

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No 13

May 1992



The Wellington Dock proposed development

BY 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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EDITORIAL

Our centre page focus for this edition of the Newsletter is the development of the Western Docks – the most encouraging news to hit Dover newspaper headlines since our last issue, ‘OUR 4,500 NEW JOBS’ pronounced the Dover Express. The interesting article written by Bill Fawcus, the new Harbour Board Property Development Manager and a member of the Dover Society, describes the plan in general terms, with special reference to the preliminary stages, planned for the next four years and beginning almost immediately, with the establishment of the Transport Museum in Cambridge Road and the opening of a store for the yachtsmen (and women) using the Marina *and* for the general public. Our centre spread plan represents a glimpse into the more distant future, as also does the cover picture. Readers may be more interested in the close detail of the preliminary phase map. Members who visited the exhibition in the Harbour Board Hall on 4th March will also have seen a scale model of the development.

This is not the only development news since our last publication. Work on the modernisation of the Cannon Street shops should be finished by the summer and it is reported in the local press that English Heritage is considering two separate offers for the project to use the Officer’s Quarters at Dover Castle as an hotel.

In the meantime the A20 roadworks continue, increasingly, to disrupt our daily lives. When one attempts to drive anywhere in Dover a different route must often be found, through intricate meanderings of cones, diversions, and temporary lights. ‘Where ever you go in this town it’s like a bomb site,’ said a tourist emerging from the debris of Bench Street.

Meanwhile, as residents, we grit our teeth and face another year of upheaval before the projected date for the completion of the work. Out of the chaos, hopefully, the new Dover will emerge.

As the regeneration of the town progresses the Dover Society will continue to work for preservation and/or conservation and will monitor proposed new developments. Our rôle as a society is clarified and heightened in an excellent article on the organisation and functions of amenity societies by our Chairman, Jack Woolford, who is also Chairman of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, and who must be commended for his unflinching work as Chairman for both organisations.

Our thanks are due to some of our regular contributors; Melanie Wrigley, for keeping us up-to-date on the activities of the White Cliffs Countryside Project; to Philomena Kennedy for her competent and detailed review of the exhibition of children’s art at the museum in December/January; and to John Owen, Projects Manager, for his reports on the Lydden Pond and Lousyberry Wood projects and for his interesting article on the South Goodwin Lightship.

John Owen is also co-ordinating the project of the Dover Society’s participation in the May Day Pageant, to be held in Connaught Park on 4th May. Please give this

your support. If you have not volunteered already, it is not too late. Visit the Society's tent on the day and donate a prize for the spot raffle or some home-made cakes for refreshments.

Adrian Galley reports on the Town Centre Regeneration in Local Issues Update. Adrian has filled the rôle of Chairman of our Planning Sub-Committee, for four years and earns our gratitude for his hard work, dedication and enthusiastic commitment to Dover's Future. When Adrian speaks of the regeneration of Dover, as he did so eloquently at the Society's A.G.M. in April, 1991, one is convinced of his firm beliefs and his optimism that Dover has a bright future. Regretfully, as he no longer works locally, he is unable to keep up his regular monitoring of local planning developments and the Society will need to appoint a new Planning Committee Chairman.

The Social Planning Sub-Committee also needs some help, as Lin Clackett, our Social Secretary is taking a temporary break from this post, which she has filled admirably for four years. Both Lin and Adrian will be sadly missed.

Lin has, however organised all the summer programme for us, which offers a wide choice of activities. Members should have received a booking form for the outing to the Vineyards and Sandwich in May. Two other visits are planned, one to Chatham Historic Dockyard in June and one to St. Omer in France in September. Members wishing to join either or both of these outings should complete the booking forms enclosed with this Newsletter and return these to Ken Berry by 10th June.

Also enclosed with your Newsletter is a questionnaire designed to give members an opportunity to make suggestions, express views or volunteer help. Please return this to the Editor. We welcome all your comments and offers of help.

MERRIL LILLEY

Membership News

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

Current membership: 326.

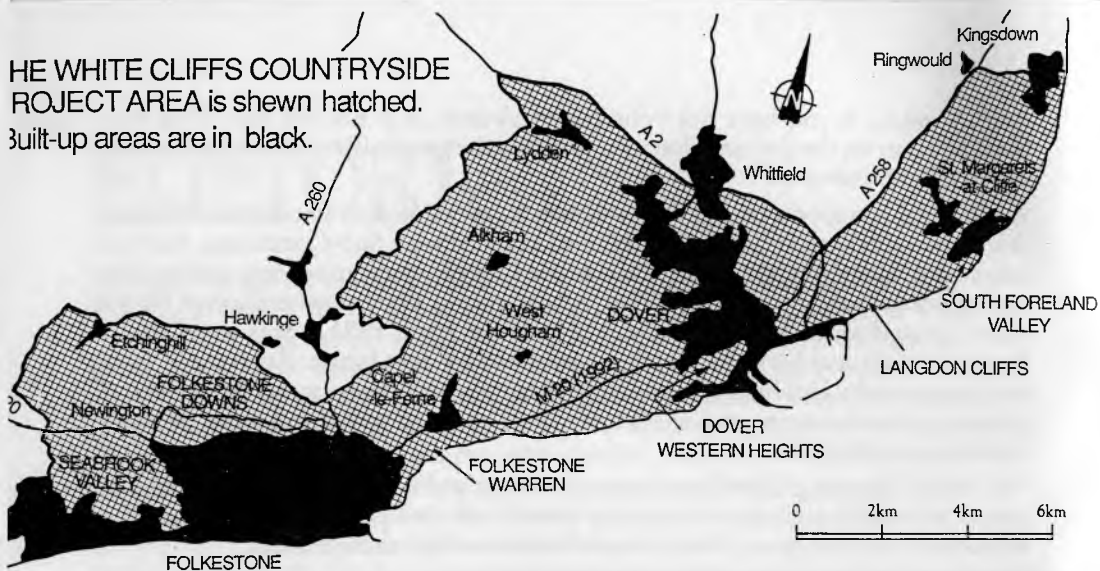
The current year started on 1st April 1992. If you have not renewed your subscriptions, please do so as soon as possible, making cheques payable to the *Dover Society*.

Please continue to introduce new members and to give spare copies of your *Newsletter* to friends who might be interested in our activities.

Though our membership is growing steadily our target is 600+ and with your help we should achieve it. We hope to welcome many more members in 1992.

SHEILA COPE
Membership Secretary

THE WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT AREA is shown hatched. Built-up areas are in black.



BASED ON AN ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP for which permission to use has been granted to the White Cliffs Countryside Project by H.M. Stationery Office

MELANIE WRIGLEY TALKS ON

The White Cliffs Countryside Project

Reported by MAY JONES

A very appreciative audience met in the Dover Harbour Board Hall on 13th January for Melanie Wrigley's illustrated talk on the work of the Project. As one of its three Projects Officers she was well able to explain its aims and achievements from first hand experience using excellent colour slides.

The map on this page shows the conservation area covered by the scheme and the six priority areas for action in the first three years. The group of logos of sponsoring organisations indicates its importance both locally and nationally.

We are extremely fortunate to have on our doorstep such wonderful examples of chalk grassland, for this corner of Kent, owing to its proximity to mainland Europe, has a number of species of plants and animals not found elsewhere in Britain – for example, the late spider orchid. If correctly managed such grassland can support thirty to forty plant species per square metre.

Many of the plants colonised the open habitats created when Neolithic man first cleared the post-glacial forest and they have continued to flourish where man's activities have prevented the growth of scrub and trees which would have shaded them out. The reduction in animal husbandry since World War II has allowed coarse Tor grass to invade and overrun large expanses of the Downs, covering the soil with its leaf litter, which prevents the germination of other seeds. One important aim of the WCCP is therefore to introduce carefully controlled grazing which allows the finer grasses and then flowers to regenerate. The rare breed of Dexter cattle owned by Mr and Mrs K. C. Smith, of Sladden Farm, Alkham, have already done sovereign service on the Western heights to this end and two colonies of bee orchids are now to be seen near the Drop Redoubt, as well as field scabious and squinancy wort (a good indication of old grassland).

Wild cabbage which grows on the Dover cliffs is a national rarity and a protected species, the wild ancestor of all our cultivated brassicas. Plant scientists at Wye College are currently breeding with it for increased resistance to disease. As with so many other wild plants, its seeds can remain dormant for very long periods and then develop when conditions are favourable, as they did as soon as old buildings in Snargate Street were pulled down.

Our Dover area also contains very rare types of broomrape, a parasitic plant which plugs its roots into a host such as knapweed. As with other rarities this prompts the question did it colonise over 8000 years ago before the Channel was opened up or was it spread by the wind?

Other more common, but no less interesting and attractive plants, are to be seen, such as Autumn Ladies' Tresses, Viper's Bugloss, Milkwort (once thought to encourage lactation), Salad Burnet (rich in Vitamin C and the Stemless Thistle (alias 'Picknickers' Peril).

Blue butterflies are probably the best known of the typical chalk fauna and their numbers have been very much reduced in the post-war period. The Chalk Hill Blue, for instance, needs the Rock Rose, a calcicol, on which to lay its eggs. Bird's Foot Trefoil, another chalk-loving plant supports other blue butterflies and it is therefore making a doubly welcome comeback in the area. The Adonis Blue, which is, fortunately, still to be found in the South Foreland Valley and at one spot on the Folkestone Downs, needs ants – for the second stage of its life cycle. The ants eat the honey dew secreted by its chrysalids which are therefore carried down into the anthill and safely overwinter there.

Woodland habitats encourage a variety of other wild plants, especially coppiced areas, which allow sufficient sunlight for bluebells, Ransoms (wild garlic) and primroses and wood anemones, the last two being good indicators of ancient woodland.

The enumeration of activities undertaken with the project makes impressive reading. Volunteers of all ages (up to 80+!) gave 2500 work days in 1991, to a variety of tasks, from the spectacular clearance of accumulated litter on the Western Heights (views of the Royal Greenjackets abseiling down walls to remove items caught on rough surfaces!) to the more mundane clearance of footpaths and ponds. This total included the routine "policing" by volunteer wardens of areas near their homes.

Guided walks are becoming increasingly popular and other more specialised expeditions (astronomy, winter sketching and mini-mammal safaris) are now on offer.

70 Rural skills such as hedge-laying can be learnt at Great Shuttlesfield Farm, Lyminge, and coppicing (a practice which dates back to Roman and Saxon times) at Little Farthingloe Farm, Dover. Apart from their intrinsic interest such skills are required for Countryside Management Courses and the WCCP can therefore assist with some career training. It also has an educative rôle for the public by providing information leaflets and information panels at viewpoints along the footpaths, by encouraging people to follow the country code, especially where grazing animals are concerned and by stimulating an interest in and an appreciation of the natural environment generally.

An increasing number of schools are taking advantage of opportunities for fieldwork and other activities. Harbour School are carving oak labels for a tree trail in the Elms Vale Ecological Park, Channel High has helped with building steps in the Warren and way-marking on the hills, while Astor pupils have translated publicity pamphlets as part of their cross-curricular activities. Girls have enjoyed considering wild flowers for cosmetics on a "Smelly Day" and children have researched social history in Cowgate Cemetery.

Knowing the value of the area to local schools, the Projects Officers would like to produce a National Curriculum pack to encourage parties from other areas to come to this part of Kent for study.

Farther afield, the WCCP is twinned with the French Countryside Project covering the Calais to Boulogne section of the Pas de Calais and together they aim to encourage walking on both sides of the Channel as an adjunct to, or substitute for, other "duty free trips." As leisure travel increases they will need to balance tourist use with environmental need in their respective areas, but at present they are happy to encourage as many people as possible to explore the countryside.

At the end of the meeting a number of members who had been particularly interested in the culinary and medicinal properties (real or imaginary) of the wild plants were pleased to discuss the subject further with Melanie and look at the books on display.

POSTSCRIPT.

At least three enthusiasts have joined guided walks as a result of this talk and would heartily recommend them. Spring is the best time to visit the Elms Vale Ecological Park. Shall we see you there?

The organisations involved are:

Dover
District
Council



English
Heritage



COUNTRYSIDE
COMMISSION

Network SouthEast



These badges or logos are those of a unique partnership of organisations including the local authorities, conservation bodies, volunteer sector and local business that has been formed to help the White Cliffs Countryside Project tackle the problems in its area.

Before you, Cecil !!

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JACK WOOLFORD, *Chairman, Kent Federation of Amenity Societies
and The Dover Society.*

ACCORDING to Beryl Downing, Property correspondent of the "Independent on Sunday" Magazine (Sunday Feb 23rd 1992) in her article "When People Power Can See Off an Eyesore", "We are at last becoming a nation of protesters . . . in conservation societies and pressure groups . . . and not before time, because too many local councils are riding rough-shod over our urban landscapes . . ." In evidence she cites the Walton (on Thames) Society of 1975 which in 1980 won a council seat and in 1985 three more "which helped to control the balance of power in a hung council" and which prevented a multi-storey car park in a public park and saved listed buildings.

Whether or not conservation societies should themselves run for council seats rather than influencing existing councillors (and officers) is in itself debateable but if Ms Downing thinks that conservation societies and pressure groups started in 1975 she is rather spectacularly uninformed. Passing lightly over such relatively recent developments as the Peasants' Revolt in the 13th, Jack Cade's rebellion in the 14th, the Pilgrimage of Grace and Rising of the Northern Earls in the 16th, the Civil War in the 17th and the numberless political and economic riots of the 18th and the Luddites, Blanketeers, Chartists *et al* of the nineteenth centuries, she has also environmental-wise, missed the writings of John Ruskin, William Morris, Ebenezer Howard *et al*, not to mention the even more relevant foundations of the Commons Preservation Society in 1865, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in 1877, the National Trust in 1895, the (separate) Clean Air and Garden City Associations in 1899, the Men of the Trees in 1922, the Council for the Protection of Rural England in 1926 and the Georgian Group of 1937. All these (and many more), and this year's Diamond Jubilee of the mass trespass on Kinder Scout in 1932 for Ramblers' Rights of Way, suggest that we have long had protest in our bones, if not in our genes.

The Walton Society was relatively slow off the mark. As early as 1698 a London suburban society "for the reformation of manners" successfully campaigned for the closure of "several music houses which had degenerated into notorious nurseries of lewdness and debauchery" and less than a century later Abinger (Surrey) locals prevented the building of an explosives factory in the parish. The Sidvale (Sidmouth) Association, which provided a footbridge over a river, dates from 1846 and 1975, the Walton Society's birthyear, saw the centenary of the Cockburn (Edinburgh) Association. When Dover's first conservation society was founded in 1964 the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies was already coming into existence. The Civic Trust itself dates from 1957 and now registers over a thousand societies.

No harm done, however, and all publicity is good and useful, for which many thanks. Even for those of us who have been protesting (constructively, of course!) for more than a quarter of a century it is useful to have Ms Downing's "Campaigners' Checklist":

- 72 # Build up as big a membership as possible.
Keep it informed by issuing progress reports.
Establish committees to deal with planning, transport, social activities.
Co-opt specialists.
Create a group of activists and divide your area into sections, each with a co-ordinator to deliver newsletters and act as go-between for the membership and the executive.
Keep the subscription low so that anyone can afford it. Top up with fund-raising events.
Don't mix a pressure group with a club. You won't have time to do the real work.
Get the support of outside groups such as the Civic Trust, the Victorian Society, whatever is relevant.
Use local celebrities.
Keep up the pressure in the local papers and radio network.
Watch planning applications carefully and be quick off the mark to oppose them.

In general these are the things we all do, as well as lobbying the decision makers at every level, holding public meetings and making awards, *etc.* Ms Downing's checklist however, is, I suggest, very questionable on the point "Don't mix a pressure group with a club".

If as big a membership as possible is necessary in order to impress Ministers, M.P.s, County, District and Parish Officers and Councillors, *etc. etc.* then a pressure group must indeed be mixed with a club. A Social Programme is even more important than a newsletter. They are, indeed, mutually supportive, the one as educational, with professionally guided tours to other towns and sites, illustrated lectures on architecture, archaeology, the countryside, the economic history of the area in question, *etc.*, as the other. Public meetings to explore particular issues, for the presentation of Awards and for Members Meetings, not to mention the odd Xmas Feast or Garden Party or Quiz are also invaluable for fund-raising, notably helping to keep subscriptions low. These are club functions which raise and sustain morale and promote the indispensable community spirit.

As I myself, Chairman of both Dover's first and second (successor) amenity society very well know, the absence of a social programme may be fateful to the existence of a conservation society in relatively quiet times. A crisis may precipitate an *ad hoc* group to fight a single cause. Kent positively pullulated them, first for the Channel Tunnel and, even more, for the High Speed Rail Link, and valuable services they gave and are giving. Continuity of existence and accumulated experience including acquaintance with potential adversaries in government and elsewhere) however, are invaluable and this is what clubs (the origins of political parties), are for. They need constant rejuvenation but continuity in the organisation and traditions of protest and pressure groups is vital. New boys can learn a lot and save a lot of time by consulting them.

I am indebted to Arthur Percival, MBE, D LITT, FSA, of the Civic Trust for supplementary historical information.

CONUNDRUMS *and* CONVIVIALITY 73

Dover Museum, Monday 24th February 1992

Over 60 members and guests gathered for a happy evening together at Dover Museum, and the fare provided was well up to the high standards of the Dover Society.

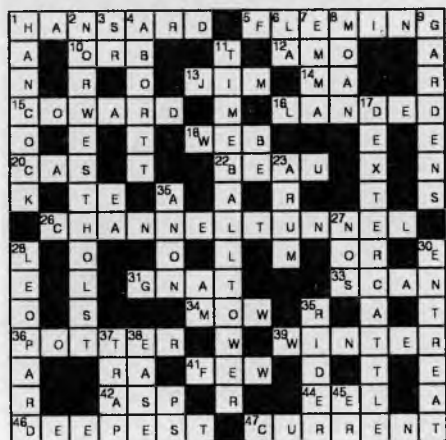
The venue, the middle floor of our new Museum, was unusual and very attractive; light, airy and spacious, with an interesting exhibition of Victoriana: clothes, furniture, glassware, crockery, toys and pictures; a tempting introduction for any of our members who had not visited previously. It was most pleasing, too, to meet the Curator, Christine Waterman, and Trevor, who took a kindly interest in our activities.

The Conundrums? Fortunately, for many of us, it was even praiseworthy to show our ignorance by moving around making friends and asking for answers. Surely no other amenity society in the land has the good fortune to possess a Budge Adams, who produced two different sets of booklets, each containing 62 questions and 2 pages of pictures, all beautifully arranged and printed, and who then gently guided us through the evening.

We have further good fortune too in Philomena who thought up the whole clever idea, thus enabling us to overcome our British reserve by talking to strangers and having fun at the same time. She edited the questions, many of which she produced, assisted by Merrill and Budge..

The Conviviality? A delightful evening. Thank you to our Social Secretary, Lin Clackett, who organised the evening and produced the very welcome food and wine, helped by Julian; to Sheila and Jeremy Cope, as always ever ready with the raffle; and to some of our ex-teaching friends May Jones, Marjorie Sanders and Merrill Lilley, who revived their exam-marking skills on the question papers.

Solution to Crossword No. 4



The Winners? Almost everyone, but chiefly Claire Crowley, followed by Joan Tye in the first half and later Margaret Machin and Joyce Molyneux.

Further questions? Would you like another similar event? If so, what about thinking out a few conundrums as you walk around Dover, or visit the Museum, or read a history book? Or any other suggestions?

Your help and your ideas would be much appreciated.

Thank you every one for such an enjoyable evening.

LILLIAN KAY

PROJECTS

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

LYDDEN POND RESTORATION:

The First Year !

A great deal has been achieved since The Dover Society was asked by Lydden Parish Council to consider the 0.065ha (650m²) dried out village pond as a conservation project

The Chairman, Councillor Dick Hubbard, and the Chairman of the Dover Society Projects Committee, John Owen, had the first of many site meetings just over a year ago on Tuesday 19th February 1991.

Twenty-five volunteer working sessions involving some 240 man hours have taken place during the year and additional heavy work by contractors. Volunteers included villagers, school-children, Dover Society members and others interested in the restoration of this environmental amenity.

With the enthusiastic support of Mrs Cross, the Headteacher, the village school-children turned out in force with some of their mothers during Environment Week,

VOLUNTEERS FROM THE WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT LEND A HAND WITH "PUDDLING"





DIGGER STANDS BY AS FIRST LOAD OF CLAY ARRIVES. About 20 loads were delivered

tidied up the pond, planted bluebells and helped Dover Society Chairman Jack Woolford plant a commemorative sapling willow tree to mark the start of the project.

Originally surveyed and planned by Clive Taylor ARICS (within our estimated budget) for a 10m diameter circular pond lined with butyl, the opportunity of free clay presented itself thanks to villagers Alan Dive and his wife. Civil engineer John Gerrard vetted the clay and the offer was snapped up. Star Plant of Shorncliffe helped considerably by transporting and laying over 200 tons of clay at a very reasonable price.

A vice-president of the Society and local resident, Peter Marsh, wrote of the project: 'it is a very important initiative that the Dover Society has taken to promote and co-ordinate the reinstatement of water and plant life to the Lydden village pond.'

A successful application for a grant from the 'Shell Better Britain Campaign' brought £450 and the project was also successful in receiving a Civic Trust/BT Community Pride Award to the value of £500. The pond requires further treatment following the tracking-in of the clay in December last and the impactor treatment of early January, to improve its water-holding capability. The current treatment entails manual puddling with straw (kindly supplied free) – within living memory a technique practised locally with success. Adequate rainfall is however essential to the process and we remain hopeful!

The signs are encouraging: water begins to lie and the ducks again show an interest. With the arrival of spring the wildlife is stirring and we shall shortly stand aside for a period learning from and observing what nature makes of our efforts.

Our most successful work-session was that of Sunday, 23rd February, when the White Cliffs Countryside Project volunteers led by Mrs Melanie Wrigley responded magnificently to our request, on behalf of the village, for help. Fifteen puddlers plus



THE DOVER SOCIETY, WINNERS OF A CIVIC TRUST/BRITISH TELECOM "COMMUNITY PRIDE AWARD."

SASKIA HALLAM OF THE CIVIC TRUST Presents a cheque to the Chairman of the Society. 23rd February 1992

Ben, a border collie, joined us from 10 till 3 puddling round and round on straw seemingly engaged in 'some ancient spring ritual' to the wonderment of both spectators and passers-by!

Interest in the project continues to grow and the contribution made by many unsung heroes, quietly and effectively, is magnificent.

NATIONAL TREE WEEK 1991

On Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December last The Dover Society organised two after-care work sessions on the two hundred young trees planted by the Society in Lousyberry Wood just over a year ago. Being National Tree Week and the first anniversary of the planting, this concerted effort was particularly appropriate. Jim Davis, local Tree Warden, Jack Woolford, Dover Society Chairman and Margaret Robson, local representative of the Council for the Protection of Rural England all provided impetus on what were two dreary but mild and rainless mornings. Eleven-year-old Susanne Glover, from Temple Ewell School, was an example of cheerfulness and industry as she wielded her secateurs.

During the two days invasive bramble (mainly) was cleared well back from each sapling and where necessary the tree shelters were cleared of weeds and accumulated dead leaves. It is recommended that the shelters remain in place for a number of years. In the case of beech trees, which bush out well, it has been found that they tend to have a constricting effect with the possibility of mildew but we dare not remove them prematurely for fear of bark damage from fauna should there be a spell of severe weather. Shelters of course also serve to pinpoint each sapling amongst the wealth of surrounding growth.

The more expensive bitumen-based tree mats have proved themselves over the plastic type in terms of durability and effectiveness as a mulch. All remain in place, suppressing competing weeds and retaining moisture, as evidenced by the substantial growth of the transplants.



NATIONAL TREE WEEK, 1991 Dover Society Members take a break from Tree Care Session in Lousyberry Wood. Nov. 1991

Random after-care throughout the summer by many, has resulted in a successful first year during which the young beech, maple and cherry have held their own with the natural regeneration of other species.

In spite of our breaks for a welcome cup of coffee, each and every young tree received attention. It's amazing what eight motivated people can do in a relatively short time!

In early February six failed saplings were replaced and we look forward to a successful second year, with those who walk the public footpath continuing to keep an eye on things for us during the summer months ahead.

LOCAL ISSUES UPDATE

Reported by ADRIAN GALLEY, Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee

The Town Centre Management Group

Within the last few years Doverians have, justifiably, been concerned about the decline and shabbiness of parts of the town centre. Sadly, in the last year, the successful launch of the White Cliffs Experience, Museum and Cinema has been accompanied, at the other end of the town, by the closure of a number of shops, notably the large stores of the Co-op and Sainsbury's, adding to the feeling of decline.

These closures, coupled with and partly caused by the current recession, make the regeneration of a town centre like Dover's a particularly difficult task. However, as discussed in *Newsletter 12* (Cannon Street Marketing Initiative) Dover has a number of unique advantages over other towns with similar problems.

I have recently had talks with Anthony Pound, recently-appointed Chairman of the Town Centre Management Group. (He also controls the "Lanterns" development in Folkestone). Mr Pound has been given the task of identifying problems and putting forward proposals for various areas of the town, divided for this purpose into four areas: Cherry Tree Avenue to Bridge Street, Bridge Street to the Town Hall, the Town Hall to Bench Street and, finally, Snargate Street.

Here I propose to discuss the Town Hall to Bench Street area, which can perhaps be described as the town's "Golden Triangle" (apologies to Budge Adams!) as it contains three of the town's main tourist attractions — (the Castle being the fourth). Within this triangle, the Old Town Gaol, the Roman Painted House and the White Cliffs Experience create a focus for visitors. This is the town's unique selling point.

For quality retailers to be attracted to an area, that area must have a flow of pedestrians and appear bustling and attractive. A chicken and egg situation, perhaps? The area will only attract the shoppers when the retailers are in place and the retailers will only be attracted when the area is busy with shoppers.

"Not so," says Mr Pound. The key to attracting shoppers to an area (apart from accessibility) lies in the presentation and marketing of the goods sold in the shops. If all existing retailers were to invest in attractive shop-fitting and window displays, the number of shoppers would increase significantly and the greater activity would be a good reason for other retailers to take up premises in the area.

Many retailers have already taken this initiative and changes which support Mr Pound's contention are taking place all the time.

However, some problems are not easily solved and one of the most difficult is that of the "absentee landlord", who is not interested in upgrading the town but only

in the tenant paying the rent on time. Charity shops, although they have a rôle in town centres, fall into this category and take up valuable, prominent retail sites. In another category are banks and building societies, which tend to sterilise an area and, when established, tend to stay, as can be seen in the Market Square.

So, firstly the problems have to be identified, then solutions put forward and, finally, the proposed changes have to be facilitated, co-ordinated and funded. Mr Pound will be putting his report before councillors shortly and thereafter the outcome depends on the people of Dover (as represented by their elected councillors).

Many questions present themselves. How important an issue is this? Can we justify committing resources to a scheme that could (and, some say, should) be funded by the private sector?

Perhaps the only way to answer these questions is to pose another. What will happen if we do nothing?

A.G.M. 1992

About one-quarter of the Society's 320 members attended the AGM on 13th April, 1992. The three visiting speakers on this successful occasion were Lord Rees, a Vice-President, John Moir, the District Council's Chief Executive and David Shaw, Dover's re-elected Member of Parliament.

The event will be reported in detail in *Newsletter 14*.

CORRECTIONS to the January *Newsletter*, No. 12

Front Cover. Roy Chambers' drawing of the devastated Townwall Street was made in 1953, not 1940.

Page 21 The last sentence of Jack Woolford's review of the Kent Concert Orchestra Concert should have been completed as follows:

".....on this occasion we are particularly grateful to the following for their support: The Dover District Council, Messrs Pfizer Ltd, The National Westminster Bank plc, Adams the Printers, Dover

Page 51 The last line on the page should read:

"around the Abbey. *In 1192 Sir William de Auberville founded the Abbey.* Perhaps the name . . ."

Without the italicised sentence the suggestion that the name was taken by workers on the estate is not credible.

The Producer apologises.

LIVING OVER THE SHOP

LIN CLACKETT

The under-use of town-centre buildings seems to have emerged as an issue after a report by the Ministry of Housing in 1986. It took twelve years, until 1978, for a specific report to be commissioned and after yet another twelve years the 'Living Over the Shop' project was set up by Ann Petherick, based at York University and funded by a private Memorial Trust. Hopefully, this initiative will halt the decay of many of our urban buildings and breathe new life into our town centres.

The problem of empty floors above shops seems to affect every town centre. Our own town has the added problem of tall late-Victorian buildings, most with four or five stories above the shops.

Gone are the days when shopkeepers or workers lived above the premises, and more efficient stock control by "multiple" stores means that less storage space is needed.

The reluctance of property owners to rent accommodation was exacerbated by the old legislation, but the 1988 Housing Act now enables a landlord to offer a fixed term tenancy. However, the costs of renovating and converting the upper floors of a building to meet modern standards can easily outweigh the returns available from the rent.

The 'Living Over The Shop' project enables property owners to obtain grants of up to 75% of the conversion costs. Housing Associations are also being encouraged to use the scheme to provide cheap accommodation, leasing the upper floors from the owner.

I contacted our own council who are participating in the scheme and we must hope that they publicise this fact to local property owners. However, after speaking to several property owners in the town centre I found that none had heard of the scheme. The local grants officer also explained that this scheme is not available for owners wishing to live above their own premises, which is a shame, for it is increasingly difficult for a small business man (or woman !) to afford a shop and a separate home. Perhaps if the grants were to include occupying owners more of the small shops in areas such as our own London Road could be improved.

If owners are made aware of this project and the possible grants available, perhaps we can halt the decline of our fine old buildings, provide much-needed accommodation and make our town centres brighter and safer places at night.

Rosemary Dunn, a member of the International Society for Music Education, the British Society for Music Therapy and the British Association of Choral Directors, has been Head of Music at Dover Grammar School for Girls for eighteen years. Her Music Department has the distinction of being the first in the country to have a sponsored Composer-in-Residence from the Royal Academy of Music and the first to be chosen to assist in the training of Music teachers in association with Trinity College of Music.

At present Rosemary Dunn is compiling a book on Contemporary Music notation and is in demand as a lecturer. She enjoys taking music to the wider community and founded Dover Music Centre in 1988. She has pioneered several educational initiatives, among them being the work her Sixth Form girls undertake with Primary School children and with the Aspen Unit, described in this article.

MUSIC: A SHARED EXPERIENCE

ROSEMARY DUNN

'Rhythm and Harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul, on which they mightily fasten'. Socrates thus perceived the power of music and all of us, familiar with the stories of David calming a disturbed King Saul with harp music or of Orpheus affecting the very trees and mountain tops by the sweetness of his lute playing have long appreciated music's unique qualities

For some people, however, the therapeutic power of music is not just something to wonder at but a most valuable and valued part of their personal development. Although

ROSEMARY DUNN WITH LEAH



it is beneficial to 'all sorts and conditions of men', it is especially useful for children whose language development is delayed, who lack confidence, who are autistic or who otherwise find life 'in the fast lane' more than they can cope with.

About five years ago, at the suggestion of a friend who works with children whose development is delayed, I approached the Aspen Unit, based at Whitfield Primary School, to see if they would welcome a few sixth-form musicians from the Girls' Grammar School with myself, the Head of Music, who would endeavour to use their musical skills for the benefit of the children.

Although Music Therapy training is intensive, requiring a Degree or equivalent in Music (three years) followed by specialised training for a further year, it is also true that sensitivity to the needs of others together with good musical common sense can be very effective. So it proved to be with the sixth-form musicians who undertook this work.

82 'The Aspen Unit' is a name with somewhat clinical overtones, perhaps giving a less than accurate impression of the warmth, love and astonishing expertise to be found in the interaction between the staff and pupils there. About twenty-four children are on roll at any one time, ranging from three to nine years of age. They all have 'Special Educational Needs' and the range of impairments they bear is wide. These might include lack of speech, inability to walk, incontinence, autism and all-round developmental delay. The teaching they receive from the skilled and devoted staff has an emphasis on language development and the acquisition of social skills.

Happily, it was arranged that once a week (although individual girls often spend spare time continuing their work at the unit) four or five girls from the Grammar School should spend an afternoon helping the Aspen Unit children with music. This is largely done on an individual basis with Nick Andrews, Teacher-in-Charge, suggesting which children might benefit most on a particular day. A small room is set aside for us and we use an electronic keyboard, a bass xylophone designed for classroom use and a lot of hand-held instruments like tambourines, maracas and hand-chimes (individually tuned hollow metal tubes with a rubber beater attached, which produce a beautiful mellow sound),

The kind of music we use is entirely dictated by the needs of the children. With our stock of nursery rhymes, rhythm games, songs and instruments, we have helped to calm disruptive behaviour, to soothe fear in a new pupil, to stimulate a passive child and to discover real musical talent.

Vicki is an example. She loves to play the electronic keyboard. We use this in preference to a piano, as it has a large repertoire of varied sounds, can be moved around, is less cumbersome and we can arrange to sit opposite a child while he plays or hold a child securely on our knees. When we first knew her Vicki seemed to be unhappy and to approach the whole idea of music very tentatively. After much persuasion she would place the heel of her hands on the keys and tap gently. One day

EMMA, Visiting Student, CAROLINE NEWTON, HEIDI, LAURA PINKHAM, AMY, CHERI KINSELLA





LEAH WITH CAROLINE NEWTON

she 'played' with more gusto and for a while enjoyed banging the keys at random, until she gradually refined her technique to using her fingers. Suddenly she became really aware of sound. We had selected an 'organ' voice for her at a low volume and she happened to alight two fingers together onto a discord of adjacent keys. I was sitting opposite her, with my face at her level. She raised her eyes, continued to hold down the discordant notes and gave me a long, clear look of understanding that this was what music was all about!

To many people discord is unacceptable, but if anyone cares to try the experiment, two adjacent white notes on an organ should be held down for about twenty seconds. A secondary effect becomes apparent – that of a 'beat' set up by the conflicting vibrations. (It is this beat which the piano tuner will endeavour to get rid of by tightening or relaxing the string tension, so 'tuning' the instrument).

Here, then, was a child whose hearing was acute enough to prefer the 'beat' to a concordant sound. This is usually found only in experienced musicians. Vicki is aware of 'the hidden music' which lies behind all sound, so some of her apparent discomfort in life may be because she finds the overloaded sound-world in which we live intolerable. We continue to work with her to provide her with the pleasure she gets from playing the keyboard and she has started to be interested in other musical instruments too.

Leah was quite different! Like Vicki, she was three years old, but energetic to the point of hyper-activity. She was a challenge. At our first encounter, I matched her mood by sweeping her onto my lap and bouncing her up and down to a nursery rhyme. She promptly sank her teeth into my shoulder! Ignoring that, I held her even more firmly with my left arm and played a lively tune in a major key on the keyboard with my right hand. She loved it. I then decided to try to change her mood with music. With my spare hand I played some simple chords in the soothing key of E flat major. She stilled. I tried

84 again, this time in the even more soothing key of C minor. She fell fast asleep for quarter of an hour!

Since then Leah has ceased to regard musical instruments as missiles to be hurled and has developed a particular fondness for the bass xylophone. This is a floor-standing instrument at small-child level, with robust wooden bars on a resonant wooden box'. It produces a rich, deep tone. Leah tends to hit it in a rather unco-ordinated manner, apparently at random notes, but it is clear she knows which notes are which. If I play simple chords upon the keyboard she will play xylophone notes that harmonise and we are refining her technique so that her concentration develops and her pleasure in music increases. She claps rhythmically to Nursery Rhymes and loves resting her head against the side of your face while you hum quietly. (A trick I have since tried to soothe fractious babies -it works!)

David was also three years old when we first met him and he was extremely shy, so much so that he hid his face in his hands when he thought anyone was looking at him. Even the sound of soothing chords played on the keyboard seemed too much for him and after several anguished glances around the room he went to the door connecting the room with the main play area where the other children were and sat on the floor looking through the lower glass panel. One of the girls sat on the floor behind David, pushing various small instruments like maracas into his field of vision, hoping to interest him. After a time, during which we all remained still and quiet, she placed a tambourine beside him and tapped on it three times. Slowly, Derek's hand found the instrument and, without looking anywhere other than through the glass door as before, David tapped three times in reply on it.

An interesting 'conversation' between Ruth and David then ensued. Her taps on the tambourine were answered exactly by David; two by two, four by four, and so on. I then softly sang his name to a musical interval known as a 'falling minor third' (such as 'Mary' or 'coo-ee' might be sung in a sing-song voice to attract attention. This usually elicits an immediate response from the hearing children). At that, he looked at me for the first time David's response to music is, in fact, quick and accurate and he very much enjoys being sung to.

We now welcome every child into the room by singing his or her name and often lead them into a musical activity by singing instructions to them. It never fails to enchant the youngest in particular. We also encourage them to dance if they can, or at least to move to the music.

The sixth form girls respond magnificently to the challenges presented to them by the Aspen Unit children. They invent ways of their own to capture the attention of the children with music and have enhanced the lives of some children with severe problems of communication, such as autism. Their patience is exemplary and at least one past pupil of Dover Grammar School for Girls is to train as a Music Therapist as a direct result of the inspiration of the Aspen Unit.

Acknowledgements

Nick Andrews, M.A..(Special Educational Needs);

Teacher-in-Charge, The Aspen Unit, Whitfield, Dover, Kent.

Mrs. Mary Gillott, R.S.C.N., Dip.Sp.Ed.; Russett School, Weaverham, Cheshire.

Mrs. Dorothy Tipton, Christ Church College, Canterbury, Kent.

CHANNEL CROSSINGS

AN EXHIBITION

at the Dover Museum

30th November 1991 - 10th January 1992

PHILOMENA KENNEDY

An extravaganza of colour applied with the freshness and vitality typical of the best of children's art covered the walls of the first-floor gallery, filled the display cases and brightened Dover's winter.

The subject of 'Channel Crossings' attracted entries from at least seventeen schools, not only from Dover District but from further afield including Ashford, Thanet and Swanley. The work was judged by representatives of P & O, the Museum and Dover District Council.

First prize in the 15-18 years group went to Dominic Jeffrey, of HARVEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, Folkestone, for a lively painting of a ship on fire, with the rigging of another ship forming the foreground, showing a feeling for richly-textured paint. Other entries from the same school, whose flights of fancy included a Loch Ness-type monster and a desert island, left the viewer with the suspicion that they were not painted for the exhibition.

Thomas James, of DOVER COLLEGE, showed a schematic Channel in which a P & O ferry was sandwiched between cliffs. A plane and a balloon appeared in the sky, an assortment of craft in the water and, under the sea, a high-speed train. The picture was enhanced by the brilliance of paint and coloured markers.

Justina Coombs (14), also of the College, had a nice graphic approach and the ingenious idea of showing a magnifying glass picking out a detail of a ferry, with a small plane towing an advertisement for the White Cliffs Experience.

A boldly executed picture in padded fabrics, showing a seagull flying from England to France, was displayed by Victoria Wimshurst (11) of CLARENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL, Ramsgate.

Weaving, entitled 'The Channel Swimmer' and suspended from a dowel, its interesting textures enhanced by shells, was the exhibit of Moya Young (9), of SANDOWN COUNTY PRIMARY School.

Heidi Bax (9) of BARHAM COUNTY PRIMARY produced a bold painting of a gull against a dark blue sea in which a ferry moves far below, leaving a wake. The orange of the bird's beak contrasted nicely with the cool colours.

A delightful collage by James Small of BEAUHERNE COUNTY PRIMARY, Canterbury, filled its space beautifully. (Did P & O Ferries ever have paddle wheels?)

Class 5 of EASTRY COUNTY PRIMARY produced a very nicely composed collage of work in paint, collage, embroidery and paper sculpture showing ways of crossing the Channel from early times to the present, winning a well-deserved prize.

From David Burkimsher of WHITFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY came a striking image of an orange balloon against a huge moon in a black sky.

Honey James of HIGHVIEW SPECIAL gained a First Prize with her splendid schematic view of the Channel Tunnel in blues, yellows, greens and black. Richard Chapman, of the same school, produced a delightful idea of a port, rather than a presentation – white and grey lines enclosing a harbour in which several collaged ships add to the marvellous near-abstract quality of the picture – set off by a scarlet mount.

SANDGATE COUNTY PRIMARY had been doing a project on the 'Mary Rose' and produced some pleasing work (but the viewer couldn't help thinking that that fated ship did not get very far on *her* Channel crossing).

As with some other works on display the attractive large collage by a group at ST. MARTIN'S C.P. with its paper sculptures of various craft, tunnel train and buildings, suffered from rather inferior materials; the paper was too lightweight and perhaps discouraged the children from making their cliffs three-dimensional too. However the limited and rather off-beat colours at their disposal gave a pleasantly homogeneous quality to a large group of paintings from EASTRY COUNTY PRIMARY.

Sam Roberts, of NORTHBOURNE C. E. P., showed a nice feeling for space and paint surface in his picture of hovercraft, ferry and plane and Miles Hanrahan turned his problem with an expiring marker into an asset in a textured sky.

Polly Allison's charming weaving, incorporating a drawing of a ferry, showed a good sense of texture and of contrast with a limited range of colours.

A delightful use of marbled papers and other collaged materials, combined with drawing was evident in the pictures of Giles and Duncan Barrett of ST. MARGARET'S C. P.

From SANDOWN C. P. came a picture by Charlotte Cantapher of a brightly-painted craft sailed by a happy figure, seeming unaware of the beautifully observed gull about to swoop on it. As with some of the other younger children it would have been nice to know her exact age.

Jonathan Visscher of WHITFIELD C. P. was commended for his balloon made up of uninflated balloons. Emily Visscher's archetypal ship nicely filled the sheet of paper. Bobby Clements produced a coloured concept of Dover Harbour with ferries, lighthouse and cliffs.

Work from BROCKHILL PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL showed work varied in both technique and subject matter. Brenda Allen's night scene of a ship in wartime, in pastel on black paper, was nicely conceived.

ASTOR SECONDARY SCHOOL showed some interesting and varied work from pupils aged 12–14, although in some cases it was marred by poor lettering.

Also from ASTOR, the ceramics class of the same age produced lively interpretations, glazed in browns, grey greens and milky whites, of some of the extra-ordinary ways in which people have chosen to cross the Channel.

Some inventive three-dimensional work came from EASTRY C. P. – a man swimming the Channel accompanied by a man rowing a boat by Robert Roll and Paul Craven, an impressive model of a P. & O. ferry by Paul Doel, the Castle on the cliffs below which a sailing ship passes, a wood and string plane by Ben Smith (8).

Keith Farrall (6) of SWANLEY C. P. made a splendidly chunky P. & O. ferry beneath the cliffs set in a painted sea. It did seem a remarkably sophisticated work for a child of his age.

Some children were not well-served by inadequate materials and tools. Scratchy coloured pencil does not combine well with paint. Ordinary pencil needs to be very wellhandled to produce good results on its own.

The exhibition, which took Museum staff several days to put up, was clearly popular and attracted a large number of entries, especially from primary schools. The Museum staff must be commended for their display work. Every entry was exhibited, utilising every inch of wall space, so that occasionally it was difficult to decide to which work a caption referred.

Looking forward to future exhibitions of children's art, it is hoped that more secondary Art Departments will be persuaded to submit work. Although I am aware of the problems of secondary schools, with their particular curricular constraints, perhaps more would participate if they had sufficient time to plan ahead. Maybe a few Calais schools might be invited to take part?

The success and popularity of this exhibition was such that we may well anticipate future shows of the work of school pupils in one of the best exhibition spaces in Kent.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

The Museum has announced an exhibition of Children's Art, on the theme of "The Roman Invasion." It will take place in November/December 1993.

DAISY PIG

M. J. Robson, BBC Books

DAISY PIG is a collection of five short stories about an engaging lady pig who has various everyday experiences to which young children can relate. For instance, Daisy keeps shop, visits the seaside, goes to London, goes riding and pretends to be a nurse.

The stories, written by Margaret Robson, a member of the Dover Society committee, were read on BBC's 'Jackanory' and the collection has just been published by BBC Books 1992.

The easy style, credible dialogue and amusing plots appeal to younger children. The stories are ideal for reading aloud to 5–7 year olds, of suitable length for a bedtime story or for use with an infant class. Older children, of 8–9 years, will read the stories for themselves and probably will have greater appreciation of the humour of the situations.

MERRIL LILLEY

An Exhibition

showing the planned development of
the Western Docks:

MERRIL LILLEY

The Harbour Board Hall, 4th March, 1992

The Exhibition was open to the public and was the first opportunity for local residents to see the plans drawn up by the Harbour Board for the future development of the Western Docks. On display were a number of photographs, drawings and paintings, a model of the Wellington Dock in future years and, most relevant to the present, a large detailed plan of the preliminary phase of the development in and around the Wellington Dock.

The preliminary phase, planned to take place over the next four years, was of most interest. There was a steady stream of visitors all afternoon and these had to wait their turn to view the exhibits and the plan, or to talk to the Harbour Board officials in attendance, in particular to Bill Fawcus, the Property Business Manager.

The most exciting aspect for many was the fact that the first stages of the operation are to take place almost immediately: the opening of the transport museum, pedestrian walkway, car parking, workshop, café and store for the Marina are all scheduled to be open by May or June of this year. One Gateway resident was overjoyed to learn that the Marina General Store would be open to the public all the year! For her this meant access to basic shopping without crossing the new A20! In addition, in the first phase, residents of Dover can look forward to the opening of an indoor market and a new restaurant on the site. All this is just the beginning of the project, which is described in more detail elsewhere in this *Newsletter*

THE VICTORIANA COLLECTION

Exhibition at Dover Museum, 29th January – 15th March

The Victorian Collection belongs to Deal. It is the unique private collection of William Williamson, who collected mainly furniture and paintings, and of his wife, who collected dolls and china. From the 1960's they lived in Queen Anne House in Middle Street, Deal and were early members of the Deal Society. As their collection grew, they purchased Blackburn House, in Middle Street, to house all their items of Victorian memorabilia. The collection was donated by Williamson to Dover District Council shortly before his death in 1989.

The collection has been on show in Deal in the summer months each year and this is the first time it has visited Dover. An urn, containing the ashes of the founder accompanies the collection and was displayed in a glass case at the entrance to the gallery floor of the Museum.

The items selected for the exhibition were used to illustrate how the industrial revolution and the Victorian era developed, contrasting products of the 17th and 18th centuries with the newer products of the Age of Invention and Innovation. It also looked at the influence on Victorian taste and design. The displays were organised into ten main themes:

1. Victoria and Albert
2. Workshop of the World
3. The development of china and pottery
4. The development of glass
5. Domestic Ware
6. Costume and Jewellery
7. Travel and Seaside
Holiday Souvenirs
8. Toys and Dolls
9. Art
10. The Victorian House

The Williamson collection of antiques and collectables includes china, ornaments, jewellery, costume, furniture, toys and dolls from 1700 to 1950. In addition there are over 100 paintings from the period 1650 to 1950, including works by 17th century Dutch masters and the schools of Hogarth and Gainsborough.

The complete collection is vast and probably only one-quarter to one-third is on display at any one time so it is always worth a visit. Members who missed the exhibition when it visited Dover can see it on its home ground by visiting the Victoriana Museum in Deal during the summer months.

MERRIL LILLEY

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. 14, for publication on 1st September, is 18th July 1992 and the producer would be grateful if "copy" is typed if possible, **but in any case asks that it be double-spaced**. Single spacing is a frequent source of typesetting error.

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

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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR AT THE WATERSIDE

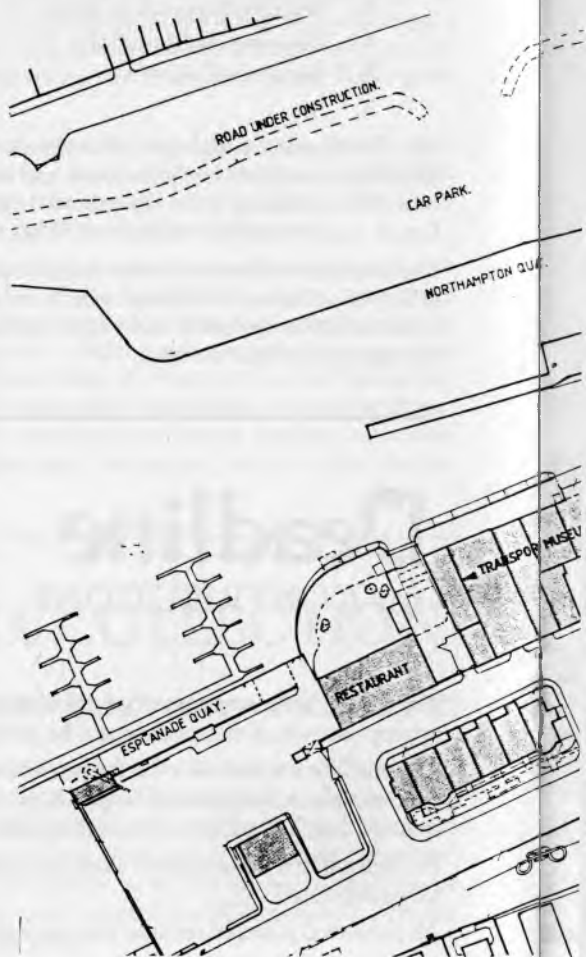
Throughout the ages, from Roman times right up to the second world war, Dover's Western Docks formed the power-house of the town. The prominence of the location, which offers safe passage between the cliffs facing on to the narrow point of the Channel, has formed a natural funnel. It was through this funnel that the wealthy and famous have had to pass on their way to and from Europe.

Consequently Snargate Street was the prosperous centre of commercial activity. Businesses clustered around the inner harbours jostling to trade with the rich flow of traffic.

But it was because of this ease of access that it was necessary to cordon off the docks to maintain a ring of security when hostilities raged across the Channel. By the time the sound of bombs and artillery had died away at the end of the last war the character of the water-front had changed completely. The inner harbours became transit areas for goods rather than people so it was convenient to maintain the restrictions for the safety of the public and the security of cargoes.

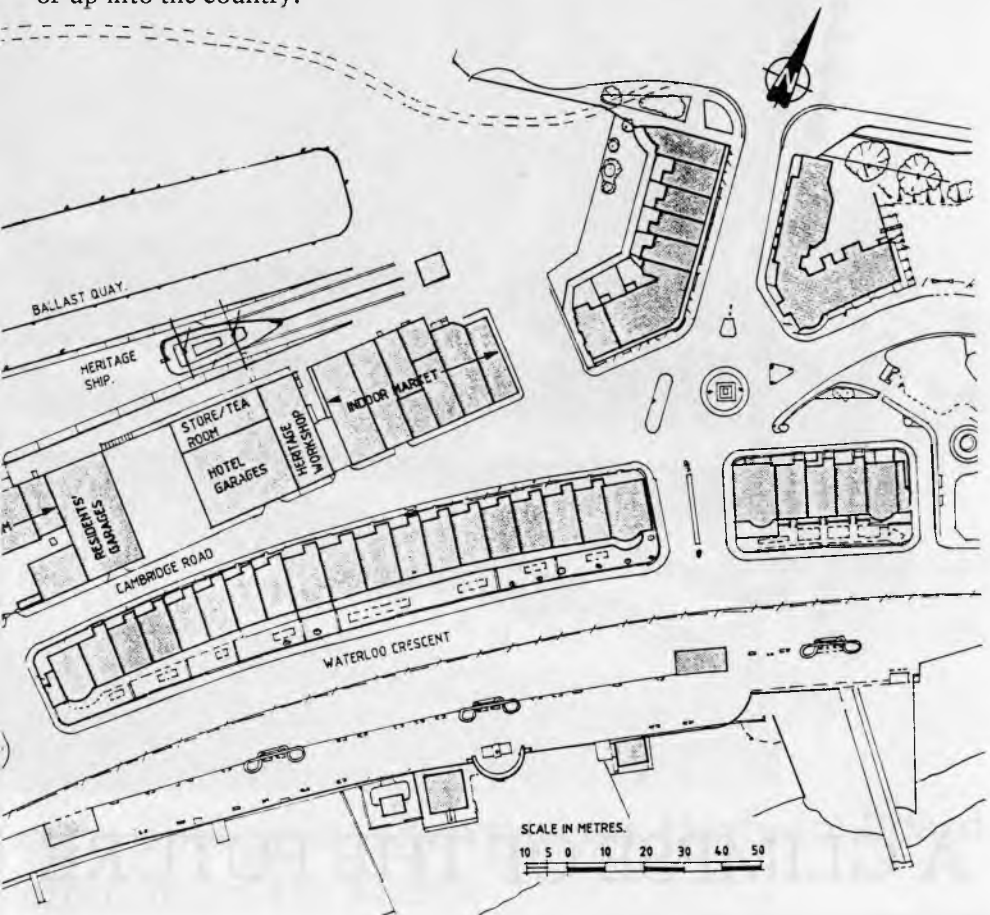
Now 16 million people from all over Europe pass through the port each year, but they pass largely unnoticed and for the most part they fail to have any inkling of the incomparable heritage which lies so close to their path.

Fortunately a coincidence of circumstances has arisen which should transform and breathe new life into the area.

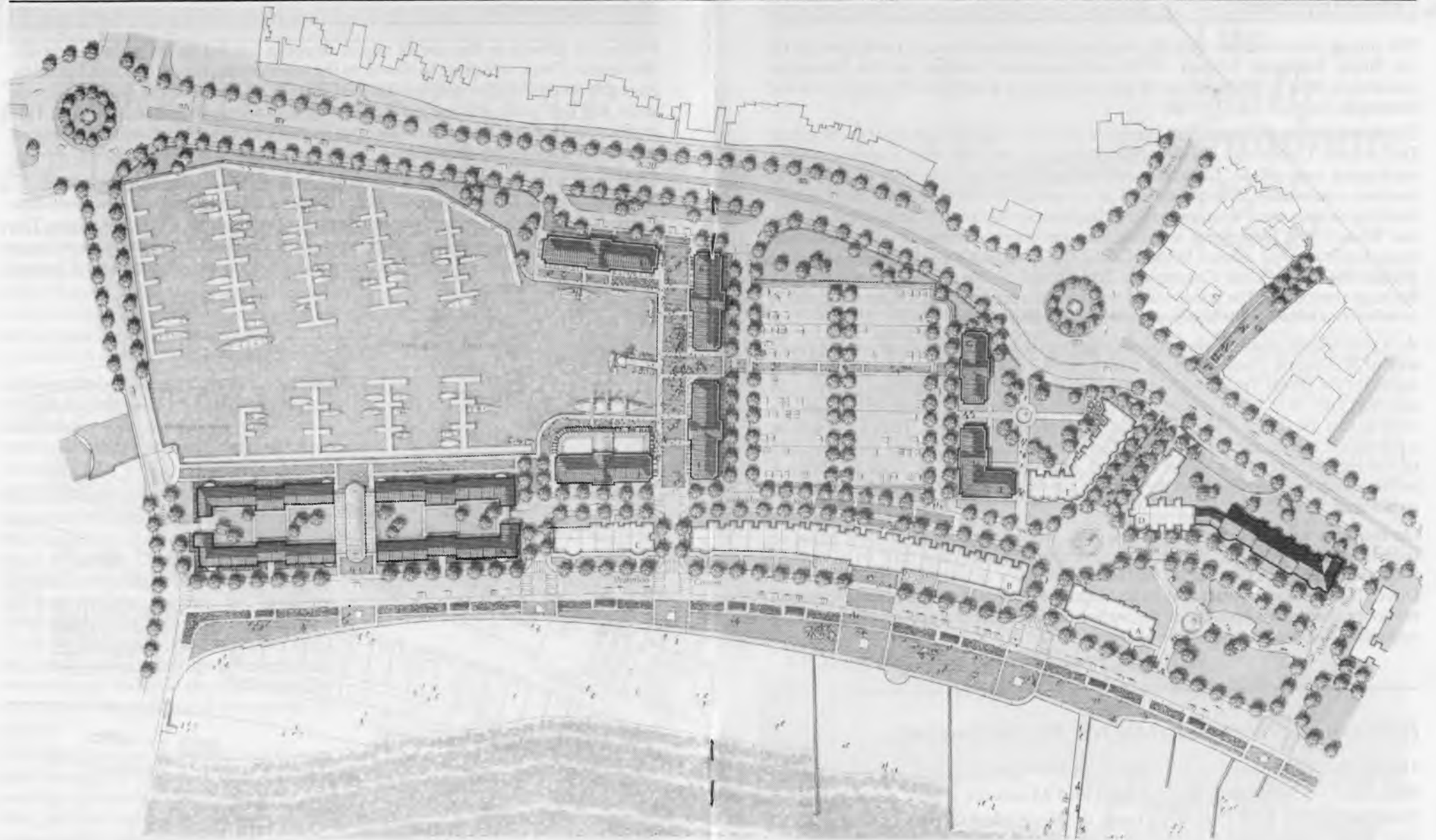


Firstly the growth in the size of world shipping has led to the point where the Wellington Dock, which is the closest to the town centre, is now too small to fulfill its traditional rôle of serving commercial ships. This traffic in the Dock is coming to an end this summer allowing the existing marina to expand and flourish. This enables the Harbour Board to throw open its gates once more and invite visitors and businesses back to the waterside.

Then there is the new A20 link to the motorway which is to be completed in 1993. This will provide Dover and the Western Docks with an exceptional shop window framed by the castle, cliffs and sea, which no passing traveller will fail to notice. The display in this window will be designed to show that Dover has so much more to offer than being just an efficient machine for discharging people across the Channel or up into the country.



THE WELLINGTON DOCK, EAST END: THE FIRST PHASE



A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

A copy of the plan shewn at the Harbour Board
Exhibition on 4th March

The timing also coincides with the removal of trade barriers and the formation of the Single European Market. With its exceptional position on the European crossroads there is the opportunity to turn the shop window into a show-case for businesses from all over Europe.

The Harbour Board is preparing extensive plans to release the whole of the Western Docks from Cambridge Road to Admiralty Pier over the next few years as the traditional uses recede. Once more the area can become the hub of a thriving business community. The policy will be to attract visitors from far and near by building on the award-winning lead that has been set by Dover District Council with the White Cliffs Experience and town centre improvements. It will add to the remarkable interest offered by the Castle, the historic Gaol, the Roman Painted House, the White Cliffs Countryside Project and all the rest of our outstanding heritage attractions. The result will be widespread recognition that Dover has much to offer as a location for business as well as pleasure.

As a preliminary phase in the process, existing sheds and workshops on the south side of Wellington Dock are being transformed, on a temporary basis, into a new home for the Dover Transport Museum with space for added maritime interests. In addition there is to be an indoor market where it is planned to attract stallholders from across the Channel as well as from the Garden of England. Then there will be a restaurant and general store to serve visitors to the area and to cater for thousands of visiting yachts coming into the marina each year. Finally we hope to obtain a heritage ship for renovation on the existing slipway as part of the public attraction to the area.

On the other side, facing on to the new A20, will be the start of the first phase of redevelopment. This will eventually transform the area and lead to a vibrant waterside full of activity, colour and interest to draw an extensive new market to Dover. The timing depends to a large extent on external factors, but there can be no doubt that the re-opening of the waterfront provides the opportunity to bring renewed prosperity to the whole of Dover.

W. FAWCUS, Property Development Manager, D.H.B.

Review Writers wanted for the following :

4th April – 10th May	The Four Georges
18th May – 19th July	Artists and Museums
18th May – 5th June	Dover in Words and Pictures
12th June – 19th July	South Kent College Art Show
25th – 26th July	Model Railway Show

ALL AT DOVER MUSEUM.

Please contact the Editor if you would like to review any one of these interesting events or become one of our panel of writers.

The South Goodwin Light Vessel



THE UNMANNED LIGHT VESSEL ON STATION

JOHN OWEN

As the twenty-first century looms ahead a major change off the Port of Dover has occurred almost imperceptively. In line with all Trinity House Lightships! the SOUTH GOODWIN LIGHT VESSEL is now fully automatic. Since 1985 she has been bereft of all human attention except for the periodic maintenance team. Viewed from afar there appears to be no change as the original manned vessel is to remain, albeit modified, at least for the present. That special breed of men who gave service to seafarers by manning these essential lightships for well over a hundred years have gone ashore for the last time. Their special kind of service is well understood in the Dover area, many of us having also served at sea. The reliability of these navigational beacons in all conditions of weather, reflects the high degree of professionalism of the crewmen.

From the beginning it was envisaged that unmanned beacons should act as seamarks to warn seafarers of the dangers particular to this stretch of coast.

THE MANNED LIGHT VESSEL OFF-STATION FOR RE-FIT



96 Many ideas were put forward to reduce the tremendous loss of vessels, both sail and steam, on or about the Goodwin Sands and these are well-documented in Richard Larn's '*Goodwin Sands Shipwrecks*'.

It so happened that manned wooden vessels anchored in the vicinity of the hazard, with a rudimentary light beacon installed, were considered the best expedient at the time and remained so with gradual improvements until quite recently.

Imagine the special circumstances their crews had to endure. In the early days living conditions were poor. Communication with the shore was limited to visual signals. When problems occurred in poor visibility the firing of cannon (it was hoped) would alert those ashore. Assistance in those days would arrive by oar or by sail and many feats of heroism are chronicled in Stanley-Treanor's books '*Heroes of the Goodwin Sands*', '*The Cry of the Sea*' and '*The Log of a Sky Pilot*'.²

The NORE LIGHT VESSEL was the first of its kind in this country, being put into position as early as 1732. The Goodwin Sands followed with a number of such vessels in strategic positions, the SOUTH GOODWIN LIGHT VESSEL (South Head Light) of 184 tons commencing duty in 1832.

One of the last 'Christmas Cheer' missions to the South Goodwin L.V. with gifts from Dover well-wishers.

Dover Express photo



Lightships have no means of propulsion, relying on the strong bridle chain and mushroom anchor to maintain position and safety of the crew. Steel vessels, better living conditions and improved equipment were constantly being introduced for the crew, but in the end, foul weather could rule out assistance either by sea or air and often the men had only their sheer professionalism and courage to see them through.

Generally the crew of seven worked four weeks afloat followed by two weeks shore leave. Former crewman George Goldsmith-Carter, in his books *'The Goodwin Sands'* and *'Looming Lights'*, gives a vivid insight into the lightship service, especially during hostilities when they had to endure the additional hazard of enemy action. But what of more normal times? Melancholy, it seems, was the worst malady, sitting offshore, as they were, within a 'stone's throw' of habitation, night after night, day after day, taking all that the elements could throw at them. Can one even begin to imagine the feelings of the crew, perhaps long overdue for relief due to bad weather? The foghorn, which could kill an alighting bird stone dead on the first blast we are told and which we know is bad enough heard from ashore, must have been a disturbing experience in itself, amidst the gloom and eeriness of the conditions. Only a cynic would say that they 'got used to it'. Then there was the very real danger of collision, which was ever present, if not in fog then from vessels out of control due to gear failure of one sort or another, as the incidents of November 1904, March 1929 and March 1969 show; just three of the occasions when the SOUTH GOODWIN was run down with great danger to the crew.

Being the closest lightship to Dover, the SOUTH GOODWIN might reasonably be considered by us to be special. Crewmen, however, hailed from far and wide, the common denominator being that they had sound sea-going experience behind them. They were men 'with the sea in their veins'. Who else would do the job!

Such a man was Harry Lynn, former Petty Officer, Royal Navy, one of the few survivors of H.M.S. GLORIOUS, sunk by enemy action in 1940, whom the sea ultimately claimed, when all the crew of the SOUTH GOODWIN were lost in the foul weather of 27/28 November 1954. A special breed of men indeed! Dover's traditional regard for the work of the SOUTH GOODWIN LIGHT VESSEL crew was shared by many, but few had the privilege of meeting them. Visible as she is, a bare five miles off the harbour her friendly double wink (Gp Fl (2) 30sec) especially greets one at the point dead centre of the harbour's eastern entrance as one steps over the threshold of the Prince of Wales Pier, perhaps on a summer evening's stroll. 'All's Well', seemingly, is the message.

The annual Christmas comforts and good wishes from a caring community ashore, delivered by lifeboat coxswain Tony Hawkins and by his father and others before him, blessed by a sky pilot with prayers and carols, have now all passed into history.

¹ Hilary Mead, *Trinity House*

² 'Sky Pilot,' once a sailor's term for padres of the Mission to Seamen and clergymen in general.

The REV. JOHN MAQUEANE

priest of St. Mary the Virgin, 1698-1729

Ivan Green, B.A., F.C.C..Ed.

“Old John” or “Old Rev.” as he was popularly known in Dover, was parish priest of St. Mary’s at a most interesting period of Dover’s history, a time of complete change, and considerable progress, in many fields.

During the reigns of Charles the Second and James the Second the town suffered greatly from royal displeasure since, except for a few rich people and a priest or two, the townsfolk had been solidly behind Parliament during the time of the Commonwealth, when we had no king, and with the return of the monarchy in 1660 they had to suffer severely for it.

Charles abrogated Dover’s prized charter which had been granted by Queen Elizabeth, and forced his own charter on the town, which cost them more money than was available, and in consequence the town had to sell land and the chamber above the Biggin Gate to make ends meet.

Charles had hoped that his new charter would eliminate the anti-royalist, and the non-conformist, factions from all

the branches of civic life, and also ensure the return to Parliament of M.Ps. who would be subservient to the court and to his demands.

Anyone not conforming to the Church of England was disqualified from holding any office in the town, and the groups of non-conformists were persecuted, some of their members being driven from the town, deprived of their livings or imprisoned, and their places of worship, often private houses or workshops, destroyed.

Man was set against man, and any co-operation between the various groups was impossible. This deplorable state of affairs continued into the brief reign of James the Second, and in particular royal interference in the town’s internal organisation was a continuing problem.

In fact, only months before James fled to the continent Robert Jacob, elected Dover’s mayor in 1688, was removed from office, he being considered unworthy by the Privy Council. He was not the first, but he was the last, Dover mayor to be so illegally treated.

When James the Second fled to the continent, and was deposed in 1689, all this interference and

DOVER FROM THE WEST IN THE 1640's. St Mary's Church is in the centre. At the base of its tower is the Biggin Gate.



persecution came to a sudden end, but it left an unfortunate vacuum, both in public life and in personal relationships, a situation which threatened chaos, but old Captain William Stokes, one of Dover's great citizens, of whom we shall say more later, steadied the helm for several years. One of his first acts was to call a "Horn Blowing", a gathering of the townfolk, in the Market Square and to declare, to a cheering population, the end of James the Second's reign.

They tore down the royal arms of Charles the Second, which he had directed should be placed prominently in St. Mary's Church, and made a bonfire of it, together with a copy of his hated charter, in the Market Square.

The years of stress and dissension had however left behind many social and, especially, religious problems, and there were many old scores to be settled.

The Baptists, the Society of Friends, and the Presbyterians began to prosper, at last no longer persecuted by the civil power, but the Church of England, previously the favoured church, fell upon difficult times for several years, and it was fortunate that, eventually, "Old John" was appointed in 1698.

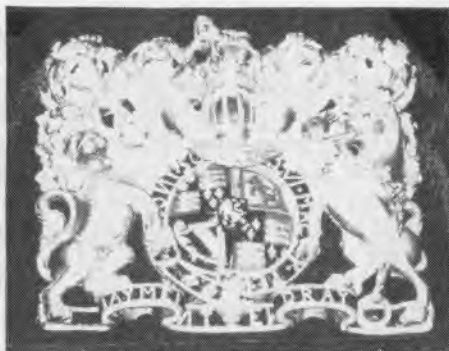
He was very much a man of the people, short, stout, unkempt and quite careless of his personal appearance and hygiene, a lovable man with a great weakness for alcohol which he consumed in large quantities, mixing with the people, and sharing their lives.

His easy going nature soon prompted the churchwardens to take advantage of him by depriving him of his church fees and other emoluments in order to lessen the cess then levied for church purposes, but he seemed not to have protested.

He liked his drink increasingly as time went on and night after night, with the parish clerk, he went the rounds of the ale houses. The parish clerk was a great talker and teller of tales, and the pair of them were "back room boys" and in company with others of their kind, they consumed vast quantities of liquor which had paid the new fangled, and to them iniquitous, excise duty. Supplies came into the town, and were distributed, by night, and nobody questioned from where, or indeed how, it had come. Indeed it would have been very dangerous to have done so,

John and his clerk got into all kinds of escapades when they were well past the sober stage. On many occasions the pair of them were discovered in the morning fast asleep in the churchyard, having quite failed to cover the last few yards home, and sometimes they slept off their drink on a bench in one of the old alehouses. On more than one occasion, having imbibed too freely in one of their favourite haunts, the "Light of the Sun" on the Crosswall at the harbour, both were fished out of the muddy water by boathooks, having failed to negotiate the wooden bridge by which it was connected to terra firma.

Of course, people were a little scandalised at times, but Dovorians got on well, and often affectionately, with old Rev. John. After all, he was usually sober enough to baptise, marry and bury, and on Sundays he turned out a good sermon, a most



The royal arms of William and Mary, mounted in St. Mary's early in the 18th cent to replace those of Charles the First.

100 important part of Sunday at that time. Above all, he was very human, and he lived with his flock and shared fully in their life, which was certainly more than could have been said for some of those supporters of a decant royalty who were before him, or many of those chilling inhuman pillars of Victorian rectitude who came after him.

After thirty years however he could not carry on unaided and in 1728 he asked for an assistant, but insisted on choosing his own man. The people were however equally insistent that the choice must be theirs. Perhaps they wished to make sure that he would not be merely another drinking pal of Old Rev. In the end they had their way, but the old priest did not like the sober, staid, rather strait-laced new man and refused to have anything to do with him. The dispute dragged on for months and at last the people were exasperated with Old Rev, and they decided that he should preach at St. Mary's no more.

On the next Sunday, when he entered the pulpit the congregation started to sing the 119th Psalm, which contains 176 verses. He sat patiently until they had finished and then moved once more to the pulpit, whereupon they started the Psalm again. After a third attempt, he asked to speak.

"My Friends", he said, "I think we are now about even. I have, in this place, often told you a very pretty story; and today you have entertained me with a very pretty song: So now, farewell", and he left the church.

Things were finally settled however. It was agreed that the young man should do most of the work and that Old Rev should be paid £15 a quarter and allowed to officiate from time to time, because everybody was fond of him and did not want to hurt him. He was content. He had countless friends and few enemies. He spent nothing on clothes and little on food, and many a family always had, and still would, give him a meal at any time. Moreover, in those days £15 a quarter would buy a great deal of liquor and convivial company in the snug little "Light of the Sun", or at the bust "Flying Horse Inn" in Flying Horse Lane, or for special occasions there was always the "York Hotel", and the "Ship Inn", or "Wright's", down at the harbour.

Old Rev continued to enjoy life among his people, sharing their joy and their grief, until he died, to be buried in St. Mary's churchyard on 13 Jan. 1733, mourned by the whole town.

When he was appointed, it was to a community divided into many hostile warring factions, bitterly at odds with each other, and when he died he was mourned by everybody. The social crisis of the town had been resolved, and the many old, deep wounds inflicted in the Stuart reigns had been healed.

The Maison Dieu as it was early in the 18th century.



Memories of Old Dover

Athol Terrace

(From the transcript of a conversation with Mrs. Violet Calton of 1 East Cliff).

In those days I knew all the people in Athol Terrace and East Cliff. I don't think there's anyone left, not of my age, any more. They've all gone.

In 4 Athol Terrace there was a titled lady - she used to come down and stay for six weeks in the year and she kept that house going all the year. It was next door to my mother's - we lived at number three - Lady Clifford she was. She used to come down and bring her butler and her lady's maid and then she had local staff for the washing and general work of the house.

The sea used to wash into Athol Terrace, right up to the road and we used to stand there and look down and see the sea and all along Athol Terrace there were wooden stumps and chains in between to stop you from going too near the sea. And I remember my mother

ATHOL TERRACE c1850
and the East Cliff Jetty (as it was then called)



always taking my hand. She wouldn't allow me to go out without help in case I fell into the sea. Well, when the harbour came, Sir Whitman Pearson, I think it was, started to build the harbour. He wanted the ground, so somehow or other he forcibly bought it. He gave compensation to each house. My mother had a cheque for £60. In those days it was quite a lot of money. They took all that road away, built it all up and then the next thing we knew we had nothing much left. They left one place, which we used to call the cutting, where you could sit out and it was quite nice and the children used to play cricket. And then, before we knew where we were, when they were building the docks, they took that piece of ground, but they didn't pay anything out and just put a rail around it and took it and that was that.

The footpath up the cliffs - that was always there and when I was eight years old I went up there with my brothers - my mother said I wasn't to go - but we heard about this man going to fly the channel and it was Bleriot and I heard my brothers getting up in the morning, because they were in another bedroom, the two of them, and I thought, I'm jolly well going. So anyway, I thought I'd go with them. The plane had landed and we saw Bleriot in the distance and he stayed in the prison house on top of the hill.

There was a prison house there on the top of the hill and they used to bring the prisoners to Athol Terrace and they used to make them walk up the hill, handcuffed: a policeman was with them. They would have gone Castle Hill way but that was a long way

round, so they made those prisoners walk up that hill and it was very steep in those days (it still is steep). When the cabs carrying the prisoners came along I used to run indoors because they were big prisoners and you'd see them chained to the policeman.

Now the whole place is so different. It's so altered. But Athol Terrace houses are much the same. I think my family owned No.1, No.3, No.7, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 14 at one time.

I didn't want to leave my house, I liked it up there. We had a lovely view of the channel, you know, from the drawing

room bay window. I didn't want to leave there, but my brothers – one was a bachelor and one was a widower – they said come for a month. So I said "Alright, I'll come for a month, I can't stay any longer", because I knew what I was in for – two brothers – so I stayed for a month and I said "I think you'll be alright now." And they said "We can't manage without you. You'll have to stay." I said, "I can't. I really can't." Because I didn't want to leave my house. Anyway, being a sister, I suppose I gave way. And that's where I am now, at Number 1. And when they died they left me the house.

Dover Regatta

A. F. DYER, Member No. 153)

When I was a young lad, I used to spend a lot of time on the beach at Dover. I used to talk to the local boatmen and play between the many boats parked up-turned along the beach.

I became friendly with Mr Amos, who was a photographer and had a studio in Snargate Street. He owned a whaler and used to take me with some of his friends around the harbour, sailing.

I used to look forward to the Regatta, as Mr Amos used to enter into the Carnival

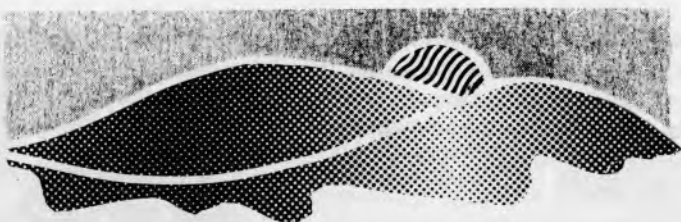
spirit and entered his boat as a "Viking Ship". It was always decorated with shields and flags. We used to row along the shore, singing and larking about to the amusement of the crowds on the beach. Of the crew, I can only remember a Mr Sedgewick and his son, who was a signwriter.

To add to the fun, we lads used to buy confetti to put down the girls' necks as they walked along the promenade. They all used to enjoy the happy fun. In the evening coloured lights were switched on along the promenade and there was always a firework display on the Prince of Wales Pier.

They were the Good Old Days !!!!

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY THE PROMENADE PIER WAS THE 'GRAND STAND' FROM WHICH TO WATCH THE REGATTA





WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT



MELANIE WRIGLEY
Projects Officer

MANAGING THE WESTERN HEIGHTS ABOVE CLARENDON and MAXTON

Current work of the White Cliffs Countryside Project

Previous articles in the Newsletter have described various stages in the work of the Project, keeping readers up-to-date with our activities. At present we are concentrating on an area of approximately 60 acres above Clarendon, Westbury and Maxton. This area, surrounding the north slopes of the fortifications, is a piece of good, chalk grassland that desperately needs grazing. It is an important place of recreation for local residents and is increasingly important for tourists. I understand that the North Downs Way long distance footpath is in the process of being re-routed across this site because of the upheaval at Aycliffe..

A leaflet outlining the need for grazing chalk grassland and our fencing proposals was delivered to 5000 households inviting them to attend one of two public meetings to discuss ideas.





The wildlife of the chalk grassland and the benefits of grazing.

Grassland is effectively a man-made habitat created by 'farming' activities with grazing animals. Over time a rare association of many varieties of plants and animals has developed and the 'pressure' created by grazing prevents the potentially dominant plants from smothering the rarer ones, like delicate orchids and fragrant herb species.

The presence of grazing animals benefits other wildlife such as mammals, birds, reptiles and insects who feed on worms and insect larvae. Downland butterflies benefit because grazing encourages the plant species and the habitat structure that they require for survival.

Without grazing the rank grasses will become dominant, smothering the valuable, colourful and fragrant chalk downland plants. Soon shrubs and trees invade the grassland and the shade they create kills

off the rarer plants and the animals that live on them. Eventually, the thorny scrub makes walking on footpaths difficult, the landscape becomes less colourful than before and fewer species survive.

Report on the public meetings and the progress of work.

After the meetings the fencing proposals were amended. For example, we had suggested three large fields but the residents preferred two to reduce the fencing in the landscape. Before any of this work was started a leaflet with the amended plan was delivered to every household that backs onto this part of the Western Heights - we waited for reactions!

A few residents commented on various aspects of the plans so we accommodated these changes where practical. After the public consultations the contracts were put out to local tender and the fencing began.

Residents in one part of the Heights were concerned about wild life access to and from their gardens, so, instead of the proposed stock netting that would have restricted animal movement, we used barbed wire. This allows wild animals to squeeze through but it restrains cattle.

Public access is extremely important and so we installed pedestrian gates on all the main footpath routes and also included shared access gates from gardens that back onto the fenced area.

Now the fencing is almost complete and the grazing programme will start in early summer. Only one of the two fields will be grazed at any one time. This 'rotational' grazing means that, for example, a field may be grazed for three or four months at a time, then the cattle are moved to the next field. In this way there is always 'cattle free' walking space on the Western Heights.

Grazing is essential to preserve the grassland of this wonderful area, and to maintain it as a site for rare wild life and a place for future Dovorians and tourists to enjoy.

Please consider becoming a Voluntary Warden for the White Cliffs Countryside Project.

We need people to help us care for this place.

Please contact me, Melanie Wrigley, at the W.C.C.P., 6 Cambridge Terrace, Dover or telephone me on Dover 241806



PETER RYAN, Arts and Heritage Officer for Dover Group Library, sent us preliminary news of the Festival of Dover for *Newsletter 12*. Here he presents the events in detail.

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THE FIRST "FESTIVAL of DOVER" has been launched to offer a wide variety of art forms to the town.

The broad programme of events moves through heritage, music, dance, poetry, film, exhibitions, walks, talks and beyond. From a major concert by the Peninsular Band of the Royal Greenjackets, to an evening with novelist P. D. James, and from hill top walks to children's workshops, the Festival offers a collection of delights for all ages.

As a major part of the Festival of Dover, a programme of educational events has been incorporated to provide a selection of arts workshops in schools throughout the District. Bookings are through the educational contact.

The Festival begins with the opening of a number of exhibitions, ranging from a collection of historic photographs to a display of paintings and prose relating to the history of the town. For music lovers Dover Town Hall is the setting for Handel's *Messiah*, Music from the Movies', and the medieval group, 'The Joyful Noyse'. For children during the school holiday a fun-packed outing is being staged at Kearsney Abbey, featuring Teddy Bears, story-telling, train rides, guest celebrities and lots more: other activities include a number of workshops, community theatre and Punch & Judy.

For this first 'Festival of Dover', a varied and inspiring programme has been arranged – for everyone to enjoy!

EXHIBITIONS

DOVER IN WORDS AND PICTURES

Dover Museum

18th May – ??th June

Museum admission charge.

Original pictures complementing extracts from books and plays mentioning Dover, Dickens, Shakespeare, *et al* and some of Dover's outstanding documents and maps.

ARTISTS AND MUSEUM

Dover Museum

18th – 19th July

Museum admission charge

A travelling exhibition promoting practising artists working with Museum staff to present material to the public in a fresh light.

SIGHTS AND SCENES OF DOVER

DOVER ART GROUP

Dover Town Hall, 18-29 May

Free admission

A wide range of subjects and talents, from portraits to landscapes and still life.

CROSS CHANNEL/ TRANSMANCHE

Dover Town Hall, 18-29 May

The development of cross-Channel traffic. An exhibition of old prints and photographs from Dover Library's collection.

WALKS

ORCHID SAFARI

Wednesday 20th May

SANDWICH WHITE MILL TRAIL

Saturday 23rd May

DOVER TOWN GUIDED WALKS

Sunday 24th May

EARLY BIRDS

Sunday 24th May

FILMS

"A Trip Down Memory Lane"

Silver Screen,

White Cliffs Experience

18th – 22nd May

TALKS

"Use of original sources in writing"

Ruth Elwin Harris

Dover College

Tuesday 19th May

Admission Free

"Dover – Past and Present"

Ivan Green & Christine

Waterman

Dover Town Hall

Thurs. 21st May. Tickets: £1.50

TALKS (Cont.)

**"Richard Aldington:
a literary Dovorian"**

Dover College
Tues. 26th May

Admission Free

**"An evening with author P.
D. James"**

Dover Junior Library
Thursday 28th May

Tickets £4.00

MUSIC

**Snowdown Colliery Welfare
Male Voice Choir**

St Mary's Church, Dover
Wednesday, 20th May
Tickets: £2 (£1)

**Peninsular Band of the
Royal Green Jackets**

Dover Town Hall
Friday 22nd May
Tickets £4.50 (£2.50)

**Kimbara Brothers:
Hot Club Jazz**

Dover Town Hall
Saturday, 23rd May
Tickets: £3.00

"Noah's Ark"

St Mary's Church,
Dover Lunchtime Concert
Wednesday, 27th May
Tickets: £1.50

Popular Kent woodwind quartet
joined by speaker Richard Bruce
in a performance of music and
poetry on an animal theme.

"Basically Baroque"

St Mary's Church, Dover
Lunchtime Concert
Friday 29th May
Tickets: £1.50

A quarter of flutes and bassoon,
playing music mainly, but not
exclusively, in the Baroque style.

**An Evening of Medieval and
Renaissance Music**

Dover Town Hall
Friday, 29th May
Tickets: £2.50

WORKSHOPS

"Creative Writing Workshop"

Ruth Elwin Harris
Dover College
Thursday, 21st May
Admission Free

"Drawing from Old Dover"

Philomena Kennedy
Dover Library
Tuesday, 26th May
Tickets: £4.50.

Drawing materials will be
provided.

Artist Philomena Kennedy gives
a practical introduction to making
line drawings from photographs
in the Library's Local Studies
Collection.

A Fast Rail Link

LEO WRIGHT

To make our mouths water: the following quotations are translated from an article which appeared in the German journal of the Association for Language Learning on the current state of the German Bundesbahn:-

"The jewel in the crown of the Bundesbahn since 2 June 1991 is the brand new ICE (Inter City Express. sic: in German!). Comparable to the French TGV it reaches 280 km.p.h. on new lines from Hamburg, via Hanover, Fulda, Frankfurt, Mannheim and Stuttgart to Munich. The alternative shorter route, Fulda-Wurzburg-Munich, is planned and by 1993 the lines will continue from Munich to Basle and to Berlin".

"For long-distance journeys there are also more than 200 I.C Züge (Inter City Trains) which run hourly rapid services between 40 cities. By 1992 all the old D-Züge (through-trains) will have been replaced by I.R.Züge (Inter-Regional Trains). These offer increased comfort on two-hourly services".

One final point (still quoting): "Is it conceivable that B.R. could introduce an "Operation Seconds-Hand" (the name refers to the second hands of station clocks) which the Bundesbahn introduced to identify weak spots in punctuality? Probably not, because in Great Britain we must reckon with the 'wrong kind of snow'.

And, we in Network Southeast must add, 'the wrong kind of leaves'.



EAST CLIFF, DOVER c1880

The History of East Cliff, Dover (2)

The Building of East Cliff (1817 – 1844)

When the first houses were built at East Cliff, all the land along the shore there was owned by John Smith, the builder of Smith's Folly. John Smith finished building Smith's Folly in 1791, having taken ten years clearing the land and erecting the several buildings which constituted the Folly.

There were other dwellings along East Cliff, some little more than makeshift homes cut into the cliffs. Early documents, in title deeds to houses in East Cliff, mention caves and apartments in the cliffs and also refer to other edifices and buildings, gardens and pieces of land, some of these occupied by under-tenants of John Smith.

The following is an extract from the indentures, dated 25th June 1803, of John Smith's agreement to leave his estate to his son, Sir Sidney Smith.

(The original spelling and punctuation has been retained.)

All those several Messuages Tenements Dwelling Houses or Buildings and Towers near or adjoining each other sit. & being near the bottom of the Cliff or Hill on the Summit of which Dover Castle is standing & being with the

108 *Gardens Yards & several pieces or parcels of land thereunto belonging and adjoining And also All that one other edifice and building situate at a distance of 470ft or thereabouts from the South East Side of the Highway there All which premises abutted and bounded to the Jetty or Head there towards the South East and contained by Admeasurement on the South East Side 932 feet and to the Highway there towards the North West And also All those several other Edifices and Buildings situate and being upon or at the Bottom or Foot of the said Cliff or Hill or adjoining thereunto And also All that several Rooms Apartments or Caves situate and being in the said Cliffs or Hill and formed and out of the same And also All those several Gardens Pieces or Parcels of Land Well and Pump and premises near or adjoining thereto abutting to the Beach and other part of the said Cliff or Hill in a parallel line with the said Jetty or Head towards the North East to other parts of the said Cliff or Hill Towards the North West to Guildford Battery Towards the South West and to the said Highway towards the South East and containing by Admeasurement on the South East Side of 950 feet little more or less All of which had been for many years & were then in the Tenure and Occupation of the said John Smith his Assns. and Underts.*

When John Smith died, in October 1804, all this estate passed to his son, Sir Sidney Smith, who, at that time, was engaged in fighting the French. When Sir Sidney left the army in 1810 there is no evidence that he visited his Dover inheritance, although some sources refer to the Folly as “occasionally his residence”. In 1815 he moved to Paris and rarely visited England thereafter. It would appear, therefore, that he had little interest in the East Cliff estate and soon after Sir Sidney moved to Paris the land at East Cliff was acquired by a Mr. Wilson Gates. The exact date is not known. Possibly it was about 1817, a date mentioned in several sources as the year in which building was commenced at East Cliff. Several Dover Guide books of the period refer to various building work at East Cliff from 1817 onwards.

The first record traced by the researcher of a transaction between Gates and Sir Sidney Smith exists in an Indenture dated 29th August, 1822. It is an agreement between

“Sir William Sidney Smith KCB residing at Paris in France and Dame Caroline his Wife of the 1st part and Willson Gates of the Town and Port of Dover in the Co. of Kent Bricklayer of the 2nd part”.

This is described in the document as an absolute sale of the land for the sum of £525.

In the same year Wilson Gates borrowed the sum of £1000 from a Mr. James Shipdean at 5% interest.

Horsley (*Memories of Old Dover*, 1892) knew Gates. He described him as “a Dover man, the builder of the right side of Trevanion Street, where he lived”. Horsley seemed to think that Gates acquired the land at East Cliff after the death of Sir Sidney Smith, but, as already indicated this could not have been true, as Sir Sidney died in 1840 and Gates acquired the land long before that.

Horsley includes an engaging anecdote of his acquaintance with Gates, but unfortunately gives no dates for the parties he describes. He writes:

“Part of the estate thus acquired consisted of a paddock, which had to be enclosed constantly, owing to the inroads made by the sea, In this paddock Mr. Gates kept cows and occasionally gave syllabub parties to which I often went and enjoyed the refreshing beverage which I understand most of the young people of today have never tasted, I believe it was made from port wine into which the cow was milked producing a frothy drink highly coloured with the red wine.”

After Gates acquired the land at East Cliff many changes followed. In the next decade there was a great deal of building work started and a lot of the land was sold off in parcels and some exchanged hands several times.

Details of some of these transactions can be seen in the title deeds of individual houses in East Cliff, some of the descriptions being duplicated in the deeds of different houses.

For example, an extract from the deeds of No.3 Marine Terrace (as it was called at that time) shows that in 1826 Gates “caused two messuages and tenements to be pulled down and caused two messuages and tenements and other erections to be built on or upon part of the sites thereof”.

It is not possible to identify which buildings or parts of buildings described correspond to the buildings as they stand today, nor is it possible to state how much land Gates owned in East Cliff, but it could have been the whole of the area of the East Cliff Estate, originally owned by John Smith.

In 1827 Gates sold some land to a Richard Smith of Dover and some to a Dubois Smith of Greenwich.

Between 1828 and 1832 several parcels of land were sold off. Five different purchasers are named: Matthew Hight, John Nash, Christopher Wood, Thomas Middleton and John Rigden. Nash bought a house and building for £100 in 1828. Hight bought several pieces of ground in 1831 and 1832 for £21. Wood bought other pieces of land in 1832 and 1837 for £15 and Rigden and Middleton bought pieces in 1832 for £4 each. Hight also leased a piece of land for 99 years at a rent of 1/- yearly.

By 1830 Gates paid off his mortgage to James Shipdean, who died in that year. After the mortgage was “paid home” Gates destroyed the papers. Later he was to regret this, as he was obliged, in 1837, to sign a sworn affidavit to this effect and to obtain another affidavit, in support of this, from an associate, James Jeffries. Both affidavits were discovered among the deeds of 9 East Cliff.

It is evident from reading various deeds that in some cases earlier buildings were pulled down and more substantial ones erected and in other cases additions and alterations were made to existing buildings. Therefore it is difficult to state with any accuracy the exact dates of any house in East Cliff in the form in which it exists today, although it is likely to have been between 1817 and 1836. Early numbering of houses may give clues to the order in which some of the buildings were erected as the following example shows. In the earlier pages of the deeds of the present numbers 5 and 6 East Cliff, these properties are referred to as No. 3 Marine Terrace, belonging to a Mr. Matthew Hight who owned several pieces of land along East

110 Cliff. Matthew Hight married in 1808, a Miss Letitia Hagell. She died in 1822 and Matthew in 1837. In his Will (dated 1830) Matthew Hight left to his two daughters, Letitia (baptised St. Mary's 1813) and Matilda Mary (baptised St. James's 1820), the house 3 Marine Terrace, eight freehold cottages, one other cottage, one piece of land unoccupied and one piece of land with a house partly erected.

In 1837, when Matthew Hight died, Letitia was married to a Mr. R. W. Sharp of Maidstone, a wine merchant, and her sister, Matilda Mary, was a spinster.

In 1839, states the document, the sisters decided to split the property – “and reciting that the said R. W. Sharp and Letitia his wife and Matilda Mary Hagell Hight were desirous of making a partition”.

The 1839 document still calls the property 3 Marine Terrace, whereas in a document dated 1841 the reference is to No. 5 and No. 6 East Cliff. Letitia Sharp and her husband sold Letitia's share (No. 6) in 1841 to a Mrs Emma Eyre, a widow, for £1000. Mary Matilda, with No. 5 as her share, in 1841 married a Mr. Joseph Tootell. The eight cottages were sold to a Dover brewer in the same year, 1841, for £250.

It is interesting to note the change of numbering and the use of ‘East Cliff’ rather than ‘Marine Terrace’. There is inconsistency in the naming of the road about this time. In various documents it occurs as East Cliff, East Cliff Terrace or as Marine Terrace. However, this example does indicate a re-numbering of the houses in the road in 1840, suggesting that most of the building was finished by this date.

Other substantiating evidence can be found in the Dover Guide Books of the period, written by W. Batcheller. We know from these that a lot of building was started in East Cliff in 1817, that by 1836 the houses were “nearly finished” and that by 1844 they were “all completed”. The only specific reference here, in the Dover Guide of 1830, is to “the building of a substantial house called East Cliff Lodge on the site of the former Sir Sidney Smith's villa and another genteel dwelling also, tastefully fitted up and the whole encircled by a wall”. (East Cliff Lodge presumably the site of the present East Cliff Hotel).

The houses in East Cliff were built before those further along the promenade, where building was commenced on the Esplanade in 1833 and Waterloo Terrace in 1834. The buildings were described as “large elegant lodging houses” and were often let out as summer residences. This was the beginning of a new era for Dover, a period when the town was regarded as a fashionable seaside resort.

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The Golden Triangle: Castle Street to the Sea

A. F. (Budge) Adams

PART 5

The cul-de-sac between Marine Court and The gateway is the rump of Douro Place, which ran from the wide triangular open space formed by the junction of Trevanion and Liverpool Streets to Marine Parade and through which, before the direct connection of Townwall Street to East Cliff was made, funnelled all the traffic to and from the Eastern Docks.

On its north-east side was the Sea Front Baths, destroyed by enemy action with some loss of life. Its site is marked today by the sunken garden next to Marine Court which, incidentally, is sunken because at the time the site was being restored there was, incredibly, insufficient rubble and top-soil available to fill the hole. Beyond the Sea baths was the Territorial Drill Hall with a battalion of

the 4th Buffs (T.A.), The East Kent Regiment in occupation: built originally as a skating rink about, or just before, the turn of the century, it was transformed in 1915 into a hangar to house a flight of R.N.A.S. floatplanes and some tiny Short Bros. flying boats. During that war a second hangar was built immediately to the north-east and, for launching and beaching the aircraft, two concrete slipways with motor-powered winches at the top were constructed on the beach next to what is now called Boundary Groyne but then, much more euphoniously, known as the Castle Jetty. In the 1920's the upper layers of the slipways were removed and the beach soon covered the foundations. During the 1939-45 war the slipways were resuscitated and to simulate war conditions a number of flimsy landing stages were built and used in the course of training troops in the speedy board of landing craft and in assault landings. Once again, after the war, the top layers of the slipways were removed but the RSJs and the concrete of the foundations, still deep down under the beach, have complicated

the work and hindered the contractors who are at the present time (1991/2) constructing the new A20).

In the space at the back of the Sea Baths was the Dover Rowing Club's boathouse and behind Marine Court was a long line of garages.

The two Lawns, Clarence and Guilford, that cut through from Liverpool Street to Marine Parade were more noteworthy than the street itself. In the first named the bust of Captain Webb, who swam the Channel in 1875, stood facing the sea and in the other was the bronze statue of the Honourable Charles Rolls, confident and fearless, the first to fly the Channel both ways non-stop. After major war damage to the area, fortunately with little damage to the statues beyond some chipping of the bases by shrapnel, they were taken away and stored in one of the caves, safely, deep underground. After the war Captain Webb's bust on its granite plinth was planted on the north-east end of the East Cliff promenade and the statue of Charles Rolls was re-erected near the root of Boundary Groyne, where it now stands, quite insensitively, in front of a public convenience. The site of the Webb memorial was on the centre line of the new A20's dual carriage-way and it has now, (September 1991) been removed and, thoughtfully, re-erected on the lawn in front of The Gateway very close to its pre-war site.

It would be most appropriate to move the Rolls Memorial from its position of gross indignity to a similar site on the relatively peaceful Gateway lawn where it would be insulated from the mad rush and roar of the widened A20 race-track that the Ministry of the Environment proposes should be the primary route from London to the Eastern Docks and where, once again it could be near its pre-war site. I understand, on good authority, that the District Council feels it has no funds available to do this. If that really is so

could not The Dover Society initiate and master-mind an appeal for funds for this very purpose? (*March 1992. It is possible that proposals have overtaken the sentiments here expressed.*)

The houses on Marine Parade were not as distinguished as was, and is, Waterloo Crescent, but by and large they served the same original purpose: they had been built with the primary aim of providing accommodation for visitors with a leavening of local residents. Centrally, between the two Lawns was the double-fronted and well-appointed Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club with a wide verandah topped by a balcony where, especially before the National Harbour was built, members would sit and watch the sailing in the bay.

Until 1939 the promenade, over its whole length was a scene of great social activity and in the summer on Sundays would be so crowded that it was not possible to walk without weaving to avoid encounters with those walking in the opposite direction. Regatta Day was more than a regatta day and in the evening took on the mantle of Carnival. All the essentials for



THE ROLLS MEMORIAL ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE in 1944

such a celebration were available from stalls and barrows parked in the roadway close up against the promenade railings and stocked with balloons and confetti, ice cream and toffee apples, 'teasers' with a feather on the end which unrolled as one blew into them and 'ticklers', much more effective, with a bunch of seven or eight brightly coloured feathers stuck into the end of a thin paper tube. We boys used the teasers and ticklers to great effect on all the girls we passed and we had great fun: the day often finished with a firework display on the Prince of Wales Pier. There was another bandstand on the promenade opposite Waterloo Crescent with performances each Wednesday afternoon, and on that wide open space, monthly throughout the summer, the band of one of the four regiments stationed here, or The Buffs (T.A.), or the Duke of York's School, would proudly 'Beat Retreat' with an aplomb and panache not bettered by any Guards regiment and the crowd that watched them just loved it.

MARINE PARADE ON A SUMMER AFTERNOON, c1905

The fun and gaiety of the Sea Front died overnight when, to "clean-up the image" the powers-that-be, in a joint offensive, prohibited the use of mobile stalls and barrows on the road or promenade. In their place a couple of kiosks were erected on the beach near the Stone Apron but the essential spontaneity had gone and the Sea Front took on the rather prim, and "interdicted" aspect that in my view it bears to this day. (In the summer of 1991, however, a mobile ice-cream van appeared and was stationed on the promenade.)

To keep within reasonable limits much has been left out of this account but I do trust I have been able to paint a picture of the locality, and the life within it, that does justice to so interesting a place. I have been reminded more than once that there is another Golden Triangle that has sinister connotations. Of that, of course, I am well aware, but to me the area in which I grew up and discovered what life was about well merits the name and I am content to use it.

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CROSSWORD – No. 5

Clues Across

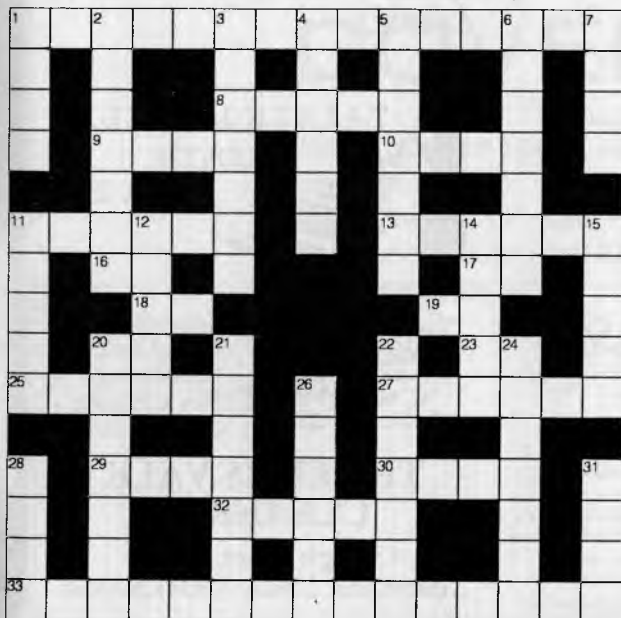
- 1 Coal was first mined to the N.W. of here in 1905 (11,4.)
- 8 Did passing ships get this by Dovorians? (5)
- 9 Lloyds have one (4)
- 10 This little person sounds like a Dover historian (4)
- 11 Lovely in summer - no rabbits now (6)
- 13 An old local river (5)

- 16 Opposite of from (2)
- 17 A famous book (1,1)
- 18 -- or die (2)
- 19 -- else (2)
- 20 A religion (1,1)
- 23 A degree (M.A.)
- 25 A collection of fish in Dover college (6)
- 27 Limb of a tree (6)
- 29 Drying house (4)
- 30 Sailors probably ate this (4)
- 32 Make of car for a titled father (5)

- 33 Here, supplying food by old cart reversing? (11,4)

Clues Down

- 1 He stands surveying what he conquered (4)
- 2 The last Dover prior before dissolution (6)
- 3 Hills in Kent are (7)
- 4 One-eyed street namesake (6)
- 5 Old name for Blenheim Square (3,4)
- 6 Much of Dover is (7)
- 7 Hang on to this building (4)
- 11 Henry V11's homeland (5)
- 12 Equestrian exhibition (5)
- 14 Almost standard girl's name (5)
- 20 Utterly confused (7)
- 21 Deciduous shrub from Japan (7)
- 22 Sailor before the mark. Don't do it!(7)
- 24 There are several on the Eastern cliffs (7)
- 26 Do we need this? Ask P&O. (6)
- 28 Deisel (4)
- 31 Not much of this in Dover (4)



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