transportation of live animals, our host failed to reply, as if it was a subject about which most French people were not sensitive.

Having seen the large hall which is hired out for functions – that evening a reception for council employees and the following day a presentation of medals for hard work – we returned downstairs. The stairs are illuminated by a stained glass window depicting the banishment from Calais of the English by François, Duc de Guise, “never to return.”

How mistaken he was! In his formal address the Deputy Mayor said how much he valued the contacts with Dover. In reply, Leo Wright explained the civic nature of our Society and outlined some of our recent endeavours. Gifts were exchanged. Beryl Jones presented a picture of the new Port Control at the Eastern Entrance donated by the Harbour Board and Leo accepted a blue porcelain plate. After toasting each other in sparkling white wine we dispersed in groups to nearby restaurants to enjoy each other’s company as much as the food. At our table ten acquaintances became new friends as common interests were shared.

As we returned to the bus from the supermarkets thoughtfully marked on the maps provided by Marian Lefebvre, we were passed by a procession of wedding-cars with flying balloons and rhythmically tooting horns. The down-to-earth version of the mural in the *Salle des Mariages*?

Back in the ticket hall the members of *Accueil* bade us ‘*Au revoir*’. We appreciate the generous manner in which they gave us their time and ensured the smooth running of our visit, thus increasing our enjoyment. Nor do we forget to thank Lin Clackett for organising the travel arrangements and Leo Wright for his diplomacy and translation throughout the day. In Dover it was raining hard; our Society’s visit to Calais had been ‘*très tranquille*’.

## 8 LEO'S RESPONSE to the WELCOME AT CALAIS

Monsieur le Maire-Adjoint

Monsieur le Président de Calais Accueil

Ladies and Gentlemen

Je dois tout d'abord faire les excuses de notre Président.

Il doit ce matin présider une conférence importante et il regrette tellement de n'avoir pas pu nous accompagner. Il est très francophile et il adore la cuisine française.

Nous sommes très sensibles à la chaleur de l'accueil de votre association, soulignée par cette réception municipale. Nous sommes très contents de renforcer, encore que modestement, le jumelage Calais-Douvres.

A ce sujet j'ai une petite communication de la part du conseil municipal de Douvres. Au cours de la visite de votre groupe à Douvres l'année passée, Monsieur le Président, à la réception à notre hôtel de ville, on a posé la question: "Avez-vous à Douvres une organisation qui correspond à L'Accueil des Villes françaises?" et la réponse était négative. Le message est ceci: l'officier responsable a dit: "Voici encore un domaine où nous pouvons admirer et apprendre quelque chose chez nos voisins et les imiter". En attendant, Rotary et certaines familles, à titre particulier y mettent du leur en invitant des étrangers employés aux travaux du Tunnel et d'autres.

Toujours sous ce titre de profiter de bons exemples chez nos voisins, j'ai lu avec plaisir, hier encore, que les présidents des deux chambres de commerce: votre Henri Ravisse et notre Peter Sherred ont invité nos trois leaders de parti: Major, Kinnock et Ashdown à venir voir l'excellent réseau de communications déjà en place et projeté pour servir Calais. Nous voudrions l'égaliser.

The Dover Society est très heureux d'accueillir des groupes comme le vôtre, Monsieur le Président, mais notre constitution nous impose d'autres responsabilités. Nous sommes une association civique de plus de trois cents membres, très active en ce qui concerne l'urbanisme et l'environnement. Par exemple: deux affaires qui nous occupent en ce moment, de concert avec le conseil municipal et la chambre de commerce: le renouvellement de notre centre commercial et aussi la chasse au pavillon bleu pour nos plages.

Pour conclure: si je peux me permettre un peu de nostalgie du passé:

La première fois que j'ai été honoré d'un vin d'honneur dans ce magnifique hôtel de ville, c'était en 1947!

Nous étions arrivés en deux petites embarcations à voile, appelées "baleinières": deux profs, et deux fois huit élèves. Monsieur le maire-adjoint, votre prédécesseur, nous a accueillis comme "les jeunes Anglais sportifs." Oui. Tout passe. Tout lasse. Mais, ces élèves-là, maintenant des pères de famille, pour ne pas dire grands-pères, n'ont pas oublié Calais en 1947 – une ville en ruines, aux ponts sautés, comme Douvres d'ailleurs, à l'époque, mais qui nous a accueillis chaudement. Ce qui démontre, Monsieur le Maire-adjoint, que Marie Tudor n'est pas seule à avoir Calais gravé au cœur. Nous ne sommes pas dans la salle des mariages, mais le mariage de nos deux villes voisines est constant et se porte bien.

Levons nos verres au jumelage Calais – Douvres, sous le grand parapluie (parasol?) de la Communauté Européenne! A l'Entente Cordiale!

## POSTSCRIPT

The reciprocal visits to and from Calais Accueil have had a very pleasant and rewarding sequel.

The A.V.F., with some 600 voluntary centres in France, are now thinking European. Already into Germany, they are looking to introduce the good work of the Accueil into Britain, starting in Kent. We were asked to arrange a meeting with Dover District Council to explore ways and means.

On 11 November Leo and Marjorie Wright entertained Madame Violette Picot, a national vice-president, and Madame Renée Vernusset, regional representative for Nord-Pas-de-Calais, and a meeting was arranged with John Moir, Chief Executive of D.D.C. We were able to give them some promising contacts, which they are already following up.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

During one week in October, it so happened that I had occasion to observe several visitors to the town in different situations, which constituted their first impressions of Dover.

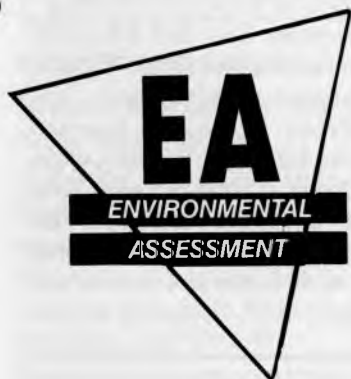
Passing through Brook House car park, on my way to the Library, I saw three coaches unloading parties of tourists, on their way to the White Cliffs Experience. The sun was shining, the flowers blooming in recently-weeded beds, the paths were clear of litter, the ducks bobbing on the Dour, as the visitors crossed the footbridge and made their way to the pedestrian precinct. I think their first impressions were favourable.

At the Painted House, I encountered a couple who had just arrived by train for a day in Dover. Seeing a sign to the Painted House they had made that their first stop and were answering a tourist questionnaire, put to them by a helpful custodian. They had decided to visit Dover for the day to sight-see, because they had previously only passed through on their way to the ferry! Their welcome was a very friendly one.

As I stood near the desk at the Tourist Office outside the museum, I heard two Americans. They were booking bed and breakfast in Castle Street, a ferry crossing for the following day and enquiring about a three-day stay on their return from the continent. However, the assistant failed to help them with their last query. The banks had closed and they wanted to change some dollar travellers cheques. Surely, I thought afterwards, they could have been directed to the Bureau de Change on Townwall Street.

So far, so good. In all these situations the tourists seemed very happy. However, the following Saturday, when out walking, I saw some very tired-looking travellers. making their way along Snargate Street, after avoiding several hazards connected with the roadworks for the A20. There were at least 60 or 70 people, some with children, some elderly, some with suitcases, all WALKING from Western Docks to Dover town centre. Hardly a welcoming entrance to Dover for these visitors. Surely buses could be provided for them!

EDITOR



# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

(THE NEW BUZZ WORD)

MARGARET PECKHAM

*(Chairman's Note. The cost of this Conference was shared between the Dover Society and the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies. In my absence through indisposition it was attended by one of the members of the KFAS Executive Committee whose excellent report is subjoined.)*

For many years there has been concern about the impact that development has on the environment; not just the obvious physical changes but the consequences of traffic generated, of air polluted, of lead deposited, of noise inflicted as well as of the losses of open space and countryside. It was widely felt that an assessment of all such factors should be made and considered before any planning consent was given – and in many cases this has increasingly been done.

However, in 1988 a European Community directive came into force to the effect that in certain cases an environmental assessment should be made to ensure that the impact of new development was fully understood and taken into account *before* the application was allowed to go ahead. In order to implement this the Government has made a series of Statutory Instruments of which SI 1199/88 is the legal basis in England and Wales.

Kent County Council, aware of increasing pressures for development in the 1990s, has been anxious to ensure that there is a common framework for EAs and has produced an Environmental Assessment Handbook. This sets out clearly the types of development which must have an assessment; those which might qualify; the responsibility of the developer to produce it; the points to consider, the people to contact, the way to present and publicise it; and guidelines for local authorities. The local planning authority, which may be the County or District Council, should then be in a position to make an assessment *before* the application is considered.

All this is well set out in the Handbook with relevant names and addresses in the various sections (though it might be easier for reference if these were also placed together alphabetically at the end of the Handbook.) Societies will find it – and it should be in all libraries – well worth reading and cogitation: for the effectiveness of environmental assessment depends on ensuring that all developments of the type requiring an EA have well drawn up statements, that the assessment is balanced and, when the decision is finally made by the Councillors, that it reflects the significance of the environment on the equation.

KCC launched the Handbook at a conference at County Hall in May. It was quite a marathon with a vast number of speakers, all of whom contributed much food for thought – but there was little time for questions or discussion. Those attending were mainly from local authorities in Kent or the Home Counties or from statutory bodies. There were representatives from the main conservation bodies such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and ourselves, but only one from a local amenity society (The City of Rochester Society). Perhaps the charge of £40 for the day was a deterrent, for most run on very limited budgets. It certainly underlines the value of our Wye Conference week-ends but it was a pioneering exercise on KCC's part and one for which it should be congratulated.

The County Planning Officer, Robin Thompson, said in his opening speech that the 1980s had been a time of economic growth with an emphasis in favour of development. In the 1990s there had been changes. Although there was still a need for growth, development must be sustainable; the environment and ecology were important and lively factors and a balance must be kept between them and development. KCC had a clear environmental programme and now had a county ecologist, archaeologist and environmental assessment expert. The recent 'Transport Challenge' Conference looked at transport and the environment and the current review of the Kent Structure Plan meant the environment would be having a greater significance than before. As we all knew, this was a very crucial time for planning in Kent with the Channel Tunnel, the High Speed Rail link, the new Dartford Bridge, motorways, the Broad Oak Reservoir, the King's Hill Business Park and so on, all posing threats to the countryside which had to be resolved.

In the context of the need to reduce noise at source from rail or motorway, examples were given of various bunds of earth or barriers of fencing. Slides were shown of a 'willow wall' – fencing made of live interlaced willow which continued growing and rooting to form a living wall. It looked an excellent solution but cost twice as much and needed maintenance. Considerable research was going on now into the assessment of air and land pollution from traffic, for not only was the air affected but, for example, the lead deposited on grass near a motorway could affect the milk from cows grazing there. Up-to-date techniques could give a much more sensitive picture.

Examples were given of the public consultation that had gone on over the Thanet Way dualling project and the various proposals to minimise the impact of the road. At one place,, in order to avoid severance of the land, it was proposed that the route should continue at road level, but a box-in effect, forming a tunnel, would be put over the road and this, in turn, would be covered with excess spoil from the cuttings so that when contured it would provide a man-made hill and a beneficial use for spoil.

As was mentioned by many speakers, the *quality* of the EA was the essential factor and it was depressing to hear that a national sample had shown that 25% were satisfactory against 47% which were not.

The *public contribution* was important and assessment should not just be an exercise by professionals for professionals. It was suggested that a non-technical summary could help not only the general public to contribute effectively, but also Parish Councils which, strangely at this moment, did not seem to be on the list of those likely to be consulted.

**12** There was a danger that by being split up into smaller pieces certain developments might slip through the net. An example was given of the Lionhope development on Sheppey which came in five packets of which only two had EAs.

It was important, said one speaker, that all significant developments have an EA. It was already reported that a Judicial Review had been called for by an amenity body because an EA had *not* been called for in a particular case. The Council for the Protection of Rural England would like the list of developments which *must* have an environmental assessment to be *extended* to include drinking water plants, leisure centre complexes and golf courses. One speaker made a plea for consideration to be given to *alternative sites* for a new development and felt that it should not just be on the site which a developer happened to own.

The speaker from the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation perhaps put the significance of Environmental Assessments most neatly when he said:

"E.A.s should:-

- see that the development was sustainable,
- encourage developers to acknowledge and mitigate the impact,
- encourage research and public debate,
- increase survey data,
- identify the problems earlier and save time and money.

For many years we have all, in various ways, complained that the environment was the poor relation when the pros and cons of a project were being considered. At last there is an acknowledgement that it should be a significant factor. But *how* significant will depend on our keeping a keen and watchful eye and, for a start, reading the KCC Environmental Assessment Handbook and letting Elizabeth Street from the KCC Planning Department, who compiled it, hear of any shortcomings.

KCC Environmental Assessment Handbook: £10 + £1.30 postage from KCC Planning Dept., SPRINGFIELD, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2LX.

Environmental Assessment – a Guide to Procedures: £5.30 from HMSO.

Circular DoE 15/88 Environmental Assessment from HMSO.

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## *Seven Societies Socialise*

On 22 November the Deal Society, at the instigation of its new Chairman, Air Vice-Marshal Tim Lloyd, hosted a social evening at the home of one of its committee members, Mrs Judith Doré. The Chairman had expressed the wish to meet representatives from societies with the same or similar views as the Deal Society and invited four members from each of the six other local societies. Represented were The Dover Society, the Men of Kent, the North Deal Society, the Sandwich Society, the St. Margaret's Society and the Walmer Resident's Association.

The four Dover Society members who attended the function, Jack Woolford, Budge Adams and Bruce and Merrill Lilley, enjoyed a friendly and informative evening.

EDITOR

*The*

## VISIT TO WYE COLLEGE

*1 September 1981*

KAREN BRYSON

ON arrival at the college we were met by Dr Hill and ushered into a hall, that was originally the refectory, overlooked by a charming portrait of the Queen Mother.

We learnt that the school was founded by Cardinal Kemp (1447-1555) who, when appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, felt an obligation to his home village. He founded the school as a training place for priests but, after serving as the village school, it was taken over in 1894 as an agricultural college and in 1898 began running some courses for the University of London. By 1947 the college was devoted entirely to those courses and it is now part of the University.

At first the college taught pure agriculture but began to teach horticulture in 1947 and in the 50's and 60's introduced other courses to meet the demand for a more specialised approach. Interestingly the college claims to have been the first to offer courses with the word "environment" in the title, beginning with "Rural and Environmental Studies" nineteen years ago. Apparently, to begin with, these students were ostracised by students on agricultural courses as they felt that environmentalists could have nothing worthwhile to contribute. Happily, in these enlightened times, both groups have discovered common ground.

About one third of the student body is made up of post-graduates with forty-five different nationalities represented.

The oldest buildings are set in traditional quadrangles, and behind them are modern laboratories. We were led past these and out to the glasshouses where we met Dr Taylor in one of the test fields. He is working on a project involving *Tagetes erecta*, a form of African Marigold. His research is funded by the Mexican government, as the marigold forms an important crop in Central America. It is a natural source of pigment used in food colouring mainly in America and Japan. Dr Taylor explained that there were up to 2000 plants grown by tissue culture in order to improve the crop. The problem is that the seed is not normally stable and produces many colour and petal variations. Growing the plants in this way they hope to eliminate these problems and are expecting to retrieve half a million seeds which hopefully will not display the same tendency for variation.

After our talk from Dr Taylor, we went to one of the large glasshouses, where several experiments were in progress. The temperature is regulated by a computer system with automated windows, which open a fraction at a time in order to regulate the speed at which the air cools. They also have boilers and back-up generators in case of power failure.

14 One of the most interesting experiments was that of nutrient film technique, whereby plants are grown in a shallow trough of slowly moving liquid without any solid growing medium. In this way the roots receive a balanced "diet" of nutrients in solution, which can be easily controlled. One such experiment concerned the growing of cucumbers in a saline solution to test their tolerance of salt, as some countries have no fresh water to use.

In the second greenhouse we visited tropical and sub-tropical plants were being grown. This provided a reservoir of plants for use in teaching and also allowed experiments in the biological control of greenhouse pests, with the use of predatory insects. Wye College has a small concern called "Wyebugs" supplying these commercially.

There was also a small section of desert in this glasshouse where the problems of desertification were being addressed. Apparently, 6 million hectares of land are lost to desert annually.

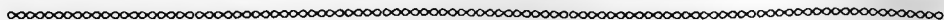
Having thanked Dr Hall for his hospitality we dispersed for lunch and regrouped at the "Tickled Trout", a public house on the edge of the village.

We were met by Mrs Whorton who told us that Wye had developed on the ancient trackway leading from the West to Dover, at the point where travellers had to come off the Downs to cross the River Stour, fording the river where there now stands a bridge. There has been a mill on the site since before Domesday – the present building is no longer used and is to be converted into flats. As we walked through the village looking at the various historical buildings Mrs Whorton explained that after Cardinal Kemp left the village his house, "Olantigh", was taken over by a family called Thornhill. The master of the house survived the Civil War, serving as a Royalist, but died young. His wife outlived him and on her death left money to the village for almshouses and a school. The college building was unused because of the Reformation and the village school was set up there. In 1894 when the building was acquired for use as an agricultural college the school was moved to its present site and is still called the Lady J. Thornhill Endowed School. Until five years ago a Mrs Dupont (who died aged 101) could remember being a pupil there at the time of the move.

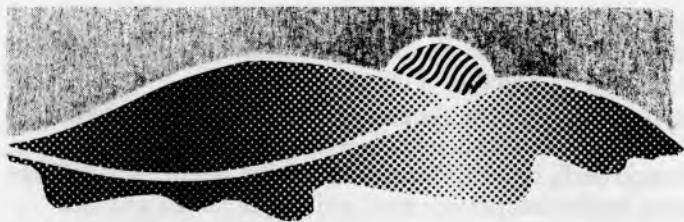
We saw the site of a medieval cellar, which it is hoped to open to the public soon and many converted "hall houses".

Arriving at the church, and taking a welcome pew, we were told of the enlargement of the building by Cardinal Kemp, who felt that his local church should reflect his new status. Not only did he add another storey and chancel to the building but he also enlarged the tower, which collapsed 100 years later, was hastily rebuilt, collapsed again and was left as a squat tower in the 17th century. The cushions on the pews had been worked by parishioners to represent local life and the huge stained glass west window was replaced, after being bombed in World War 2, with a window commemorating Wye students who had died in the War.

A most welcome cup of tea was taken next and then it was back onto the coach for the journey home. Many thanks to Jeremy and Sheila Cope for organising the raffle (which I won!). I am sure we would all like to thank Jack Woolford, who organised the trip, and Lin Clackett, who attended to the administration.







## WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT



MELANIE WRIGLEY  
*Projects Officer*

# MANAGING A CHURCHYARD for NATURE CONSERVATION and REMEMBRANCE

## COWGATE CEMETERY (formerly St Mary's New Burial Ground)

Cowgate Cemetery nestles at the base of the slopes of the Western Heights at the top of Cowgate Hill. Parallel to it runs an alley-way and in front of that lies a row of flint cottages known as the Sarah Gorley Alms Houses.

This small part of old Dover seems to be little known, as when I talk to people about the management of the cemetery they often have not heard of it. This seems a great shame because the information contained on the gravestones at this site is fascinating and holds a wealth of social history.

The White Cliffs Countryside Project is attempting to manage the Cemetery for nature conservation and as a place for quiet remembrance but we do need some more volunteers to help us to care for it and to act as wardens.

Local volunteers of all ages have been helping to care for this neglected Cemetery. Our own conservation volunteers have regularly cleared footpaths and cut down bushes that are damaging the headstones. We have had valuable practical help from the students of Walmer Social Centre, who did traditional hay raking of the grassland in order to encourage the growth of more wild flowers.

Pupils and staff from Dover College have spent many working hours at Cowgate Cemetery, continuing to clear and maintain footpaths, cut back scrub, clear litter, and re-paint part of the wrought iron gates.

**16** We have also had valuable help from the Girls' Venture Corps and from Deal Queen's Scouts. Both groups spent their spare time clearing and maintaining footpaths and clearing litter; the Scouts finished the painting of the gates.

All this hard work should not go to waste. The Cemetery needs a few more regular helpers to care for its appearance and for the wildlife that has found a home there. It is a sheltered, wild site and is home for many birds, colourful butterflies, reptiles and mammals. There are numerous berry-bearing bushes that provide food and shelter for the animals.

The WCCP are managing the habitats in the Cemetery to maintain a diversity of structures and types of vegetation. For example, grassland, scrub and woodland. This enables a greater variety of wildlife to live in a smaller area of land.

Cowgate Cemetery is named after a gate in the medieval town wall that allowed the townspeople to graze their cows on the slopes of the Western Heights.

The Cemetery – a rectangle of about two and a half acres – was consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1835 as an extension to the St Mary's Parish Churchyard, which at that period occupied ground now covered by York Street.

The layout of the Cemetery is attributed to Stephen Geary (1797-1854), an architect who designed London's famous Highgate Cemetery.

A feature is the terrace of family vaults along the upper edge. The gravestones, mainly sandstone or limestone – some with intricate carvings – are set out within plots intersected by what were formerly wide pathways.

There are many interesting gravestones. At the centre of the Cemetery is a large obelisk to Sergeant Monger of the Cinque Ports Volunteer Artillery, who was killed by the bursting of a gun at Archcliffe Fort.

Many of the people buried at Cowgate Cemetery had died aboard ship or abroad and were brought back here to the first bit of British soil!

In our cross-curricular activity weeks with local schools we have encouraged the use of the Cemetery for educational activities such as information collecting, basic maths, history, creative writing and art.

Cowgate Cemetery is a fascinating part of old Dover, important for its social history, its wildlife and as an educational resource for local schools. If you can spare just a little time, please help us to take care of it for future generations.

Contact Mrs Melanie Wrigley, WCCP, 6 Cambridge Terrace, Dover, Kent CT16 1Jt. Tel: Dover 241806.

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## WALKS 1992

You are invited to join a guided walk with a difference, on Sunday, 5 January, 1992 – Winter Sketching in Dover – a slow stroll stopping to sketch the winter landscape in Cowgate Cemetery, the wildlife and the fortifications of the Western Heights. Meet 1.30 pm outside the main entrance of the 'White Cliffs Experience', Market Square, Dover.

Sunday, 16 February, 1992 – Dover Landscape Photography Walk – with advice from Gateway Camera Club. Meet outside main entrance of 'White Cliffs Experience' at 1.30 pm. We will walk onto the Western Heights.

# Village Children's Views of Dover

Dover is an old town and a new town and Dover has the busiest harbour in England. Dover is the nearest town to my house. My Dad goes to Dover a lot. Dover has a lot of things about history.

Michael (8)

One of the oldest places is Dover Castle. Dover Gaol is good because you press a button and the people glow up.

Nicholas (8)

I like Dover because the old town is interesting and I like Dover Gaol. I go swimming every Monday to Dover Sports Centre. The shops in Dover are quite nice. My favourite is MadDonalds.

Eleanor (8)

I like Dover because I go there for Christmas and roast dinner and for swimming. Sometimes I go to my Nanny's. Sometimes on Friday we go to the top of the cliff and we see the ships sail out of the harbour.

Bradley (7)

I go to Connaught Park for tennis matches. My Dad and Mum play some tennis matches. I go with the school every week to go swimming. When we go to the Sports Centre I see the harbour. When it is a nice day the sea glitters and it looks lovely.

Tom (9)

Dover is a lovely place at night when everything is alight. The castle is very pretty when the spotlights are on. I go to Dover mostly on Fridays because my

Mum and Dad go to the B & Q D.I.Y. centre. When we go swimming I look up at all the cliffs and make faces where all the bushes have been growing out of them. From our house you can see the sea and all the big ferries coming in and going out and you can smell a salty smell.

Sarah (9)

I like the harbour and I like the sea when the sun is out and the sea glistens with all the fishing smacks out at sea. Also I like Dover when they let off fireworks at Dover Castle. All the harbour is lit up. I like going to the White Cliffs Experience. Dover is a very busy place with lots of attractions and shops. You can go over to France in 35 minutes on the Hovercraft. Dover is old and historical, new and attractive.

Jennifer (9)

I like Dover because of the Hovercraft. I like the park and the swings and the seashore and Dover swimming centre where they have a big pool and a baby pool.

Daniel (7)

Dover is a lovely town. It is old and new and very pretty. Lots of tourists go there because it is well-known, there are exhibitions such as the White Cliffs Experience and Dover Castle, which I have been to lots of times ... . There are lots of houses and schools; some houses are old and beautiful, some are small ... . There are lots of shops in Dover, some big and lots of little ones. I also love Dover because of the sea, so shiny and sparkling.

Katherine (10)

(All these children attend Ripple County Primary School)

# 18 *THE OMBUDSMAN and* *THE WESTERN HEIGHTS*

JACK WOOLFORD

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## Not *Again!*

In September, 1980, prompted by its Chairman, the late Douglas Crellin (whose achievements for Dover are commemorated on the plaque at the top of the Grand Shaft), and supported by its MP (then Peter (now Lord) Rees) our predecessor society, the New Dover Group, successfully protested to the Ombudsman against the Home Office which demolished part of an Ancient Monument, (at the then Dover Borstal), a Victorian (powder) Magazine at the Citadel, in order to build a new boiler house (whose wretched chimney has disfigured the White Cliffs skyline ever since. They were rebuked for not having consulted both the Department of the Environment and Dover District Council. The Department of the Environment was rebuked for not having done anything about it. Explanations from the Home Office were described as unsatisfactory and inconsistent with other sources (*sic*).

The then Ombudsman commented "... the Home Office ... omitted the usual consultations before they carried out the work to the magazine and I do not find such explanations as they have offered for this serious failure at all satisfactory ... I find their performance in this whole unhappy business deplorable and disturbing ... I can only hope that both the DoE and the Home Office have learned important lessons from it *and that there will be no further incidents of this kind ...*" (My italics).

So far, so good. Prompted, however, by Vice-President and founder-member Peter Johnson, and supported by David Shaw, MP, in March 1990 the Dover Society protested to the Ombudsman that despite the undertakings of 1981, precisely the same thing had happened again. The Home Office had constructed an accommodation block at the Young Offenders Institute without, again, consulting either English Heritage or the Department of the Environment. They had, this time, informed Dover District Council which confined its attention to the appearance of the roof and the brickwork, apparently thinking it would be unnoticeable from outside. Were they thus unaware – in 1988! – of the threat to the White Cliffs skyline which had become even more important to Dover's touristic image with the threat of the Channel Tunnel to local employment?

The Home Office, although ignoring circular 18/44, said that particular care had been taken in carrying out the work below ground and that (shades of Brian Philp!) no man-made artefacts had been found. Excuses included the belief that Dover District Council would inform English Heritage and the fact that an unexpected and unprecedented increase in the prison population had put officials, some new and untrained, under heavy pressure.

The Ombudsman very strongly criticised the Home Office for failing to learn lessons from the 1981 report and for repeating their mistake. The Permanent Under-Secretary had asked him to convey his apologies to all concerned and said that the Department was extremely sorry that the oversight should have occurred again. New instructions had been issued to all staff and oral guidance given to senior staff on the procedures for dealing with ancient monuments. He concluded with the hope that this time measures have been taken to prevent any recurrence of a mistake of this nature. We must hope so; *but will not take it for granted.*

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## Reviews

### THE KENT CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Dover Town Hall — 21 September 1991

ROSS ANDERSON

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THE Dover Society must be congratulated in bringing off a double coup for its September event in Dover Town Hall. The brilliant young pianist, Marie-Noëlle Kendall, and the Kent Concert Orchestra provided an evening of almost unalloyed enjoyment. The orchestra which, with its programme content and playing strength of 28, might more properly be called a chamber orchestra, under its conductor, Paul Neville, offered style, sensitivity and disciplined commitment that outweighed the occasional flaw in ensemble.

Marie-Noëlle Kendall, on her first appearance here, displayed technical accomplishment of a very high order allied to deep musicianship which, with the admirable co-operation of conductor and orchestra, resulted in a performance of the E flat Piano Concerto of Mozart which gave great satisfaction, rightly earning a warm ovation.

Works by Boyce, Elgar, Handel and Purcell fitted well into the programme, the Elgar Serenade being of especial interest to your reviewer who, when conducting in the West Midlands, used a score marked by the composer and frequently directed players who had worked under Sir Edward Elgar.

A spirited performance of Mozart's Symphony 29 in A proved a fitting finale to a distinguished occasion.

Enhancing the pleasures of the evening were an elegant programme sensibly priced, helpful and succinct – albeit anonymous – programme notes and last – but by no means least – most civilised interval refreshment.

# Serenade

JACK WOOLFORD

CONNAUGHT HALL, DOVER — 21 SEPTEMBER 1991

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OUR third sponsored concert was up to standard: which is praise indeed, recalling our earlier ventures with Primavera! The Kent Concert Orchestra, its conductor Paul Neville and the soloist Marie-Noëlle Kendall were all that could be demanded or desired. Moreover the Connaught Hall itself had just been splendidly redecorated: what more could one ask?

I will confess to some anticipatory trepidation. There could only be one rehearsal, and that on the day of the concert itself. Auditory visions of less than perfect ensemble, of the odd fluffed entry, of some lack of balance between sections, of less than perfect rapport between orchestra and soloist! I was happily and joyously wrong. Such unalloyed delight is rare indeed.

Only one rehearsal: but a rehearsal of professionals, well balanced in and between their violin, viola, cello and bass sections and accustomed to playing together. Only one rehearsal: but a conductor who had in advance planned every detail of phrasing and dynamics and who communicated with every gesture, not only to the players but to the audience as well, the precise shape and weight he required in every bar.

Only one rehearsal: but a – beautiful – soloist who lived up to every excellence promised and to every word of praise in her curriculum vitae. Her partnership with the orchestra was as well-matched as her every solo passage was brilliantly executed. Like the conductor and the orchestra, she, too, established warm relations with her audience: we were all quite spontaneously at home with one another. The ambiance was infectiously friendly.

The programme, Paul Neville's, was remarkably well-chosen. What better overture to a concert than Handel's "Entrance of the Queen of Sheba", with two live oboes to give their piquant but melodious bite to triumphant arrival? What better contrast than Purcell's "Chacony" in G minor to follow? Mention of Britten as the arranger led me to expect the theme of the "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" but it was not a disappointment to hear another splendid essay in similar style. As to Mozart, he does not need the celebration of the bicentenary of his death to make any of his piano concertos acceptable and K. 271 in E Flat (with its horns as well as oboes to contrast and blend with the strings) has a particularly romantic-by-anticipation youthfulness to make it a perfect choice for a young pianist. The only pity was that the Connaught platform will not bear the weight of a grand piano at the front and so for some of us Miss Kendall was regrettably invisible. Concert pianists should be seen as well as heard. It is integral to the performance, especially to see beautiful hands moving over the keyboard: though the sound alone was ravishing in itself.

## Reviews

After the interval we returned from Austria to England, first to Boyce whose F Major Symphony is so resolutely and rightly English in the Purcell/Arne traditions as to make "the land without music" a senseless gibe and then to Elgar's Serenade for Strings, so English too, but so eloquently contrasted by its late romantic warmth and wistfulness. And so to the elegantly fitting conclusion, the Mozart No. 29 in A, another masterpiece of youthful exuberance.

Thus did orchestra, conductor and pianist combine to give us a perfect Serenade but it is to our Secretary Leo Wright, prime mover behind the Primavera concerts, that we are also basically indebted. He it was who negotiated with Paul Neville, who procured Miss Kendall's services and who persuaded the Dover District Council to make available the piano from Deal. We must hope that he will be equally patient, persistent and skilful in organising a return date. We cannot have too much of so good a thing.

Finally, it must be emphasised that the Society could not have guaranteed the three concerts without the financial support of well-wishers. No call has ever been made on central funds and on this third occasion we are particularly grateful to the following for their support:

## DOVER ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION at the DOVER MUSEUM

16 September — 20 October, 1991

JEAN JONES \*

A MASS of colour greeted the eye from work on display by members of the Dover Art Society. On closer examination the work proved to be varied and interesting both in subject matter and in media. It was notoriously difficult to hang a mixed exhibition with so many different styles to accommodate, but this exhibition worked well. Paintings were grouped carefully and sensitively, making good use of the excellent new gallery space.

The three dimensional work looked particularly seductive in contemporary display cases. Terry Warren's wood sculpture and laminated wooden jewellery were both unusual and attractive, whilst Valerie Snow displayed not only pottery, but porcelain of great delicacy.

Amongst a wealth of talent the following artists deserve particular mention. Margaret Hudson's love of pattern was evident in her richly decorated works. The variety in the paintings of Jane Nicholas showed that she is equally at home with watercolour, gouache and pastel. A strong atmospheric acrylic called "The Bridge" by Alan Quartermain was particularly eye-catching. A strikingly unusual view of Jubilee Way in a storm by H. Wells contrasted with T. R. Summerfield's evocative seascapes displayed a skilful use of watercolour and his view of Dymchurch Wall was both unusual and dramatic. The Chairman of the Association, Eric Buckman, submitted a

selection of seascapes and landscapes in pastel which showed a consistently pleasing style.

The broad abstracts of Brian Hardy contrasted with the finely detailed heraldry and illustrated books of Alexander Summers. Drama was well represented by Phillip Nichols, and humour was present too, in Roger Starr's paintings of people and places in Deal.

Altogether this was a fine selection, showing that Dover Art Society is bursting with talent, enthusiasm and sheer enjoyment!

\* Artist and proprietor of One Off Gallery, 9 Castle Street, Dover

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## GARDENS

### An Exhibition of Paintings and Prints

21 September — 26 October. ONE-OFF GALLERY

A very pleasant occasion, on 20 September, where some Dover Society members met each other – and very many other people, for it was extremely well attended – was the private view of the exhibition of paintings and prints at the One-Off Gallery in Castle Street.

It included some of the charming and lively work of our hosts, the proprietors: Lawrence Gage and Jean Jones. We were pleased to see works by Pauline Gould and Shirley and Roy Chambers (he, of course, sometime illustrator to this *Newsletter*) among many others of a very high average standard, all from East Kent and many of which would have been *inter pares* at the Summer Exhibition of the Royal Water Colour Society.

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White & Saynor;

### SHOREHAM: A Village in Kent.

Shoreham Society: 1989: £15 . . .

JACK WOOLFORD

All amenity societies (I assume) publish newsletters and other things but not many publish substantial works in hardback and the Shoreham Society is very much to be congratulated on this major initiative. Not only is it impressive in size and appearance with its beautiful maps, photographs and drawings: it is a work of scholarship which skilfully interweaves detailed village history within its county- and nation-wide contexts and palpably gave as much pleasure in the writing as it does in the reading, dual authorship notwithstanding.



Local involvement in historical events receive befitting detailed treatment because of their national significance. The basically chronological narrative usefully pauses to record and reflect upon economic changes in local agriculture and industry. Local worthies, either by birth or residence, are naturally emphasised.

It is all thoroughly and impressively readable. No review, however, is complete without reservations and I did find one grammatical error, one or two instances of value-judgements dependent upon hindsight and some apparent inconsistencies of attitude to rebellion and conformity. Some of the parish pump details are trivial to the outsider. But these are minor flaws. The book as a whole is a splendid testament to the establishment and survival, indeed the conservation over a thousand years, of a community. It offers a precedent and sets a standard which other amenity societies may praiseworthily follow.

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DOUGLAS E. WELBY'S

## *"The History of Archcliffe Fort"*

PETER JOHNSON

It is very easy, especially in an old and historic town, for some of the less conspicuous landmarks of its history to be lost without trace as the years go by.

Archcliffe Fort is just such a place and when it was finally abandoned by the Ministry of Defence in the 1970s the intention was to sell it on the open market, unless another government department wished to buy it. The Department of the Environment stepped in and the Fort was scheduled as an Ancient Monument.

Now Douglas Welby has written a short account of the history of the Fort and this has been published for the Friends of Dover Museum.

The origins of the defences go back to the reign of Edward III but it was not until Henry VIII's time that an order was given for the construction of a substantial bulwark and in 1540 it was recorded as being manned by a Captain and two soldiers. It would not appear to have been a very significant part of the nation's defences!

During the next 250 years the occasional threat of invasion brought the fort to the attention of the authorities and it was generally reported to be neglected and in need of repair and strengthening. The activities of Napoleon at the beginning of the 19th century brought perhaps the most serious threat but invasion did not come, though the activities of French privateers caused a good deal of embarrassment. Considerable strengthening and development of the Fort took place during the 19th century but it was only used for training purposes. By the beginning of the present century it was obsolete and by 1928 part of it had been demolished to make way for the increasing demands of the South Eastern and Chatham Railway which ran below the fort at sea level.

In his booklet Douglas Welby traces the history of Archcliffe Fort in more detail and his narrative is well illustrated with reproductions of maps and pictures. He also includes some interesting information about the guns and other weaponry installed at the fort from time to time.

Throughout the text there is a considerable amount of information about the cost of construction and maintenance work, some of which has an almost fairytale quality about it when compared with expenditure on defences in the 20th century. In 1370 a watch tower and earthworks were constructed by a team of 50 workmen in 40 days at a total cost of £15!. Even 400 years later the estimate for the modernisation, of what had by then become Archcliffe Fort, was a mere £1200.

In addition to such specific information about the fort, Douglas Welby touches on various events in Dover of both historical and social nature during the period. Altogether it makes an interesting and readable booklet.

I would add as an afterthought that during the present century parts of the fort have been demolished and with the new A20 now under construction more demolition will take place. There is bound to come a point at which it will be necessary to consider whether what then remains is worth preserving. I am a staunch supporter of conservation but equally I believe we must allow our town to develop and keep abreast of the times. I have a feeling that in the end Archcliffe Fort will go and that piece of our history will be lost. If that does happen Douglas Welby's booklet will be of particular value.

## “OLD POTS FOR NEW”

*An Exhibition of medieval pottery and contemporary ceramics.  
Dover Museum Gallery—26th October to 26th November 1991*

JOHN GOODING

IT was with considerable curiosity that I visited this exhibition, as the choice of European pottery from the period 900 - 1500 AD alongside recent work of the Rochester Connection, a group of ex-Medway students, seemed strange but interesting.

The exhibition was set up with the works in glass cases displayed in two separate sections. Firstly the medieval pottery, found in archaeological digs there over the past 30 years. It included pots brought into the Hampshire port from France, the Low Countries, Germany, Spain and Italy, together with some locally made finds. These were well displayed and presented in an interesting museum-type educational format.

One has to say that viewed through the critical eyes of a potter, the medieval European pots were, in the main, not very inspiring. More so, that is, when one thinks of the classical ceramics being produced at about that period in the Orient (Sung, Yuan and early Ming) and also of those Roman pots, visible downstairs in the museum, from the previous millenium, including fine Samian ware.

## Reviews

In fact one had to conclude that after the Roman occupation English potters in particular seriously lost their way. The forms of "Southampton" pots were in many cases dumpy and of poor craftsmanship and sat heavily on the ground. However they were, to be fair, selected purely by historical chance events and were pots for everyday use, probably fulfilling their function as containers adequately, if one discounts lead poisoning from the galena glazes. The same materials brought early deaths to potters well into the 20th century.

The exceptions for me to this critical view were a delightful decorated Dutch vase (29), a simple red earthenware Spanish oil costrel (35) and two Norman appliqué decorated jugs with attractive colouring (5 and 6). A small simple earthenware pipkin (15) and a hand built dripping pan for collecting the fat from roasting meat (10) were pots of character, fire blackened from frequent use, and they could easily have been made by the same potter.

Coming to the work of the contemporary Medway group was quite a cultural leap. For a start most of the ceramics were non-functional in the practical sense. They ranged from abstract sculpture to the work of potters who sought a modern idiom based on traditional forms.

The standard of craftsmanship was high and the work varied and interesting. Mentioning a few of the exhibitors individually, I had by coincidence three of Ashley Howard's pieces from his Medway Diploma show some years ago. There were also electric blue and green "wobbly" stoneware pots. They contrasted with the traditional "Leach" type stoneware forms of Peter Deans, whose opulent overlaid glasses were a bit rich for my taste, but whose large teapot (3) was a superb pot and would be useful for a mega tea party.

'Clive Soord's impressive work is at its most striking with his large and somewhat threatening heads and torsos, although his small dragons (3, 5 and 6) were also fascinating. I'm not sure how his dolphin bowl got into the case – perhaps it was to sustain the dragons?

Graham Skinner's bowls with eruptive glazes on conventional shapes would have much intrigued the medieval potters, as would Valerie Snow's porcelain.

Sharon Potter's pots had the beautiful colours and textures achievable with salt glaze and as her method of glazing was developed originally in the Rhineland during the 12th to 14th centuries there was a clear link with the old German pots on display.

I thought the Medway group's work overall was reasonably representative of modern young potters' decorative ceramics and, as such, was a good choice for an interesting exhibition where comparisons were obviously invited between the different periods and types of pottery.

For those interested in good contemporary ceramics more of the current work of some members of the Rochester Connection is currently on display at the new Platform Gallery, The Westcliff Centre, 136 Sandgate Road, Folkestone. The new Gibbs Gallery, Palace Street, Canterbury is also well worth a visit.

*JOHN GOODING is an artist, potter and design engineer, who recently moved to Walmer from Greenwich, London, where he was a founder member of the Ceramics 7 Group and Gallery. He is a selector for the Kent Potters Association exhibitions and currently works in Raku ceramics.*

# LOCAL ISSUES UPDATE

Reported by Adrian Galley, Chairman of the Planning Committee

## THE CANNON STREET MARKETING INITIATIVE

The East Kent Business Centre (comprising Dover District Council, Eurotunnel, Dover Harbour Board and the Dover Chamber of Commerce) has devised an Economic Regeneration Strategy for Dover District. This coincides with an initiative from the Dover Society Planning Committee for the regeneration of the town and the Society will be working with the East Kent Business Centre to achieve this aim.

In his address to the Society's Members' Meeting on 25 November Adrian Galley made the following points:

Dover is in a unique position in its quest to attract retail development to the centre of the town, when, nationally, retail investment confidence is low.

The District Council had this year opened a major tourist attraction in the town centre at a cost of over £13 million. The 'White Cliffs Experience' – designed by John Sutherland of Jorvik Centre fame – is attracting thousands of visitors each week (April 1991 – September 1991 over 150,000 paying visitors). This centre is quite literally yards from the town's 'Cannon Street' where a good number of available buildings are sited. The potential for these units is clearly only limited by the imagination! Coupled with this, one of the largest sites has recently been acquired and is being renovated to incorporate a major high street store, a number of other retail areas and a large number of residential units.

### Targets

Clearly now is the time to embark on a major marketing initiative to capitalise on the developments now taking place in this area of the town. The initiative should be aimed at attracting retailers and developers to this area in particular, because of the available shop space. However, if developers or retailers who express an interest are either inappropriate to this area, or unable to find suitable space, then they would be directed to other areas of the town.

### Benefits

The benefits to the town of this initiative could prove to be invaluable. The increase in quality retail outlets in the town has clearly been desirable for some time to the people of Dover and the opening of such outlets would present a positive impression of the District to our many visitors. The Chamber of Commerce has expressed very real fears for the town centre, with the prospect of further out-of-town retail use being allowed, and this initiative certainly should go a long way to redress the balance and make the town centre a focus for growth. Developers will be encouraged to take advantage of this initiative and with the support that the partnership may be able to provide developers will be able to see their investments bearing fruit.

### Conclusion

The Dover Society has identified an achievable goal in the 'Cannon Street' area. Set in the centre of the town yards from the successful 'White Cliffs Experience' this street, full of character, has attracted a major developer on its own merits. With a professional partnership actively marketing 'Cannon Street' the full potential of this area CAN be realised.

Dover faces a challenging future and challenge demands a response. Let Dover's response be one of positive action.

# GREEN FORUM

## *The Dover Society, The River Dour and Sewage Disposal*

LEO WRIGHT

### WATER SHORTAGES IN THE ALKHAM VALLEY

The long-heralded meeting, called by David Shaw, m.p., between Mr D. H. A. Dunks, General Manager of the Folkestone and District Water Company and interested parties led by Sister Ambrose, finally took place on Monday 1 Oct at Kearsney Manor.

The attractive setting in the Old Manor House, with Sister Ambrose as hostess, ensured the friendly tone of the meeting.

We were pleased, if a little surprised, that Mr Dunks does not have horns, for despite all our attempts, this was our first contact of any kind with him, other than his bills. Mr Dunks was accompanied by his Engineering Manager, Mr G. A. Cross. Attendance was virtually the same as at the public hearing in May, with the same impressive local knowledge, advanced with restraint and good humour.

Before the meeting, Sister Ambrose, the most expert on the issues under discussion, had submitted to the NRA detailed daily measurements of water-levels and these were accepted by the NRA and FDWC as conclusive evidence that abstraction of water at Lye Oak significantly affected levels in Kearsney Manor Lake. As stated in our September Newsletter: certain restrictions were imposed on pumping from Stonehall but not from Lye Oak.

With reference to the loss of catchment area available to absorb rainfall and the increased demand resulting from building development, Mr Woolford asked whether water companies are statutory consultees in local planning. They are not.

The meeting, which lasted two hours, always good humoured and reasonable, was not inconclusive.

1. Those present were left with a clearer assessment of the drought and other causes of water shortage and of the options open to the water companies. The proposed Broad Oak reservoir could offer the most rapid improvement.
2. The suspicions that the water demands of Eurotunnel had been the cause of water shortage in the Alkham Valley catchment were, I believe, finally dispelled.
3. It was seen to be desirable that water companies should be statutory consultees in relation to local developments.
4. The controls laid down by the NRA on water abstraction at Stonehall were shown to be ineffective, since Stonehall and Lye Oak are connected.

Within three days of our meeting Mr Shaw had written to the Under Secretary of State on the last two points and it is greatly to his credit, and he deserves our thanks, for having ensured that a previously uncommunicative and faceless company has established better public relations with its customers.

### November Update

On 29th October Folkestone District Water Company wrote to Sister Ambrose that they had had second thoughts. Although at the meeting of 1 October they had acknowledged that there appeared to be a connection with pumping at Stonehall, they now took the view that the problem at Kearsney Manor Lake "is much more related to the weather than pumping from the aquifer."

This prompted an immediate response by Sister Ambrose, addressed to Mr David Shaw and the NRA, supported by very scientific statistics and graphs. Her letter refers to statements relevant to the River Dour in the NRA document: "Response to the Issues and Options Report", which also reiterates the water board's general duty "to conserve and enhance the environment." At present Lye Oak is a "license of right", fully under the control of FDWC. It is Sister Ambrose's contention, which we fully support, that it should be made subject to conditions laid down by the NRA.

At the time of writing developments are awaited.

### Sewage Disposal

There is nothing further to report at present on sea outfalls but I am now in possession of the European Community Council Directive concerning bathing water, which anyone interested may consult on request. Mr M. J. Beard, Environmental Protection Manager of the NRA and a colleague have agreed to address our Members' Meeting on 25 November and to answer questions about the environment and water supply.

## Membership News

Membership: £4.00 per person per year (1st April – 31st May)

Current Membership 316

The current year ends on 31st March 1992. Please remember to renew your subscription, either at the A.G.M., on 13th April, or by post, as soon as possible thereafter.

It has been suggested that the provision of two *Newsletters* to households where both husband and wife have joined the Society, is an unnecessary extravagance. The committee feels, however, that everyone who pays a subscription should have equal rights. These include entitlement to vote, attendance at members-only meetings and, of course a copy of the *Newsletter*. Each one of us is needed and it is good when both partners feel able to belong. We ask you all, therefore, to use spare copies as publicity material to recruit new members, so that the Society may remain lively, strong and effective.

SHEILA COPE, *Membership Secretary*

## A Verbatim Record

*Part of the transcript of a taped conversation with Mrs Violet Calton, aged 97, of 1 East Cliff, Dover*

I was born 97 years ago. I've lived in this house for nearly 40 years. – and the remainder at Athol Terrace – No. 12 We moved there when my mother has six children. We had to get a bigger house so father thought he would buy No. 12 Athol Terrace – in 1895 I think it was – no, 1898 when I was three. We moved in there and then, as the years went on, I had seven more brothers younger than me. It was a very big family but a very nice house. We needed it with such a family, eleven boys and two girls.

My great-grandfather started the horse business. He started in 1842. He came to Dover in 1842 and started horses and cabs. He did very well.. He had a wonderful business. He had riding stables. He used to teach ladies to ride. He was a very busy man. He prospered. The stables were down in Flying Horse Lane, just off the Market Square and he had brakes – you know, in the old days instead of going on a bus you'd go on a brake – all open and driven by a couple of horses. Then, his son, my grandfather, took it on afterwards, but unfortunately he only lived to be 42 and he had a brain haemorrhage and died so the business went to my mother. She was the eldest of three children and she took on the business from that time, and one of the men who worked in the firm fell in love with her and she was married at 16.

We used to go to school when we were three in those days and one day when I was coming home from school from St. James's Street to Athol Terrace, we passed this house (No. 1) and it had all the red carpet out and we could see something was happening – and being little girls we

we were inquisitive – we had to stand and watch – and along came a horse and trap and there was a driver and there was a coachman – and he got down and helped the gentleman out and it was Lord Roberts. He was absolutely one mass of brass, medals and brass on his hat and you know how, in those days, they really used to get trimmed up and he came to lunch – and the gentleman who had this house was General Bruce and he was entertaining him. In those days my father supplied all the horse cabs and that's how we got to know a lot of people. General Bruce was a big customer of my father.

I went to St. James's School. It was a little tiny school but very nice – they were very kind. I believe I am the oldest one alive from St. James's School. St. James's Street was a very busy street. We used to spend our half-pennies in the little sweet shop. It left a great memory. Then Mother thought the school wasn't quite good enough so she sent me to St. Mary's School. You went to the Market Square and up the hill to St. Mary's School, which was a grade better. You had a place for hanging your clothes and you paid a little each week.

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## Memories of St. Radigund's Road

JOE HARMAN

Having lived in the road all my life I have many memories. I think I was about two and a half years old when I recall a big bang in 1917, and crawling out from under the bed where we had been sleeping to see my father going out in police uniform. This I believe was the time when a bomb was dropped in Poulton Wood. The next vivid recollection was in 1922 when one of Nash's horse-drawn carriages arrived to collect my sister and I to take us to the

30 Isolation Hospital with diphtheria. I can still hear the horse trotting up to Noah's Ark Road and I was not to see my parents for three months. Five years later I again travelled in one of Nash's carriages to my father's funeral. This could have been one of the last horse-drawn funerals, as Mr Nash closed down his stables in 1927.

On November 5th we used to look out to see the local lads queuing up at Guy Mannering's side gate with their guys, hoping for five bob if theirs was approved. I can still see their efforts perched on a four wheel truck. One day my truck went out of control and crashed into the gate. I went flying through the air to collect gravel rash on both hands. A little way up the road from our house there was a manhole cover which we used for a game of 'Tip-Cat'. We always kept a weather eye for the "Coppers".

In 1940 one of the first shells landed just above the railway bridge, killing two of our neighbours. Later on in the War, I was walking down the road by Mannering's wall and heard what I thought was a pistol shot and looked round to see chimney pots spinning off the house opposite. Later I realised that it was the first of another bout of shelling and luckily it landed in soft

ground in the garden and not too close to the wall.

After the bombing of the East Kent garage I was working a night-shift at the old Buckland tramshed. On coming off duty I felt so rough and made an attempt to see Dr. Dick at the Royal Victoria Hospital. I was feeling so ill that I crawled home and went to bed at about 11 am. The next thing I remember was that it was 11 pm and that I should have been on duty at ten. I had a high temperature and I realised that I must report sick. On going out in the black-out, I put my hand out to open the gate, and it was not there and I was sure I was delirious. Next day I was told that they had smashed down my fence with sledge-hammers while I was having a good long sleep.

It may surprise some people to know that the road did not get its name until about 1865 after the railway arrived. Prior to that it was known as 'Butcher's Lane'. A local butcher, Mr Qusted, owned land in the area and may have had a slaughter-house in the vicinity.

After the war I replaced the fence by using old cave shelter bunks which it was possible to purchase for a reasonable price. I think I can claim to be the longest surviving inhabitant in the road.

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## CHILDREN'S VIEWS

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### WHAT I LIKE ABOUT DOVER

.....  
I like Dover because of all the boot-fairs and activities. I like the White Cliffs Experience but the picture gallery (in the Museum) is boring. I like the shops in Dover, they have got cute toys and nice jewelry. My favourite shop is John Menzies. They have good toys and lots of stationery. I wish there were more tourists

here from abroad. The parks are good. I like climbing hills at Kearsney Abbey and playing on the swings and slides. Pencester is good. They have a river with ducks i and a little park with a roundabout, adult swings, baby swings and a see-saw. I don't like the road works out side Marine Parade it is ruining the beach. I think it is sad because Dover will never be the same again.

Lezanne Cesar  
St Mary's Primary School  
Dover



# The Awards Meeting 1991

LEO WRIGHT

The meeting, on the 14th of October, followed the pattern of previous years.

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming in particular three of our Vice-Presidents: Lillian Kay, Terry Sutton and 'Budge' Adams, two of whom were going to address us.

The first was 'Budge'. He presented a selection of some fifty slides, many of which he had taken himself with very professional skill. They covered the subjects of the awards and the commendations and also some good and some bad features which had gone from our town or which had appeared in recent years. The material was carefully researched and concisely and wittingly presented. Brevity was indeed the soul of wit. The shots of the award and commendation subjects, often exciting or dramatic, caused us to look and think about them before we were to hear their authors speak about them. Of other subjects; we looked at the last days of Last Lane and we admired Goal Lane today. Of blackspots and eyesores we looked at the part of Cannon Street which has *not* been restored and the car-breakers' yard by the Dour at Cherry Tree. Restored too late to be considered for our official commendations, the Market Square shop where David Copperfield may have rested was so obviously preferable to the modern eyesore north of Lloyds Bank. We were shown the three incarnations of this shop since 1788. Fly-posting was recorded (the offender photographed in the act) at B & Q's now-vacated site and so was their new equally aggressive "in-town" building. We had glimpses of the turmoil in preparation for the new A20. Were contractors really unaware of the aircraft slipways, built in the First World War, which could be seen clearly impeding the pile-drivers at East Cliff?

The whole tone of 'Budge's' presentation, with no excessive nostalgia, could be summed up as "caring for the past and looking to the future".

There were two "special commendations" this year, of equal merit.

1. The two riparian owners of the reach of the River Dour above Mannering's Mill: Alan Bateman and Peter Swinburne. Alan Bateman explained how what had begun as a mere "clean-up" twenty years ago had led to the creation of an island, planting, continuing efforts to control the level of the Mill pool, attracting and safeguarding fowl and fish. They were grateful to Alan Cawsey, owner of the Mill, for all his support. They were very modest about their efforts, which deserve the highest credit, and it is for other riparian owners to follow their example.

2. The K.C.C. Refuse Transfer Station. If we were not already familiar with this 'Budge' Adams had amply shown us its special merits. County Councillor W. R. Howard spoke

impromptu but eloquently for the recipients, praising their cleanliness and good housekeeping and, in the words of our Award, "for the imaginative approach to their work". Our Chairman recalled that the predecessor of the Dover Society, the New Dover Group, had in its day opposed the project, believing it to be unworkable and had been proved very wrong.

There were five awards:

1. The first Award winner to speak was Paul Koralek, Architect of the White Cliffs Experience. He dissociated himself from "isms" but conceded that, on a rough division, he would be classed as a Modernist.

Within the limits of his allotted ten minutes, with the help of well-chosen slides, he outlined the problems which were to be solved in designing the Heritage Centre.

a) It was going to be a large building which must not appear so in proportion to the town. This was made possible because it is in reality a series of linked buildings.

b) It was important to minimise the effect of the adjacent A20. This was the purpose of the axis through the building from the Market Square to the A20 - which will become increasingly valuable as York Street ceases to be the A20. (The post-war development of the banks, building societies and shops had been a problem).

c) It was essential to make the most of what was there already: the Market Hall façade and the archaeological remains.

d) Another guiding principle was flexibility for the future. For example, the Time and Tide auditorium is designed to serve equally well as a theatre. Yet more flexibility is represented by the possibility of extension in a second phase.



THE  
St. MARGARET'S BAY  
MUSEUM



DOVER MUSEUM  
1st Floor (top)  
PERMANENT EXHIBITION  
1066 - 1991



THE RESTORED  
TRAM SHELTER  
AT ELMS VALE ROAD



THE RESTORED SHOPS IN CANNON STREET

THE ORIGINAL MODEL OF 'THE WHITE CLIFFS EXPERIENCE'



# THE AWARDS 1991

34 The rather complex features of the entrance would indeed link his work with Rogers or Foster and his slides of steel and glass areas certainly demonstrated the success in achieving attractive effects of lightness and light, contrasting with the solid brickwork.

2. The Award to the designer of the Museum, Ivor Heal and to the Museum Staff was received on their behalf by Miss Christine Waterman, the Curator. She warmly welcomed the terms of the Award, praising the work of Ivor Heal and of her staff. The efforts of the staff, against every obstacle, in the run-up to open on time were almost comic epic.

She outlined the 150 years of history of the Museum since its founding by "The Dover Museum and Philosophical Society". She looked back with gratitude to, amongst others, the devoted work of Mr Warner, who ensured that the collection survived the Second World War, Mrs Coveney and Sarah Campbell who embarked on the cataloguing and Major Took who successfully fended off attempts to close the Museum in the 1970s.

She expressed her pride in a Museum which is unique, in that it is the only museum in the United Kingdom linked to a heritage centre and it provides a history of Dover, illustrated predominantly by Dovorian artefacts. For its splendid re-birth she expressed her gratitude to the Councillors and Officers of the District Council and to her staff.

3. The Award for the exemplary restoration and refurbishment of two shops in Cannon Street by Dover District Council was accepted by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Paul Watkins.

He humorously explained how the project was in fact the result of serendipity. The premises had been acquired originally to make possible access to a heritage centre of rotunda design which was later rejected. Tourism research recommended the Council to use the shops to present an example. In the event it has proved a very happy accident. Not only are the shops such as we would like to see in that prime area but they also offer residential accommodation above. Living over the shop would be a most valuable development, combining retail vitality with residential vitality, as Councillor Watkins expressed it.

As with the conservation of the Dour, this is another example for others to follow. It was hinted that there may be such progress in the adjoining Metropole Building.

4. Anthony Reed was not present to receive his Award for his contribution to the Refurbishment of the old Tram Shelter at Elms Vale, as he was away on business in Scandinavia, but his contribution to the street scene was warmly noted.

5. Mrs Pauline Gould of the Cleary Foundation, which made possible Crabble Mill and the Community Centre, received the Award for the St Margaret's Bay Museum. The Museum, which opened two years ago, houses what was Mr Fred Cleary's private collection. Mrs Gould was grateful for the help of the local History Society and the professional advice from the York Railway Museum. The memorial garden has boosted the attraction of the museum which has, so far, received 11,000 visitors.

Mrs Gould also praised the Dover Society because St Margaret's Bay, and indeed Dover, are areas under threat and she sees the Society as "people who watch and care." During the interval she gave firm expression to this praise with a very generous donation.

The second half of the meeting was delightfully taken up by Miss Lillian Kay, previously Maths. Mistress and later Head Mistress of the Dover Girls' Grammar School, in all

over 30 years, treating us to: Memories of Old Dover or, as she called it:

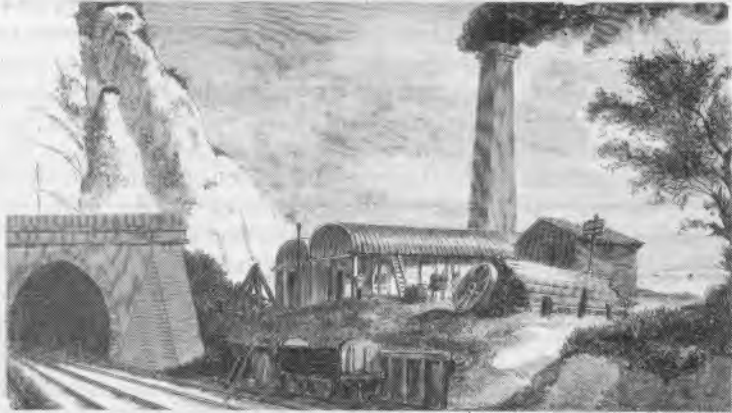
Memories of an Old Dovorian.

It is exceedingly difficult to capture in writing the impact of Lillian Kay's address. Not a complete transcript nor a recorded tape, not even a video tape, would capture it, because the rapport and empathy she established with us the audience would not be there. She held us spellbound.

What Miss Kay gave us was a chapter of social history, as epitomised in the generations of her family since 1752. But it would need the brush of a Hogarth, the pen of a Dickens – occasionally of a Rabelais! – to do justice to the courage, humanity, humour, tolerance and forbearance in hardship of those families of fourteen or so, surviving in the old Pier District of Dover.

Miss Kay gave us a graphic account of her ancestors, who were all Freeman, starting with William Kay, born in 1752. The account was brought to life by many amusing anecdotes, for instance, William's grandson, Thomas, ship's carpenter on the *Lady Violet* was not on board when she was lost on the Goodwins, as he had been too drunk to sail. (By 1900 there were 241 pubs in Dover, mostly in the Pier District.) Ancestors and anecdotes are too numerous to

relate here, but the Chairman summarised it for us. The ancestors included sailor, soldier, marble dropper, smuggler, runaway, worker on (the first) Channel Tunnel, the Hythe Canal and the Packet Yard,



THE PROPOSED CHANNEL TUNNEL, ABBOT'S CLIFF, ENGLISH COAST, 1830

now demolished to make way for the new A20 and, on the distaff side, bird scarer, bootboy, a cowherd in the Paddock, when it was a paddock, barmaid *et al.*

Miss Kay also lightly outlined the arrival of the educational ladder, represented by the tiny private-house schools (at sixpence a week), the Sunday Schools, the National Schools, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Infant Schools and indeed the Grammar Schools which ultimately made it possible for her to study mathematics at the University of London. So, it was another example of serendipity this evening: all those vicissitudes of the Kays and Inwoods and Le Maçons and the educational ladder and the repeal of the "Marriage by deceased Wife's Sister Act" all led to Lillian Kay being with us to enlighten us with this history brought to life.

The great characteristic of the evening was its infinite variety which, like Cleopatra, could not stale. With every speaker, without exception, we would have been happy if they had more time to continue. The only disappointment of the evening was the relatively poor turnout, as compared with the sheer quality of the entertainment on offer. Some 250 members don't know what they missed.

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# THE WYE CONFERENCE

Nineteenth Annual Conference of Amenity Societies & Local Authorities

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## KENT IN THE 21st CENTURY

KEN WRAIGHT

THE nineteenth annual conference of Local Government and Amenity Societies, once again under the chairmanship of our own Jack Woolford, was held at Withersdane Hall, Wye College on the 14th and 15th September 1991. The turnout from Amenity Societies was regrettably low, but, those who did attend were treated to excellent presentations on the theme of "*Towards 2000 — Kent in the 21st Century.*"

Proceedings opened with a session on "Controlled Growth and Protection" from Richard Alderton, Assistant Planning Officer, Ashford Borough Council. He drew attention to the problems of managing change in a growth town such as Ashford, in particular the need for openness within the planning process so that all interests, from landowners to local pressure groups, could receive a balanced hearing. Stressing the necessity for compromise between local authorities and interested parties such as developers and retailers (who had at least as much influence on the final decisions as the council itself), he pointed to the re-vitalisation of Ashford town centre, through new Conservation Areas and park-and-ride schemes; and the proposed introduction of a pioneering policy for affordable housing on new sites, as examples of what could be achieved. Mr Addleton's presentation also formed the basis of the regular Saturday afternoon tour, which visited development sites around Ashford.

A note of caution was sounded by the next speaker, Col. John Talbot from the East Ashford Rural Trust. In response to Mr Addleton's rosy view of Ashford's future, the EART was sceptical whether the envisaged influx of jobs would occur, thus negating the need for the large-scale housing programme (a viewpoint later supported by the latest Kent Impact Study). The Trust also expressed concern at the detrimental effect on the town centre of new out-of-town shopping centres, forcing shops and pubs to move from the centre for lack of business. If this process continued, Col. Talbot feared the centre would become a "graffiti land" at night, a fear shared by many Dovorians.

The final session of the morning was devoted to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link with Chris Waite, Chief Development Planner, KCC, outlining the damaging delays caused by indecision over the route and lack of funding for the Ashford International Passenger Station (both issues clarified by subsequent developments). The KCC was pressing for six major priorities, the best possible national and international services; the maximum possible rail freight; the best station strategy; the minimum environmental impact, the best possible network links to the rest of the country. The KCC was also pushing for rapid introduction of new commuter trains to share the link with international services after 1993.

The Conference returned from its tour of Ashford to a presentation by Jonathan Carey, DIP. ARCH, RIBA, on the conservation of Kent buildings. Using an extensive collection

of slides, he illustrated the danger of 'conserving' through period reconstruction of buildings such as a typical Kentish country house. He urged amenity societies to oppose attempts to "restore" buildings to possibly imaginary layouts, and, at the same time to protect Kent's heritage through statutory controls, loving ownership and education. Societies had a duty to advise on the repair of old buildings in order to save them from possibly well-intentioned but misguided alterations. Even blackmail was a useful tool in such circumstances!

Saturday ended with a spot of "crystal gazing" from Arthur Percival, MBE, D.LITT, FSA, from the Civic Trust Community Enterprise Unit who, like John Butler, (whose address on the Future of Local Government is reported elsewhere in the journal), feared lest the disappearance of County Councils permitted District Councils to accept limitless development without reference to local opinion or consultation with amenity societies. He thought the existing three-tier system worked well as compared with obscure boards and unelected joint committees. District Councils were already too big and remote and party politics should be irrelevant. Local government was a service, not a business. Parish or urban community councils were most desirable.

In impending local government changes the main criteria should be:-

1. 'Everyday' services sensitive and responsive to local needs.
2. Offices and staff easily and cheaply accessible to those without cars
3. Adequate freedom and resources to attract competent representatives and staff.

Developers should not be able to blackmail Planning Officers into unwanted developments. Permission should be required for cessation of use as well as for its authorisation. Prosperous, productive, quality-conscious and innovative companies were the nation's life-blood, but they owed a duty to the community of which they formed a part. Local amenity societies had had a major and most beneficial impact. Without them Kent would have degenerated since the War into a dreary suburban morass of ugliness.

The goal was to see the community as we saw our homes, as something which was ours for two or three generations and for which we could be as ready to shell out as for holidays or expensive meals. We should concentrate on working together pragmatically for the good of all.

Sunday morning began with a cautionary tale from Julie Stillwell of the Collier Street Residents' Association, set up to try to combat the ever-increasing number of families who are living in mobile homes on small tracts of farmland, thus avoiding planning restrictions. She warned that Kent was attracting increasing numbers of such people so that what seemed at present to be merely a local problem would rapidly spread throughout the county without firm community and local authority action.

The rest of Sunday morning was devoted to a discussion on the reconciliation of conservation and that symbol of modern rural England, the golf course. Speaking in favour of the golfers, Michael Bayer, a landscape designer, used examples of courses designed by his company to illustrate that not only were the concepts not inevitably incompatible, but that those courses which took most account of the existing environment were the most likely to gain planning permission from increasingly reluctant local authorities and become financially successful.

Countering these assertions, R.G. W. Smith, Chairman of the London Green Belt Council, noted that although golf courses claim to be another type of landscape, they serve a leisure industry which is not tied to the land, but to profit. Courses which proved to be surplus would not be restored to the land but would be further developed into leisure centres, if not housing, thus losing for ever the natural characteristics which course builders claim to be protecting. Golf enthusiasts are demanding a doubling in the number of courses by the end of the decade — Mr Smith reminded the conference that this demand would have to be met from natural resources, with little chance of any secure return for the environment.

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*Report of John Butler's Address to the 19th Annual Conference*

## *The Future of Local Government*

JACK WOOLFORD

Like Dr Percival, John Butler said that he was suggesting only a possible scenario for the future of local government. The 1980s had been very eventful with major local government legislation every year. It was currently said that only two or three people in the country now understood the grant system and rumoured that none of them were currently employed by the government.

Although we should always need some form of local administration since Whitehall was unlikely (yet!) to organise dustbin collection, in the light of what had happened in the last ten to fifteen years, it could be asked if multi-functional elected authorities of local individuals, responsible and responsive to local demands, needs and wishes and financed by local taxation, as we had known (and loved?) them, had any future at all. In retrospect the turning point had been signalled by the alleged, infamous remark by the late Tony Crosland, addressing a local government conference in 1974/5, that "the party is over".

In the period of economic contraction since the mid-70s there had been increasing centralisation, increasing governmental control of the public sector because it was, allegedly, grabbing more than its fair share of national resources through wasteful overspending, which had caused excessive rises of rates, destroyed local businesses and thus generated unemployment. Granted that local autonomy could never be complete because some local services, like the police, were really national and therefore required central control, and granted, too, that reasonably common standards of service were expected and that only central government could prevent falling standards, local government had become unrecognisable from what it had been fifty years ago.

In fact it was not true that local rates had been a significant problem for local businesses: much less so, in fact, than the recent revaluation for the Unified Business Rate. Nor were

they mainly responsible either for inflation or unemployment. Excessive rises could be traced to central decisions to reduce grants, increase police pay, community care programmes, not to approve closure of schools with redundant places and high interest rates. Indeed local government had been better than central finance in maintaining a reasonable rate of growth. Then worst over-spenders, Metropolitan Councils and the Greater London Council, had in any case been abolished.

The former central/local relations of partnership had been replaced by that of principal and agent or master and servant. Tom King himself said in 1980 that centralised rate-setting would be a threat to local democracy and others, that nothing like it existed this side of Eastern Germany before the fall of the Berlin Wall, and that (when it was introduced in 1984) rate-capping could be compared with knee-capping by the IRA. Central control had also been increased by the reduction of the proportion of local expenditure raised from local revenue, by the increase in VAT, and the reduction of Community Charge bills added to the Uniform Business Rate. It was now *less than one tenth*: and he who paid the piper called the tune.

Although the centralist trend had been started before 1979, the present Conservative government had probably done it with greater conviction, and it was not only in finance. The very nature of local authorities had been changed. A large number of services which they previously provided by direct labour were contracted out by the so-called privatisation of refuse collection and street cleaning, etc. The direct provision of housing had been reduced by the right to buy and by the tenant's charter; community care had been increasingly constrained; in education, local school management, the national curriculum and, most recently, the contracting out of inspection, all reduced local authority functions.

Developments following from the Widdecombe Report, which examined alleged local political-party jobbery but, probably to the government's disappointment, actually defended party politics in local government, should be added. The scope of disqualifications for council membership had been increased and the political activities of local government employees reduced. Added too the existing sicknesses of local government, namely minimal local participation, the notorious low turnout at local elections and voting on national rather than local issues, the question became: why did we bother to have local elections at all? The majority didn't bother to vote and complained, but did little about it, all of which could be used as a stick to beat local government and might eventually lead to its abolition, to the completion of centralisation.

Some changes had been signalled already. The new system of local government finance (i.e. the new Council Tax) had, with some justification, been dubbed "son of poll tax" so that, with hindsight, the old rating system was seen to have some advantages. It was further speculated that a whole tier of local government would disappear. Dr Butler's personal reaction to more structural changes was: "No! Not again!", even if, in the mid-70s, they got it wrong. Such changes — like the community charge/poll tax — tended only to change the problem.

Single-tier government had already existed in the old metropolitan counties and London and from the mid-70s it had been argued that larger cities should have had



more powers back from the counties into which they had been absorbed. Former county boroughs had never accepted the loss of their major functions: for example, from the point of view of Bristol, the county of Avon was nonsensical. Were we about to get the single-tier authorities which Redcliffe-Maud Royal Commission has recommended? Kent would have had (only) two, or possibly, three, local authorities.

Existing local authorities were now dancing a sort of ritual dance, each saying: "Of course, it won't be us(!)", whilst at the same time discreetly trying to stick the ritual knife into the other. On balance, Dr Butler would argue, areas like Kent County Council were more vulnerable than Districts. The etching away of services from local government meant that there was not much left for county councils to do, so that they were wasteful.

Police were largely controlled by the Home Office and the Fire Service was largely non-controversial and non-political, prime candidate for an executive agency rather than a county council. As for strategic planning, there were pressures to give more planning powers to district councils and in education, the national curriculum, opting out and local management of schools left local education authorities with very little to do. Social services could be merged with health authorities especially in the area of community care and responsibility for roads was shared between the Department of Transport and Districts (under agency arrangements). All that was left were libraries and parks (already shared with Districts), consumer protection (which could be shoved under Environmental Health to districts) and refuse disposal which could go to an executive agency. There could be nothing left!

To be fair, a similar argument could be made against district councils whose major functions of housing and local planning which (as already in part they were) could be provided by private contractors. To pay their way, libraries and parks could be privatised. No one worried about footpaths, refuse could be collected by contractors and a minor regulatory agency could take over environmental health. The Department of the Environment and its appeal process left very little local planning discretion and housing could be left to housing associations with no more than a guide-line setting authority.

Neither development was desirable but both counties and districts were vulnerable. The argument could end up with inescapable local services which *had* to be administered but no elected local government. It would be politically difficult because many of the activists in all the major political parties were local councillors who would not happily be abolished. Their vested interests (not necessarily bad) were, indeed, the strongest thing going for elected local government. What was conceivable were smaller elected pale-shadow local authorities to set guide-lines and to monitor the quality of local contractors, already canvassed in the suggestion for city-managers, like the executive agencies (on short-term contracts!) already appointed by central government to replace civil servants. There was also the suggestion for directly elected mayors, although it was unlikely that any central government would permit the emergence of major local political figures, like Ken Livingstone. There were examples in the USA of small, single-function, board-of-director type councils, meeting three or four times a year to receive reports from managers. The authorities who ran our Health Service were not elected but centrally appointed. Perhaps by 2000 the process might have been completed.

## THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

*(One of our Vice-Presidents, Bryan Keith-Lucas, former Professor of Local Government at the University of Kent at Canterbury, former President of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and former Chairman of the National Association of Parish Councils commented as follows in the afternoon discussion.)*

John Butler, he said, had committed a *monumental blunder* in leaving out the Parish Councils, saying that there were two tiers of local government because there were, in fact, three. Parish Councils *were* local authorities. They were much discussed in the Redcliffe-Maud Royal Commission where the Head of the (then) Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Dame Evelyn Sharp, had constantly pressed to make them more visible by grouping them into larger units. The National Organisation of Parish Councils had constantly opposed this because the Parish Council must represent the community of a village or small town. They were not a second-rate District Council and no less than six hundred of them had persuade Redcliffe-Maud that they should have wide powers for the good of their inhabitants, as was the case in France, and not be tied down by the doctrine of *ultra vires*. Apart from permitting them the proceeds of a 2p rate the government took no notice. They should be able to do anything for the good of the village, such as subsidise a local Citizen's Advice Bureau, provide school prizes, or accommodation for a surgeon but they are not allowed.

Radcliffe-Maud also said that these should be powers and not duties because parishes varied in size from uninhabited villages to (cathedral) cities like Wells and Chichester. Their one duty should be to express the opinion of the people, or, as the NAPC said: "to raise hell when hell ought to be raised", as when higher authority wished to abolish the post office or close down the railway station, do away with the village school or turn off the street lighting. *There must be Parish Councils*, said the Professor: to much enthusiastic applause.

### CHILDREN'S VIEWS

#### WHAT I LIKE ABOUT DOVER

.....

The things I like about Dover are that it has Dover College and it has lots of nice shops, and the precinct. I think the white cliffs make it look quite pretty.

Dover is the nearest point to Europe. It also has one of the busiest ports in the world. It's a bit like a motorway with ferries about every half an hour.

Dover is famous for Hell Fire Corner where there are tunnels in the cliffs. It is

also famous for the Battle of Britain which I expect many of our Grandfathers and Grandmothers experienced in World WAR 2 (If you are about my age).

Dover is a very old place. It has a lot of heritage. If you go and look around you can see lots of Medieval History. The Castle and some of our school is from the 11th century. If you go up to the top of the castle there is a Roman lighthouse and an Anglo Saxon church.

The one thing I like about Dover you do not have to go very far to get into the middle of the countryside.

EMMA SCOTT (11)  
Dover College



JOHN SMITH'S FOLLY and ATHOL TERRACE, DOVER. 1824

## The History of East Cliff, Dover: 1

# Smith's Folly

MERRIL LILLEY

Any research into the history of East Cliff must start with Smith's Folly, generally reported to be the first house built there along the seashore. The house, or villa as it is more usually called, was built by Captain John Smith in 1791 and was called Smith's Folly. When it was built in 1791, other houses stood along Athol Terrace, as can be seen from several early drawings, and there were also various dwellings built under and into the cliffs, some little more than converted caves; but certainly Smith's Folly was the first substantial house built at East Cliff.

After the death of John Smith, the villa passed to his son, the famous Sir William Sydney Smith, and thereafter is referred to, in any historical writings, as Sir Sydney Smith's villa.

A first exploration, in Dover Library, revealed several passages, in history and old Dover guidebooks, giving a brief description of the villa; J. Horn's 'Description of Dover' (1817) states:

“Under the Castle and overhung by its tremendous cliffs, is a marine villa the property of Sir Sydney Smith, and occasionally his residence, called ‘The Caves’. It is romantically built and situated. The roofs of the buildings have a singular appearance, being constructed in the form of boats reversed. The principal room is extremely pleasant in the summer.”

Bonython’s Dover Guide of 1823 gives the same information with some slight alterations and a similar description appears in several subsequent Dover guides.

M. Horsley in “Some more Memories of Old Dover” (1890) gives a lot more details of the quaint collection of buildings and of its owner:

“They were commonly called Smith’s Folly and were very conspicuous erections in my young days. The name was given the domain partly on account of the eccentric style of architecture displayed, and partly because so much had been spent on what was, after all, only a poor dwelling, with various outbuildings attached. Captain Smith was aide-de-camp to Lord Sackville at the battle of Minden in 1759 and when he returned from active service, Pitt, who was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports at the time, granted him a piece of harbour property for his life: on this he built his house in 1791. Some of the walls were of flint, with roofs made of boats reversed and one part of the building consisted of a tower, made in imitation of the prison in Paris called the Temple, where Sir Sidney Smith was a prisoner for two years.

But before the actual building was begun, Captain Smith employed boys to level the ground, giving them sixpence a day and their meals. It is said that while they were at work he would call them in once or twice a day to a prayer meeting which he held. He had a cave excavated in the cliff, with a ledge cut out in the side of the cave, for what purpose no one could tell, and in the centre was a sarcophagus in which he intended to be buried; but when he died his sons would not carry out his ideas but had him buried properly in a churchyard, saying that ‘Though he was crazy, he should at least have a Christian burial’. At his death the government did not claim the property and his son became the owner.”

A lengthy and interesting account of John Smith can be found in an article, which was one of a series published in the Dover Express in 1906-1907 and written by the Editor, John Bavington Jones. The series was called DOVER CAMEOS, Men and Deeds in Famous Episodes in Dover History, (No. 34. John Smith). This goes into further details of the life, career and writings of John Smith, focussing on the man rather than the house he built. However, the article contains a description of the villa, reputed to be by one who remembered it.

“Its position was close to the East Cliff Jetty and it consisted of some half dozen one-storied buildings, roofed by inverted boats. A two-storied erection in front, of a castellated character, formed the entrance, flanked by two round towers with balconies, from which there was access to the upper floors and there was, at the rear of this embattled structure, a tower surmounted by a roof and spire, which resembled that at the West Cliffs Church near Dover. Its western part was so near the sea and the ground so low that high tides were not infrequent visitors.”

A comparison of the two accounts provides a reminder to the researcher of the pitfalls of accepting as fact information collected from books or newspapers. Whereas Horsley had stated that Sir Sidney became owner of the property on his father's death, the *Dover Express* suggested that Sir Sidney did not inherit the property, because he was the second son, and that it passed to his elder brother. Secondly, where Horsley attributed the design of the tower to the Temple in Paris the second article compared it to the West Cliffs Church..

Thirdly, where Horsley stated unequivocally that Smith was granted the land by Pitt, the *Dover Express* article stated that how he obtained the land was a matter for conjecture and suggested that it may have been given to him much earlier by his friend, Lord Dorset, when he was Lord Warden. As the *Cameo* article points out, all John Smith's sons became famous in their time, but the celebrated Sir Sidney was the most well-known. He went to sea at the age of 12, in 1776, and remained at sea or abroad, except for short intervals, until 1810. In fact when John Smith built the villa, Sir Sidney was engaged either in fighting the French or being taken prisoner by them. Nevertheless, John Smith did, in fact, leave the villa to Sidney and after John Smith's death the house is always referred to as Sir Sidney Smith's villa, although he did not spend much time there. His occasional residence at East Cliff must have been between 1810, when he left the sea, and 1815, when he took up residence in Paris.

The *Cameo* article presents an endearing portrait of John Smith as a sincere, loyal individual, with regret that he spent his last days as a kind of eccentric hermit living under the cliffs at Dover and commenting, wryly, on the reason why he is remembered by posterity.

"The notoriety, which John Smith earned by building himself an odd sort of house, illustrates how a man's reputation is frequently due more to his whims than to his more solid qualities; for John Smith was not a fool, although he owned a 'Folly'. He was a plain man content with a plain name, John Smith, yet he might properly have been styled Captain John Smith, for he held that rank in the Guards and was aide-de-camp



The Marine Villa of JOHN SMITH, Esq. (Father of Sir Sydney Smith) under Dover Cliffs

to the commander of the British forces in the famous battle of Minden; but having abandoned the Army and discarded all public affairs, he was known at Dover as John Smith, Esq., of the Folly, under Dover Castle.”

John Smith died on 16 February 1804. As already mentioned, the villa was little used by his son and much of the adjoining land was mortgaged or sold in the following two or three decades. Smith's Folly was eventually pulled down. The Dover guidebook of 1830 records:

“... the building of a substantial house called East Cliff Lodge, used as a boarding or lodging house, built on the site of the former Sir Sidney Smith's villa. Also another genteel dwelling, tastefully fitted up and the whole encircled by a wall.”

Horsley says (1890):

“The name of Sir Sidney still survives in the “Sidney Villas”, the last two houses in East Cliff.”

In continuing to research the history of East Cliff, I have been fortunate to have access to the title deeds of three properties in the road and these have provided a wealth of information which will form the basis of another article. However, there are two items which are relevant to this account of Smith's Folly.

One of the first facts to emerge was that John Smith had agreed to leave the property to his son, Sidney Smith, in a Title Deed drawn up in 1803, the year before his death.

25 June 1803. “Indentures of the lease and release made between John Smith of The Cave near the town and port of Dover in the Co. of Kent Esq. and Sir William Sidney Smith of George Street, Hanover Square in the Co. of Middlesex, Knight, son of John Smith of the other part “... “All those several messuages Tenements Dwelling Houses or Buildings and Towers near or adjoining each other, sit. and being near the bottom of the Cliff of Hill on the summit of which Dover Castle is standing.”

The document goes on to list various other Edifices, Buildings, Rooms, Apartments and Caves, Gardens and pieces of land. These were all to be had and holden to Sir William Sidney Smith and his Heirs but were to be “To the use of the said John Smith for the term of his natural life. And from immediately after his decease or other determination of the Estate To the use and behoof of the said Sir William Smith and his Heirs” etc.

In fact John Smith died within nine months of signing this document, in February, 1804.

The other document of interest here is an affidavit, dated 2 October 1849, made by a John Gregory, Bricklayer, aged 75 years. John Gregory was one of the boys who helped to clear the land for the building of Smith's Folly (mentioned above by Horsley). He describes his work:

“... for a period of upwards of three years, before I was ten years old, (with a number of other boys) I was employed by John Smith to make chalk bricks or square pieces of chalk with which some workmen employed by the said John Smith, erected a building on a part of the estate called East Cliff.”

The document, which covers three pages of closely-written script, includes a description of the work done by the boys in clearing out a cave in the cliffs, purchased by John Smith from its occupant, a man called Simpson, for the sum of £5 (i.e. the cave used by Smith to build his sarcophagus). Later chalk and rubbish was laid upon the beach, says

Gregory, and the ground levelled out, by direction of John Smith, "who immediately afterwards began from time to time to enclose such beachy ground with walls made of flint stones and chalk as the same was from time to time levelled and prepared". Obviously this work was taking place from about 1781 onwards, if Gregory was engaged upon it from about the age of seven. He relates that one day, when he had been working on the site for about five years, he saw two gentlemen in a balloon (whom he was informed were Dr Jeffries and Mr Blanchard) on their passage from Dover Castle to France. (editor's note: Blanchard's crossing took place on 7 January 1785).

A large part of the document is concerned with Gregory's declaration that all the land at East Cliff Estate was owned by John Smith. It lists all the details of the enclosed land, buildings and caves which comprised the property, relating these to the position of the properties occupied in East Cliff in 1849. It also mentions the erection of capstans upon the shingle and the use of the beach for keeping boats and for bathing. Possibly, the new owners of properties along East Cliff required clarification on the original ownership and use of the land, as it affected their title deeds. Whatever the reason for the affidavit, it provides an invaluable insight into the origins of Smith's Folly.

For their help in providing material for this article the author gives grateful thanks to Mrs Winifred Cope, of No. 6 East Cliff, to Mr Steve Peters of No. 9 to Mr Mark Frost of Dover Museum and to Mrs Patricia Godfrey of Dover Library Local Studies Centre.

## The Golden Triangle: Castle Street to the Sea

*A. F. (Budge) Adams*

### PART 4

Camden Crescent, ten tall and rather distinguished looking houses, extended from New Bridge to the garden of 'The Round House' and until the middle twenties were all, with the exception of No. 1, in single occupation. The ground floor of No. 1 housed the costumiers' and milliners' business of the elitist Misses Todd and Harnden who remained in occupation until the late twenties or early thirties. By 1930/31 the conversion of the other houses in the crescent into four, and in some cases five, flats had been completed and were soon fully occupied. By about 1935, the conversion of No. 1 was also completed, but by then the Misses Todd and Harnden had been replaced by Charles Stewart, a

tailor. In 1940 Nos. 8, 9 and 10 were destroyed by enemy attack along with the south-west end of Liverpool Street, and at the same time the Grand Hotel was damaged beyond repair. In the late forties, when attempts were being made to schedule and repair war damage No. 1 housed the East Kent Joint Planning Committee. The local Fuel Overseer and the offices of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Family Association were also there. Later the houses that exist today were used as an annexe to the White Cliffs Hotel and the Hotel de France and later still, as their shipping operation developed, Townsend's took over No. 1 and used it for their operating offices, and eventually, until they bought and moved into the A.A. building in Russell Street now used by P. & O., they occupied the whole of the crescent.

The Granville Gardens, on the same site as the present garden between the sea and Camden Crescent, were, since the turn of the century and until 1939, the scene of much social activity. There had been a bandstand in the gardens since about 1911 and then, in the twenties, a pavilion with glass walls and a glass roof was



THE BURLINGTON HOTEL IN ITS HEYDAY

Saturday evenings and on Sunday afternoons and evenings during the summer, military bands gave concerts of popular music and throughout the year there was dancing on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and roller-skating on Mondays and Fridays. During the band concerts the young people of the town, of whom, happily, I was one, would link arms in lines of eight or nine and would march around the gardens, the girls moving, say, clockwise, and the boys in the other direction. Many interesting collisions occurred and many friendships were formed as a result. However as time went on the Dover Corporation was forced to accept the principle that military band engagements could only be entered into at the same rate as would be charged by a professional civilian band. The Corporation realised that its budget would not allow it to maintain the frequency of performances to which the townspeople were accustomed and as the frequency declined so did the attendances and the vicious spiral of costs exceeding revenue took its toll until, some little time before the outbreak of the 1939 war, military band engagements were no longer possible and resort was made to intermittent performances by

amateurs. Before this situation arose the charges levied by the military had been relatively small and as far as the regiments were concerned they could well have been thought of as a contribution to their Band funds. It has to be said, however, that the military preoccupation at that time was not with its social commitments to the community but with the grisly problems that lay not very far ahead.

Liverpool Street did not make the same deep impression on me that had been made by the other streets in my Golden Triangle - it was monochromatic, grey, cold and architecturally monotonous, and was relieved only by the interesting shapes and the white mass of the huge Burlington Hotel. Woolcomber Street ended at Liverpool Street but the road continued, as Marine Place, to the sea front. My mother was born in Marine Place and I had distaff relatives in Liverpool Street, though that did not necessarily endear me to it. Two hundred metres north-east from the Burlington, Liverpool Street ended in a wide open space, with Trevanion Street and the site of Dover's first gas works at the inshore side, the R.F.A. (T.A.) Drill Hall and its Riding School (where my older half-brothers learnt to ride) directly ahead and with Douro Place towards the sea.

*Regretably pressure on space has made me curtail this part of The Golden Triangle. I hope there will be enough space next time to complete it.*

THE COUNTY SKATING RINK, later the Territorial Drill Hall





# *An "Oliver Twist" of a Members' Meeting*

25 NOVEMBER 1991

KEN BERRY, The Society's Treasurer

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The evening was cold, dark and miserable. In spite of that there was an excellent attendance. The meeting went very well. The Chairman fought against a time barrier and everything went so smoothly that a member asked for more — actually asked for more members' meetings! — and was supported by many a "Hear Hear". The committee will, of course, seek to comply with this request.

The meeting, I think, was stolen by Budge Adams, after the interval. His slides of old Dover, limited to a commentary of 35 seconds a slide, were delightful. One could feel the waves of nostalgia from old Dovorians sweeping the hall. Accompanying the slides were some of Budge's characteristic asides. "That's where my father's first mother-in-law lived". Immediately one was worried. Supposing one's father had had only one mother-in-law. Had one missed out on something? Worse still, what if one has had only one mother-in-law oneself? Never mind. We had moved to an absorbing discussion between Budge and Miss Kay as to the exact location of the house in which she lived in as a child, in Strond Street. Congratulations, Budge, it was a great show!

If Budge dominated the second half, then Adrian Galley was the star of the first. Leo Wright (General Secretary) and John Owen (Projects Officer) were first class, but Adrian sparkled. The Chairman, in congratulating Adrian on his performance, his work and his active rôle in the Society, suggested it might lead to greater efficiency if more young people joined the committee. I think it might be added that "oldies" on the committee would willingly make way for younger people. Let me hasten to add that anyone under seventy would be regarded as young; so please come forward before the next AGM in April 1992.

Adrian's talk dealt with the activities of the Planning Committee, concentrating on the developments in the town centre. He explained that the Society follows, supports, comments on and criticises the efforts and proposals of the Dover District Council and the Kent County Council. He stressed the need for active interest by Dovorians and was supported by Councillor Paul Watkins, invited from the body of the hall by the Chairman to comment on current developments in the town. Councillor Watkins welcomed the activities of Adrian and of the Dover Society and outlined the project for town regeneration and environmental assessment, known as "Impact". After the success of the Heritage Centre, Dover is to benefit from this project. In addition there was news of the Salvation Army taking over the Victoria Hospital building to provide

accommodation for elderly residents. Also mentioned was the initiative of the East Kent Business Centre (comprising Dover District Council, Dover Harbour Board, Eurotunnel and the Chamber of Commerce), already making plans to cope with future job losses in the area. He mentioned the Honeywood and Farthingloe sites as possible areas of future development and added that re-training facilities were to be made available for those affected by the changing transport pattern of the district.

John Owen's report dealt with the cleaning of the River Dour in certain areas of the town, praising the Sea Cadets and the Scouts who had provided manpower. He also talked about two major ongoing projects, Lousyberry Wood tree-planting and the restoration of Lydden Pond. Both projects involve physical labour and considerable expense. John was congratulated by the Chairman both upon the projects and the sponsorship (well over £1000) which he has obtained for these schemes.

The general Secretary dealt with some of his special interests, in particular the question of Water, which is reported in detail in the *Newsletter*. He also explained the problems arising from the orchestral concerts sponsored by the Society. Sponsorship had helped to cover the costs so that the Society funds had not been tapped, but he needed extra support. The problem had been discussed with the Tourist Board and the Dover District Council and it was expected that they, between them, might take more financial responsibility for future concerts. It is hoped that Dover will be able to have regular concert sessions. If so, it will have been brought about by the work and enthusiasm of our General Secretary and his wife, Margery. The town and the Society are indebted to them.

The first two speakers of the evening were representatives of the Water Authorities. Mr Beard, from Winchester and representing Southern Water plc, explained the work being undertaken to protect the beaches of the South and South-East by building more sewage treatment plants and extending outflows. Unhappily, Folkestone, Deal, Broadstairs and Ramsgate are below standard and will not reach the required E.C. standard until 1995. Dover beach had not been regarded as a bathing beach. There is no evidence, as had been suggested, that the outfall, although a short one, is fractured. It will probably be extended, eventually, to a full three kilometres.

Mr Dooley, on behalf of the NRA, spoke about the Dour and produced maps, showing the catchment area and position of the boreholes. He also explained the problem of the granting of the right to draw water, which is given to agricultural and industrial users, over which there was little control before 1964. All Folkestone Company water is pumped from boreholes to meet our demand for water. No storage facilities exist in the area, but plans are going ahead to provide capacity and a grid system by which water can be moved from wet to dry areas. The Dour is low because of insufficient rainfall since 1988. Already, it seems, the politicians are worrying about the costs which all these sewage and water schemes are likely to entail.

All speakers were thanked by the Chairman. During the interval Jeremy and Sheila Cope, the raffle experts, persuaded members to part with £43.00. whilst our Social Secretary, Lin Clackett, had, as usual, provided opportunity to slake our thirst.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this very successful event.

# EMBARKING ON A ONE-NAME STUDY

PETER BURVILLE

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A ONE-NAME STUDY would seem to be a far easier undertaking than researching a particular family tree where the number of relevant surnames doubles with each generation uncovered. However, soon after embarking on a one-name study of the Burvilles it was clear that the one-name description was not quite exact and some serious thought would have to be given to the name variants to be included and those to be excluded.

So, what exactly is a one-name study? The general idea is that one collects data, in some spatial and time framework, on people with the chosen surname, in order to create a picture of the people, their location and lives. As a starting point I chose to concentrate on the pre-1900 Burvilles of the UK, with the possibility of expanding the study if the initial phase proved successful. My primary objectives were to find out where they came from and the origin of the family name.

The first step was to get some idea of the distribution of the name in this country. The telephone directories provide a good idea of the contemporary situation but I wished to start with an earlier picture. The Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints international genealogical (IGI) records, which are a partial indexed transcription of the church registers, provided me with a most helpful starting point. It was a relief to find the name appears to be of East Kent origin, although quite a few are found in the London records.

As I went through the IGI records the question of name variants first became a serious matter. Starting with Burville, which variants should be included in my researches? Replacing the *v* with *w*, or a missing *e* no difficulty. Similarly, there is no problem with an *e* replacing the *u*. After all, many of the clerks who recorded the information in the old parish registers were only semi-literate and one can imagine how the differing country and town accents would have led to various spellings. The development of an effective algorithm to decide inclusion and exclusion is still to be completed. In the meantime, a lot of subjective judgement is involved. For example, Burrel is a well-documented surname but in the Sandwich tithe records there are Burvills who turned into Burrills and back to Burvills again, in their life-times. Similarly, in the Clophill, Bedfordshire records, there are Burrells, one of whom appears to have changed into a Burvill when married in another parish, Campton, only three miles away.

In the Birchington records there are Beavells (Bevell, Bevfell etc). These could well belong to the set but evidence either way is still sought. In practical terms, as the records show the plague of the 17th century virtually wiping them out, it might be argued that the matter is of no significance. However, this is not so, since when the full results of the study are published, I hope to provide information on such features of the evolution of the name and those who bore it.

Most families have stories, passed down over the years, about ancestors who did great or naughty things. For us there was the ubiquitous suggestion of Huguenot origins but my favourites were about smugglers and highwaymen. One story related to Oxney Bottom, on the Dover to Deal road, where a highwayman held up a Burville and his daughter returning to Dover in their cart. In demanding they "Stand and deliver!" the villain discharged his pistol into the air, causing the horse to shy and the unfortunate father to fall from his seat into the back of the cart, striking his head. Taking the reins and whipping-up the horse, the resourceful daughter avoided the would-be robber and drove her unconscious father home to Dover, only to find, on arrival, that he had died. End of story (no information on arrests or charges). Would my research throw any light on this tale, or perhaps uncover others?

The first suggestion of a possible link with the highwayman story was a carrier's widow, living in the parish of Guston in a cottage under the cliff. The bottom of the cliff, under Dover Castle, seemed a strange place for a carrier to live – a matter for further investigation. Eventually I found an entry in the first edition of the Dover Telegraph & Cinque Ports General Advertiser (16th November 1833):

**SHOCKING ACCIDENT** ; Yesterday an inquest was taken at the Fox Inn, St James's Street, before J. W. Pilcher, Esq., Mayor and Coroner, on the body of Benjamin Burvill, a poor man who with his wife and several children, resided in a cave beneath the Castle Cliff. The deceased, accompanied by another man, was returning from Deal, with a cart, on Thursday night, and had taken up two soldiers of the rifle brigade. The party rode at the side of the cart, and when near Broad Leas Bottom the float on which the deceased sat gave way, and he fell on his head with such violence as to cause his death within a very short time after his removal from the spot where the accident happened, to the auxiliary poor-house of St. James's parish. Verdict – Accidental death.

That could'nt possibly be the same incident, or could it? Having established a possible distribution for the *Burvilles* the next step was to consolidate the mapping before delving back into the older records. The census returns, covering the period from 1841 to 1881, provide a suitable source but extracting the data is no easy matter, unless it has been indexed. Going through the returns, house by house, street by street, persuades one most forcibly of the value of indexes. At the moment I still have a lot of Kent returns to go through. There is a national project, currently underway, to index the 1881 return. The outcome is awaited with much anticipation. Identifying the whereabouts of indexed records, such as transcribed Parish Registers which are a wonderful source of information, is a task requiring persistence. One has to admire the application of people who spend so much time transcribing and indexing records for others to use.

Sandwich is one of the towns, centred on Langdon Abbey, which the *Burvilles* favoured in the past and I am still hoping to find indexed Parish Records for the several large parishes in the town.

There could well be more than one source for the Burville name but, as mentioned above, it is interesting that as one goes back in time, the name tends to cluster around Langdon. Sandwich has been mentioned. Other locations are Woodnesborough, Worth, Sholden, Deal, Northbourne, Sutton, St. Margaret's, Guston, Dover, Whitfield, Shepherdswell, Barham, Nonington, Goodnestone, Ash and the villages directly around the Abbey. Perhaps the name was taken by workers, on the estates, when it

52 became necessary to have a surname. The name Barville, which still survives in a farm at Tilmanstone, may well be a possible source for the name. Whether it has a connection with Auberville remains to be seen. The Aubervilles also owned land in other counties. It will be interesting to see if the name also has early origins in those areas.

A more remote possible origin for the name may be the French place name Berville, of which there are several in the Le Havre area and elsewhere.

Whilst my expectation of finding smugglers and highwaymen has yet to be fulfilled, there has been the surprising pleasure of finding several 17th and 18th century clerics who were Oxbridge graduates, one being a Six Preacher of Canterbury Cathedral in the Commonwealth period. Perhaps, at some time in the future, I will have the opportunity to record a fuller description of the outcome of these researches.

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## LOCAL STUDIES ROOM — DOVER LIBRARY

Have you investigated the range of material held in Dover Library's Local Studies Collection? If not why not call in during the times listed below, either to browse or to do some research.

There are books and pamphlets covering all aspects of Dover's history, together with present-day information. There are also books relating to local villages and the rest of Kent. The illustrations collection now contains well over 4000 photographs, prints and postcards.

As well as large scale early and current ordnance survey maps, there is a good number of old Borough Council plans, e.g. Cannon Street Improvement Plans 1893. Ephemera includes items such as a collection of playbills from the Theatre Royal.

On microfilm or microfiche there are parish registers, census returns, old newspapers, freeman's rolls and Council records. It is advisable to make a booking to use the micro fiche/film reader as it is heavily used.

This is just a brief outline of the material held; to make the collection more accessible the opening hours have been increased and the Local Studies Librarian, Patricia Godfrey, looks forward to meeting you.

### LOCAL STUDIES ROOM — REVISED OPENING HOURS

MONDAY 9.30 am — 12 noon

WEDNESDAY 9.30 am — 1.00 pm

FRIDAY 9.30 am — 1.00 pm

SATURDAY 2.00 pm — 5.00 pm

Dover Public Library, Maison Dieu House, Biggin Street, Dover. CT16 1DW

Tel: (0304) 204241

# PROJECTS

REPORTS by JOHN OWEN, *Chairman of the Projects Committee*

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## LYDDEN POND

### *A Challenge which should hold water!*

Ponds may come and ponds may go. At the present time it seems they mainly go, especially if left to their own devices.

Sunday, 3 November, dawned windy but dry after a night of torrential rain; something of a rarity in recent years. Our three-man working-party arrived on the stroke of ten at Lydden Pond only to find it already occupied by avid workers clearing submerged weeds and chattering among themselves, seemingly protesting at our arrival. Our gumboots seemed so inadequate to the task compared with their agility in the watery conditions. Upending themselves as they foraged away we could only stand and stare in the sunshine of this blustery autumn morning.

Venture not we thought, into the watery depths to continue our current fourth session of clearing and digging prior to the proposed lining in 1992. Besides we were outnumbered three to one and they were far more at home in that environment than we mere humans.



LYDDEN POND in the early 1900's

54 Welcome coffee arrived as we discussed with Chairman Jack Woolford progress up to date – strategy, funding, volunteers, materials, professional advice and sponsorship – all essential for success. This alongside the village pond resplendent in its new-found watery expanse and bubbling over with wild-life activity. How nice if this most natural and beautiful scene could remain, the ducks enjoying their natural environment of water and colourful autumn-tinted cover.

Ten ducks had come from we know not where but we do know that within a matter of days the pond will dry-out as it has been doing in recent years, remaining thus until the next heavy rainfall. Far too large an area to line with clay or butyl an attainable objective would be to re-instate part of the area without jeopardising its surface drainage function.

Would that nature would take control and make permanent this impressive backdrop to our discussions which she alone produced overnight! We could put away our plans for little else would need to be done but enjoy the scene and accept a second cup of coffee!

The pond at Lydden has come but will surely go and go and go unless we do something



THE WEST STREET HUNT MEETS AT LYDDEN, early 1900's

The two photographs of Lydden are printed by courtesy of Mr Christopher Carr, of Temple Ewell.

## NEWS FLASH

Since this article was written there has been a dramatic development. On 9th/10th Decemberr the Lydden Pond was lined with clay by the contractors and sponsors, Star Plant Ltd. of Shorncliffe.

## EMPTY SHOP WINDOW PROJECT

55

The project was successfully completed with the dismantling of the exhibits toward the end of September after a run of five months during the height of the tourist season in what is a prominent position in the Market Square.

Both the museum and 'Dickens' windows caught the eye of passers-by but especially pleasing was the interest shown in the Dover Society window presentation of its aims and activities.

The exercise has been a good example of the Society working in partnership with the public and private sectors and demonstrates what can be achieved given the goodwill. Many considered the empty shop window displays to have been a positive contribution in the spirit of 'backing Dover'.

The tastefully re-decorated premises are now occupied and open for business.

## TREE PLANTING

Following last winter's Community Pride Award-winning tree-planting project we have been keeping a careful eye on the young trees throughout 1991 and clearing weeds as necessary during the summer months. All is well and the saplings are thriving.

The Council's tree officer has visited the site with our Secretary Leo Wright and was impressed by the less than five per cent failure rate which not only says something of the quality of the transplants (bare-root) but also reflects the calibre of the volunteer planters — well done! National Tree Week 1991 in early December provides a first anniversary opportunity for two concentrated after-care work sessions in the wood.

The first year's growth has exceeded all expectations with many of the saplings beyond the height of their protective shelters. This is rightly a source of great satisfaction to all who participated and pleasing to all who walk this very pleasant Temple Ewell-Whitfield public footpath.

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# Deadline

## for CONTRIBUTIONS

The Editor welcomes contributions suitable for the Newsletter. Illustrations and other appropriate visual materials would be particularly appreciated.

The deadline for issue No. 13, for publication on 1 May, is 25 March 1992 and the producer would be grateful if "copy" is typed if possible, but in any case asks that it be double spaced.

Publication in the Newsletter does not necessarily imply the Society's agreement with the views expressed.

All published material remains the copyright of its authors, artists and/or photographers



# 56 DOVER SHARKS

BUDGE ADAMS

Culled from a single sheet of *The Evening Mail*, published, I believe in Marlborough, Wilts. and dated Monday and Wednesday, 7th and 9th February 1853


Once upon a time the very usual name for a Dovorian was a "Dover Shark". The following may shed a little light on the reason for this.

"The Dover Boatmen. — Another instance of the nefarious practice of the Dover boatmen is this week brought before the public and we regret to know that it is only one of an almost countless number. The French Government packets, as well as our own boats, engage to bring passengers from Calais to Dover, and guarantee to land them in small boats from the bay, in the event of the state of the tide preventing the packets entering Dover harbour, without further charge. To meet this contingency arrangements are made with a boatowner at Dover to supply boats for the purpose, for which he receives proper remuneration from the French Government. The men employed to row these boats are, in their turn, salaried by that person; but, notwithstanding this, with an insolence worthy of the most lawless of pirates, they claim a "fare" (generally about 2s.) of each of their passengers when midway between the steam packet and the shore, and, by threatening to detain them on the sea until payment is made, succeed in exacting their unjust demand. In the case we now allude to a gentleman resisted the imposition for a considerable time, and at length paid under protest. He very properly brought the case before the local authorities, and they had the owner of the boats before them, and ordered him to supply the town clerk with the names of the crew engaged on the occasion in question, with a view to bringing the case before the magistrates; and we are quite sure, if this is done, that our bench will take

the most effective measures for putting a stop to this practice, by soundly punishing the offenders. With such malpractices as these, it is a matter of no surprise that our boatmen should have earned the cognomen of "sharks"."



PASSENGERS LANDING FROM PACKET IN WATERMEN'S BOATS

The *Evening Mail* acknowledged the source of the item as being the *Dover Chronicle*. 

## Memories of Old Dover

### A BIRTHDAY PRESENT

I fell in love with Dover at the age of six, when I came from Kensington to visit a relative of my mother's who had a commercial boarding house in Castle Street.

The visit made such an impression on me that when the time came for my birthday and my mother asked what I would like, to her surprise I replied "I'd like to go to Dover for a week's holiday". My mother, who had expected me to ask for a party or a present, was taken aback, but, nevertheless, she granted my wish. She brought my brother and me to Dover for a week.

It was the delight of my life. It was so exciting in Dover. It must have been regatta week. I remember being taken at night to the seafront and seeing the lights along the promenade and the moon making a path on the water. From one of the barrows on the front I chose a biff-bat with a little, lurex-

covered, paper ball on a piece of elastic. 57  
I played with it as I walked along.

The excitement of the holiday was the beach; it was the nicest beach I had ever known. In my child's mind it became my beach and my harbour, which should always be kept in order just for me.. I remember the Granville Gardens with its deckchairs and bandstand, where the adults liked to listen to music, which I found boring. I liked Woolworth's, where I spent my 3d pocket money on a little pencil case, which looked like a purse and which I carried with me everywhere throughout the holiday. I used to linger in Woolworth's reading books, until my mother pulled me away.

The feeling of excitement which I experienced as a child of six and seven never left me. After the war, to my delight, my family moved to Dover and I have lived here ever since. I never tire of the view from the seafront. When I sit on the verandah of the White Cliffs Hotel in the evening and watch the lights come on across the harbour and the path of moonlight on the water, it brings back the memories of my first visit to Dover as a child. The magic has always remained with me.

JUNE DYER

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There was so little inflation in the latter half of the 19th century that for almost all purposes it may be ignored. A direct comparison may therefore be made between the imposition of 2s mentioned above and the charge, in 1897, for the use of a 1st class hackney carriage for one hour - 2s 6d. In the same year one could travel one mile in a 2nd class carriage for 1s. and would be charged 4d by the Town Porters to convey 1 or 2 pieces of luggage, not exceeding 112lbs in weight, from anywhere in the town to one of the railway stations.

# FESTIVAL OF DOVER

18th — 29th May 1992

THIS exciting venture is the result of collaboration between DDC Tourism and Marketing Unit and the Arts and Libraries Department of the KCC. It aims to present a multitude of art forms within the theme of "A Moving Picture" and will offer the people of Dover and visitors to the district an opportunity to sample a wide range of activities.

Throughout the Festival there will be visual art exhibitions in the Stone Hall, the new Dover Museum Gallery, and in the KCC Arts and Libraries Mobile Arts Wagon, as well as an evening art workshop at the Library, led by Philomena Kennedy.

Brian Moses and Nigel Hinton, both respected in the field of children's literature, will be in residence at a number of local schools. "Words Alive", a husband and wife duo of performing poets, and Michael Rosen, the superb children's writer, will be performing at the Town Hall.

Other events for children will include a drama workshop, craft activities and a Teddy Bear Rally at Kearsney Abbey on Whit Monday. Lectures during the festival will include a literary talk by the famous crime novelist, P.D. James, as well as an evening of heritage at the Town Hall.

The festival also includes many concerts and recitals at a variety of venues — a jazz band at the Town Hall, classical concerts at St. Mary's Church, a concert by the Royal Green Jackets, as well as an apprentice orchestra day at the Town Hall held by staff from the Kent Music School.

In addition to these events the festival will include a guided walk, a vineyard trail, performances of Ray Warner's films of Dover, pavement chalking competition, artists in residency at the Town Hall and street entertainment throughout the Festival.

The range and calibre of the programme promises that the first Festival of Dover will provide something of interest to everyone.

We look forward to your support and participation during this first exciting festival.

A selection from the programme:

- Exhibition Dover Art Group. Stone Hall. 18 - 29 May 1992
- Exhibition New Dover Museum. 18 - 29 May 1992
- Concert Snowdon Male Voice Choir. St. Mary's Church. 20 May 1992
- Heritage Evening Dover Town Hall. 21 May 1992
- Pavement Chalking Competition Dover Town Centre. 23-24 May 1992
- Concert Royal Green Jackets. Dover Town Hall. 22 May 1992
- Concert Kimbara Brothers ('20s Jazz). Dover Town Hall. 23 May 1992
- Tour of local vineyards 23 May 1992
- Guided Walks around Dover 24 May 1992
- Concert Betteshanger Colliery Band. Seafront. 24 May 1992
- Teddy Bear Rally Kearsney Abbey. 25 May 1992
- Film Performances White Cliffs Cinema. 25-29 May 1992
- Art Workshop Dover Library. 26 May 1992
- Concert Woodwind Ensemble. St. Mary's Church. 27 & 29 May 1992
- Lecture P. D. James at Dover Library. 28 May 1992

A full programme and details of ticket prices will be available in Spring 1992.

PETER RYAN, *Arts and Heritage Officer*, Dover Group Library

In our previous issue I asked readers to write to the *Newsletter* with instances of their visitors' impressions of Dover, thinking it would interest other members to know what outsiders said about the town. No letter were received, but several people have mentioned that visiting friends and relatives have commented favourably about Dover, passing complimentary remarks about the cleanliness of the town and the increased number of places of interest to visit; one remarking that one needed a minimum of three days to see everything. One member, who has a guest house on Folkestone Road, reported that there had been no complaints at all this year about the town and added that one couple return to Dover every year for their holiday because they loved to sit on a seat on the seafront and watch the world go by, the changing waters and the harbour traffic.

EDITOR

# CROSSWORD — No. 4

**CLUES—DOWN**

- 1 Commons report (6)
- 5 007 creator (7)
- 10 Small brother backs royal insignia (3)
- 12 I love Latin (3)
- 13 Lucky ?(3)
- 14 Mum's Degree (1,1)
- 15 Friend of 5 (6)
- 16 The eagle has — (6)

- 18 Spider's fabrication (3)
- 20 For play's line-up (4)
- 22 A dandy (6)
- 24 Musical note (2)
- 26 1993? (7,6)
- 29 Alternative (2)
- 31 Small blood-sucking fly (4)
- 33 Glance over (4)
- 34 Ten men did (3)
- 36 Beatrix — (6)

- 39 After Autumn (6)
- 40 Painter (2)
- 41 Not many (3)
- 42 Cleopatra's killer (3)
- 44 Slippery customer (3)
- 46 Most profound (7)
- 47 Electrical or tidal (7)

**DOWN**

- 1 Tony — (7)
- 2 A20 contractors (7,5)
- 3 Southern Railway (1,1)
- 4 Sounds as if this sailor should (5)
- 6 The French (2)
- 7 Jane Austen heroine (4)
- 8 Grizzle (4)
- 9 Pencester or Pines (7)
- 11 Deal Heritage feature (8,5)
- 17 Found on Western Heights (6,6)
- 19 Exist (2)
- 21 Boston Party (3)
- 23 Lily (4)
- 25 Author unknown (4)
- 27 Our French (3)
- 28 Four heads in Dover crest (7)
- 30 Implore (7)
- 32 Morning (1,1)
- 35 Another 43? (5)
- 37 Snare (4)
- 38 Comfort (4)
- 43 Afterthought (2)
- 45 Hesitant utterance (2)

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				42	A	S	P					44	45	L
46	D	E	E	P	E	S	T	47					E	

The solution to Crossword No.3 is on page 61

# The Castle Clinics

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Solution to  
Crossword No 3

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- **PENSIONS**  
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*The Objectives of  
the Dover Society*

*founded in 1988.*

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

The area we cover comprises 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.

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**THE DOVER SOCIETY**

Please note: Annual Subscriptions become due on 1st April

RENEWAL  NEW APPLICATION  Please tick as appropriate

Please Print in Block Capitals For Renewal:  Membership No.

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....

ADDRESS .....

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: £4.00 per person per year.

Please make cheques payable to The Dover Society and forward to the Membership Secretary: Sheila Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD

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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.

If you have changed your address since your last subscription payment please tick this box  and please tick the next box if you are willing to assist, occasionally, with the distribution of *The Newsletter* etc.

Very occasionally we may allow our mailing list to be used by other reputable societies and groups. Under the Data Protection Act you are entitled to withhold your permission for this. Please indicate with a X in the box if you DO NOT wish your name and address to be divulged.

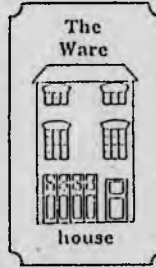
# PROGRAMME

- SEPTEMBER 7  
Saturday  
Members and guests
- VISIT TO WYE COLLEGE AND WYE  
Full-day visit by coach with conducted tours of the College and Wye.
- SEPTEMBER 21  
Saturday 7.30
- KENT CONCERT ORCHESTRA  
Dover Town Hall
- OCTOBER 5  
Saturday  
Members and guests
- TRIP TO CALAIS  
Mayoral Reception in Calais, coach tour of town, visit to civic/historic site, shopping, lunch.
- OCTOBER 14  
Monday 7.30  
Open meeting
- PRESENTATION OF AWARDS  
St. Mary's Parish Centre, Cannon Street, Dover  
Speaker: Miss Lillian Kay
- NOVEMBER 25  
Monday 7.30  
Members only
- MEMBERS' MEETING  
St. Mary's Parish Centre, Cannon Street, Dover  
Another opportunity for members to discuss their concerns
- DECEMBER 14  
Saturday 7.30  
Members and guests
- CHRISTMAS FEAST  
Dover College Refectory
- JANUARY 13  
Monday 7.30  
Members and guests
- FLOWERS  
Speaker: Melanie Wrigley  
Dover Harbour Board Hall, Details in *January Newsletter*
- FEBRUARY 24  
Monday 7.30  
Members and guests
- CONUNDRUMS AND CONVIVIALITY  
Dover Museum  
Details in *January Newsletter*
- APRIL 13  
Monday 7.30
- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
St Mary's Parish Centre, Cannon Street. Details later
- MAY 23  
Saturday
- FESTIVAL TRIP  
Choice of Venues yet to be decided
- JUNE 20
- TRIP TO HISTORIC DOCKYARD, CHATHAM  
Details later

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