

The  
Dover  
Society

# Newsletter

No 14

September 1992



Roy Chambers' Camberwell Beauty in a Temple Ewell garden

# 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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Mr Jonathan Sloggett, Mr Terry Sutton, Miss Christine Waterman, Mr Martin Wright

## THE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Jack Woolford

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

VICE-CHAIRMAN: John Gerrard

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

HON. SECRETARY: Leo Wright

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

HON. TREASURER: Ken Berry

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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Sheila Cope

53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD Tel: 0304 211348

JOINT SOCIAL SECRETARIES:

Joan Liggett, 19 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1HA Tel: 212863

ARCHIVIST: SYBIL Standing

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

CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE: KEN WRAIGHT

32 Minnis Lane, River, Dover CT17 0PR Tel: 823356

CHAIRMAN OF PROJECTS SUB-COMMITTEE: John Owen

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

EDITOR: Merrill Lilley

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

A. F. Adams, Philomena Kennedy, Margaret Robson, and Mike McFarnell,  
(Advisory Member)

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## EDITORIAL

In this issue we have devoted almost a quarter of the space in the *Newsletter* to reports and reviews of the first Dover Arts Festival, held from 18th to 31st May 1992. Organised by Dover District Council and the Arts and Libraries department of Kent County Council, this was a most exciting and ambitious venture and, it is hoped, the first of a series of annual Festivals. Several of our members and readers have written reviews of the events they attended and Maggie Waite, a Society member and one of the members of the planning committee for the Festival, has written an account of the organisation and presentation of the two weeks, packed with concerts, exhibitions, walks, talks, films and workshops. Members who were unfortunate enough to have missed the Festival this year will be able to appreciate the variety and diversity of events which were on offer and can look forward to attending similar occasions in 1993.

This year's A.G.M. is reported in this issue because it took place too late for the inclusion of a full report in *Newsletter* No.13. Our two successful summer outings, to St. Nicholas Vineyard and Chatham Dockyard, are also chronicled. Many thanks to our members who have written the accounts of these Society events and also to Committee members who keep us up-to-date on local issues; water and sewage; tree planting; Lydden Pond; Environment Week and Town Planning.

There is not a lot to report this time on local issues. Work on the A20 continues apace, with the almost mandatory traffic delays in Townwall Street, gaping holes in Bench Street and the almost-completed sweep of the new sea wall at East Cliff. At Wellington Dock the Transport Museum opened officially on 2nd August and Dover Harbour Board, after completing the demolition of their Social Hall, have started work on part of the new development of the area; more details of this in the next *Newsletter*.

With the confirmation of the plans to demolish the old Co-op building in Biggin Street, the Society will hope to become involved in the discussion of the architecture of the proposed new shops on the site.

This issue introduces a new series entitled "Working for Dover", which aims to present the views of individuals who are enthusiastic in their work for the future development and regeneration of the town. The first articles in this series are written by two of our newest members, who work at the White Cliffs Experience.

By the date of the publication of this *Newsletter*, members will have already booked their tickets for the St. Omer trip on 12th September. We hope this will be as successful as the Calais trip was in 1991.

Details of the Society's programme of meetings from September to April are given on the inside of the back cover, as usual. The first meeting of the Autumn, on 12th October, promises to be of crucial importance and great interest to members, who may, in fact, have the opportunity to air their views and perhaps to influence the progress of some of the events of the next three years in Dover, when Impact, the Town Regeneration Scheme, will have £800,000, at least, to spend on our town. Julian Owen, the Impact Project Leader, will address the meeting which, in view of its importance, can be seen as an opportunity to launch the project in Dover. It has been decided to make this an open meeting rather than one for members only. A Members' Meeting has been re-scheduled for 22nd March, a month before the A.G.M.

The November meeting is a Dickens' Evening, with readings from the novelist's works by Professor Curry, an old boy of Dover Boys' Grammar School. There will be no charge for admission, but programmes will cost £1, the proceeds being given to two charities of Professor Curry's choice, the Split Charity and a local charity for the homeless. We hope to fill the hall, so please note the date for your diary.

For the December meeting, our Annual Christmas Feast, I give my usual advice – book early, for places are limited to one hundred seats.

We are delighted to welcome to the Committee, Joan Liggett as Social Secretary and to convey our thanks to her for stepping in to fill the place left by the resignation of Lin Clackett. We wish her every success.

Would any forgetful members who have not yet paid this year's subscription, please send them soon to Sheila Cope, the Membership Secretary. We are hoping to recruit many more members this year – the stronger we are the more effective can be our influence. Members can help in this recruitment drive by telling friends about the Society, inviting them to meetings and introducing them to the *Newsletter*, for which purpose copies of most A5 issues may be obtained from the Editor, and/or from the producer, A. F. (Budge) Adams at 24 Castle Avenue.

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# Working for Dover

## THE WHITE CLIFFS EXPERIENCE

1

*Kim Norton, Education Officer*

To be employed doing a job which one really enjoys is quite a rarity nowadays. I am one of those very fortunate people who have that pleasure.

For the past six months, since leaving teaching in a primary school classroom, I have been employed as Education Officer for the White Cliffs Experience. As a Dover girl born and bred it is wonderful to be involved in something which is playing a central part in the development of Dover.

My job is to help teachers to get the most from their school visit to the White Cliffs Experience. This is many-faceted – providing background information on what is available, providing talks and handling sessions with artifacts, running teachers' courses and familiarisation sessions and developing new resources in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum. My job is made so much easier by the staff of the White Cliffs Experience who are all extremely helpful to me and who go out of their way to make sure that schools have everything they require. No two days are the same and as the number of schools visiting the centre continues to grow my job is developing and growing all the time.

It is also a fundamental part of the policy of the White Cliffs Experience to provide extra services to schools from the Dover District Council area. These, so far, have included the Roman festival where 250 local school children and their teachers came dressed in Roman costume for a fun-filled day of Roman activities, including drilling in Latin and sandal making. A marvellous way of making history really come alive for children. A creative writing competition on the theme Images of Dover attracted a large number of very high quality entries which are now on display in the education room for visiting schools to see and in creative writing workshops in the Museum as part of the Dover Festival.

The White Cliffs Experience with its concentration on the Romans and on World War II not only provides a unique and exciting learning experience for schools which is directly in line with the dictates of the History aspect of the National Curriculum but also provides opportunities for the study of other National Curriculum areas: English, Art, Geography, Design and Technology and French as a Foreign Language. New resources, such as a French pack for English primary school children to practice their French, are being developed to supplement study of these areas of the curriculum.

The White Cliffs Experience is becoming a focal point for many activities in Dover and is responsible for bringing many people to the town. In its first year over 250,000 people visited the centre, many of these coming to Dover for the first time. Being involved with this is both exciting and challenging and I feel very privileged to be playing my small part.



## THE WHITE CLIFFS EXPERIENCE

2

Jean Luckhurst, Secretary

How am I working for Dover? Well, really the same as all the other staff at The White Cliffs Experience. In a nutshell, we're working to attract thousands of people to see the Historium. Hopefully these visitors will also go to other attractions in the area and spend their money in the shops, thus encouraging more shops to open which will create employment and entice shoppers from other towns to spend yet more money, and so on.

To be perfectly honest, when you tell people you're a secretary their eyes often glaze over at the thought of the boredom of such a job. I've had several secretarial positions in varying types of organisations and each has been completely different. Yes, you still type and write shorthand, but the content varies.

At The White Cliffs Experience the secretary is a Jack-of-all-trades. I open the post, answer the phone, make the coffee, answer the phone, ring for the lift for a handicapped visitor, answer the phone – simultaneously. And type letters, reports, take minutes, arrange meetings, order stationery, do the filing, water the plants (usually too late). In other words, the usual things a secretary does. I've also helped in the Bistro when we were short staffed; been called to the Shop to keep an eye on little fingers when we were inundated with French schoolchildren; and handed the pen to the Princess Royal to sign the Visitor's Book. The telephone is a major part of the job. It rings constantly and calls are varied:- "What time do you open?"; "Can I make a booking?"; "Have you any vacancies?"; "Are there any places left on the Calais ferry?"; "Parlez vous français?"; "I'd like to book a children's party"; "Do you sell fossils?"; "What's on at the cinema today?"; etc. Some calls take only a minute; some as long as half-an-hour. So it is an advantage to be able to balance the phone between your shoulder and your ear so that the typing doesn't stop for too long. You also needs remarkable patience and tact. But calls are really worthwhile when you can persuade a sceptic that a visit to The White Cliffs Experience will be the highlight of his holiday and, maybe, of his life.

The Admin. office is shared with the Marketing Department and often looks quite amazing. A mailout may be happening entailing 2000 envelopes being filled and stamped; Sid Seagull might be preening his feathers as he gets ready to make a personal appearance at a children's party in the Bistro; Romans might be girding their loins prior to taking part in the Roman Festival; the Marketing Manager might be talking to a television crew before they do some filming; or she might be holding a meeting with members of the Council to discuss future events.

126 The photo copier and fax machine are also in this office, as are the coffee machine and stationery cupboard. Sometimes there seems to be a hundred people in our room. Visitors waiting in the Reception area of the office to see the Centre Manager often look quite bemused.

We have a good team at The White Cliffs Experience, the secret of which is that we all respect the value of each other's jobs. We get on well – at work and socially. We're always very busy but do have time to laugh too.

Next time you are visiting the Centre, when you come out of the World War II Street you will pass the office: do pop your head in and say "Hello" Δ

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## The Society's A.G.M. 1992

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Margaret Robson

Before the Chairman officially opened the meeting, a letter was read from our president, the Countess of Guildford, who wrote of her great regard for the Society and its aims, her enjoyment of the Newsletter and her sad regrets that illness all too often intruded into her life, rendering her less active in fulfilling commitments dear to her. The letter was warmly received and it was unanimously agreed that a tribute should be sent to her.

Mr. Jack Woolford then opened the meeting, regretting the absence of Mr. Peter Johnson, due to ill-health. The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the guest speakers, Lord Rees, David Shaw M.P. and John Moir of Dover District Council. He announced, with pleasure, the appointment of three new vice-presidents, Philomena Kennedy, Christine Waterman and Martin Wright. The recent edition of the Newsletter was praised for its content and appearance. Two resignations were noted with regret; of Lin Clackett (fortunately only temporary) and Adrian Galley, who was forced by circumstances to relinquish his post as Chairman of the Planning Committee, a job he had performed with great commitment and diplomacy. Both were thanked for their services on behalf of the Society.

The Chairman reported that, for the second time, the Society had had to call in the Ombudsman over the Ministry of Defence's evasion of planning regulations. On each occasion the Society had sought the help of Dover's M.P., in the first case Lord Rees and in the second, David Shaw: both had responded magnificently.

It had been agreed that John Peverley's address on the Western Heights should be published in booklet form sometime in the future, with a possible launching ceremony at W. H. Smith's with the author present.

John Owen was complimented on his successful projects; the replanting of Lousyberry Wood and the restoration of Lydden Pond, both of which had won awards, from the Civic Trust, British Telecom and Shell BP.

The Chairman expressed the Society's pleasure in presenting Awards in October 1991 to Paul Koralek, Architect of the White Cliffs Experience; to Ivor Heal and the Museum Staff; to Dover District Council for the restoration of two shops in Cannon Street; to



Antony Reed , for the refurbishment of the Old Tram Shelter at Elms Vale and to Mrs. Pauline Gould for the St. Margaret's Bay Museum. In addition there were two special commendations for the two riparian owners of the reach of the River Dour above Mannerings Mill and for the K.C.C. Refuse Transfer Station. He also mentioned (en passant, of course) his meeting with the Princess Royal at the opening of the White Cliffs Experience.

The Chairman then announced that Southern Water are to spend £15 million on cleaning up their beaches and he expressed his pleasure in being able to support Sister Ambrosia's fight to save the river and lake at Kearsney Manor from excessive pumping.

The proposals for the Wellington Dock Marina had met with approval, balancing economic lifelines on the one hand with the enhancement and preservation of a civilised environment on the other.

The social year had been most successful, proving both entertaining and informative, thanks to the inspired work of Lin Clackett. There were three outings to look forward to this summer.

Lastly, the Chairman thanked the Treasurer, Ken Berry and the Secretary, Leo Wright, not only for his secretarial skills but for his organisation of musical events and the trip to Calais in September 1991.

He then introduced the first speaker, Lord Rees, who spoke movingly of his long association with Dover, recalling the declaration of his successful campaign by Ian Gill, from the balcony of Dover Town Hall, when the great responsibility of the task of matching the endeavours of past generations who had represented Dover from the twelfth century onwards first dawned on him.

Whom did he personally remember? George Wyndham, a distinguished Parliamentarian at the turn of the century; Lord Astor, John Arbuthnot, David Ennalls, Rhys Davis of Thanet, a brilliant sportsman who had lost an arm in the war; George Johnson, his first constituency secretary ; Bill Castle of the Conservative Club; Fred Cleary for his projects in St. Margaret's; the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports, her Majesty the Queen Mother and Robert Menzies, the latter of whom always managed to time his visits to coincide with County Cricket Week!

He remembered when the Ferry Service consisted of one boat belonging to Townsend and how he had sat on debates on two Channel Tunnel proposals. He expressed his belief that the more communication that existed between Kent and the continent the better future for all and that the task before us was to preserve the past without prejudicing the future. To find the Dover Society in such good heart filled him with much gladness, for Dover was dear to both him and his wife. If he had in any way contributed to its well-being, he concluded, it would be reward indeed.

After an interval for refreshments, a raffle and recruiting for the Pageant, the Right Honourable David Shaw began his address on a jovial note on the rewards of an MP in heaven being excellent but no-one as yet had claimed them!

He congratulated the Dover Society on its tenacity and success over the Western Heights affair, saving them from any further disfigurement. He looked forward to the publication of the Peverley papers.

128 The Wellington Docks project would, Mr. Shaw believed, bring town and port together. He saw Dover moving away from its long-held defensive role to that of a welcoming one to incomers. Tourism and leisure he rated highly in this transformation. English Heritage were reviewing plans for the refurbishment of the Officer's Quarters in the Castle as a five-star hotel. This was a project he had supported from the beginning and he said it should bring with it 100 jobs.

Speaking of his awareness of his responsibilities as Dover's MP he added slyly that equally he was not unaware of the elevation in office of his predecessors, on which note of humour, he concluded.

Finally, Mr. John Moir, of Dover District Council, spoke of the Council's continuing support of the White Cliffs Countryside Project. The Western Heights continued to be a problem area. Various proposals had been made but times were difficult. Fortunately the attitude to the environment had changed for the better. He said the Harbour Board proposals for the Western Docks were all he had hoped they would be. He had taken his management board up to Shakespeare Cliff so that they could see and understand just what to expect. The A20 problems had demanded difficult decisions and there was an unpleasant year ahead for all.

Car parking was another essential requirement if tourism increased. Superstores, while solving some problems, created others. The demise of Sainsburys could, however serve to bring back the small shop. The Cannon Street Award should set the standard.

He spoke of the East Kent Initiative; the Task Force to tackle unemployment; plans for the transition period when the tunnel opened, which would involve government departments and the private sector; industrial diversification which was regarded as essential. He said that they knew they would not get everything right and expected criticism. He could trust the Dover Society to provide considered and well-balanced opinions. He hoped the Society would continue to grow in numbers for it had a vision of Dover and was participating in bringing that vision to fruition.

After thanking all who had taken part in the evening's business, especially the guest speakers, the Chairman brought the 1992 A.G.M. to a close. △

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## *Wines & Spirits*

OR, to be more accurate, Wine and Spirit.

— Jean Pearce

WINE making in England and Wales has had quite a chequered history since the grape was first grown on southern slopes by the Romans many years ago. Delightful crisp white wines graced many a table until the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries when wine-making was forbidden. From then until after the '39-'45 war there have been several attempts to begin again, but various setbacks thwarted most of them.

This potted history was imparted to 32 of us by our hostess, Mrs Wilkinson, of St. Nicholas Vineyard at Ash on a sunny day in May.

A 40-minute coach ride through lovely Kent countryside brought us to the vineyard which was named after the nearby church. 129

In 1979 German vintners brought some of their vines and helped plant the sheltered south-facing, gently sloping, cow pasture with rows of vines. They showed our hosts how to cultivate and care for the fruits which eventually produced a variety of wines.

Questions were a-plenty and all were patiently answered. Q: "Why are rose bushes growing at the ends of the rows?" A: "Because they act as disease detectors".

From the field we moved into the cool winery, full of strange receptacles, pipes and gauges. Whereas the field-work is very labour intensive, the winemaking is less so, but it is a most precise science.

After following the grapethrough its journey from crusher to bottle, we adjourned to a table under a shady tree where we sampled several very palatable and distinctive wines. These are great achievements, in spite of the lack of government interest and the imposition of VAT and excise duty. Quite the reverse of their EEC counterparts!

There was much musical clinking as we left the winery shop and strolled back to our coach.

I haven't mentioned the spirit? Nor, have I? Well, the spirit we did not see. We were told he was a 29-year old Elizabethan gentleman and is to be seen occasionally in the 400-year old house and outbuildings, and answers to the name of 'Henry'!

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## *The Historic Dockyard*

at CHATHAM \_\_\_\_\_ PETER BURVILLE

On a sunny day in June thirty-seven members of the Society set off on the leisurely trip to Chatham for a quite fascinating day exploring the historic dockyard. On our way it was a pleasure to see the delightful blue flowers of the flax in the fields we passed: such a pleasant contrast to the aggressive yellow of the rape so evident earlier in the year.

Arriving at Chatham we turned into the car park and saw a vast deserted area with no obvious pattern in its layout. At the reception area we were briefed by a "host", then left to our own devices; for some it was talk-talk whilst for others it was walk-walk. We chose an anti-clockwise tour starting at the Wooden Walls Gallery. These adapted sheds provide a wonderful setting for entertaining and instructive exhibits, telling the story of an 18th century apprentice at the yard. Lots of information and statistics were given by the audio-visual system as we progressed round the various sections. With the Rio Environment meeting still fresh in our minds, it was thought-provoking to hear that Chatham ship-building had required some seventy-five acres of 80-year old oak trees for

130 each ship. Men of twenty-six trades turned the timber into war-machines, that look so attractive to twentieth century eyes, perhaps also to our ancestors. A 64-gun craft required a crew of 650 men. Doubtless those press-ganged into service would not have seen much beauty in the wooden walls. One of the well-illustrated trades was that of the caulker who plugged the gaps between planks and timbers with oakum and sealed it with pitch to make the craft waterproof. Was it in Dickens that I read of prisoners picking old rope to make the oakum or was it part of the Old Dover Gaol rehabilitation programme?

Leaving the gallery we passed by the dry docks where the 100+ year old sloop *Gannet* is being restored. In the Store House complex the displays of household goods, covering a range of decades, held nostalgia for people of a certain age – at least so I was told! It was a pleasure to be able to look round the docks and buildings without being jostled by hordes of people.

By good fortune we found ourselves at the Ropery when an example of rope-making was being given in the 1128 feet long rope-walk shed. Seeing the wheeled trolley, with its cone for weaving the rope, rattle down the length of the shed, twisting three ropes into a larger one, was hardly my idea of a walk. As the machinery dated from 1811 it is obviously some time since the ropes were "walked" hereabouts. The process was most impressive.

The dockyard is well supplied with watering holes. At the Historical Society Museum, located in the Lead and Paint Mill, we were offered tea and cakes at competitive prices. Whilst sipping our tea, members of the voluntary society were only too keen to tell us tales about the yard when it employed 23,000 and more people. Also we heard of their efforts to rescue items for the museum and of the 100 yard long bonfire of dockyard material which burnt for two years – doubtless some interesting objects were sent to the big archive in the sky.

After the refreshments we had a look around the museum and made a brief visit to the cellar to see the, disappointingly, recent-written, archives. Then we set off on our way back to the Visitor Centre but there was still lots to see. At the Sail and Colour Loft we admired the products of skilled craftsmen but were surprised to be offered a Union Jack when we requested the English flag! In the Ordnance Gallery we were impressed by the cannons, which we were reliably informed, were technically, guns. Why is it that yesterday's machines of war look so attractive whilst today's weapons look so frightening? However, we also found the eighteenth century Timber Seasoning Houses charming.

After more refreshments, at the very passable Wheelwrights Restaurant, we all clambered into the coach to be greeted and counted by Merrill. We were reminded about half-price revisits on production of our passes, and perhaps some of us will revisit the dockyard, for there is certainly a lot to be seen.

May I echo the thanks that were given to Merrill and all those involved in organising the trip. During the quieter moments of the return journey, people doubtless reflected on what they had seen at the dockyard: the wooden walls have now gone, as have most of the steel walls; even the chalk walls to which we were heading have been slighted. Δ



18th - 31st May 1992

## *Introduction*

From 18th to 31st May, 1992, the first Festival of Dover offered residents and visitors a broad programme of events, embracing a wide variety of art forms. The Festival Committee was composed of staff from Tourism and Marketing, Dover District Council and the Arts and Libraries Department, Kent County Council.

This was a very ambitious project, covering heritage, music, dance, poetry, exhibitions, walks, talks and a special programme for children, which included workshops in schools and a holiday outing at Kearsney Abbey.

[cont. overleaf]



The Festival was advertised by posters throughout the district and by leaflets available in local libraries, shops, banks and tourist centres. Where advance booking was necessary for an event, tickets were available from the Deal Tourist Office, or could be booked by telephone and credit card. There was no Festival Centre in Dover itself until the Festival opened on 18th May and this factor may have influenced booking numbers. Many people were unsure of the procedure for booking tickets and it is likely that a booking centre in a strategic spot in Dover would have boosted sales.

Some events were highly successful and well-attended. Others, sadly, were less well supported, although of great interest to those who did attend. Although thousands of leaflets were printed, there were still some Dovorians who failed to appreciate what the Festival had to offer and missed the opportunity to attend concerts, films, talks or workshops, which would have been of interest to them.

Nevertheless, thousands of people benefited and the venture should be acclaimed as a great success. It was ambitious, exciting, wide-ranging, even daring, in its scope and aims and the planning committee deserve high praise for their achievement.

It is to be hoped that the second Festival of Dover will be even more successful. The planners will be able to build on the experience of 1992 and the public will be more aware of the event as an annual occurrence and will plan accordingly.

It is also hoped that any future festival will have the support it deserves from the local press. The *Dover Express*, in the first week of the Festival, also a Bank Holiday weekend, carried no encouraging report of the Festival, the only reference being a small footnote that advised readers that tickets could be obtained from Deal. The newspaper's issue following the Festival contained a short report, stating that the Festival Committee were reviewing the results and mentioning the Kearsney Teddy Bear's Picnic as the most successful event, but it gave no indication of the scope of the project nor the high degree of success achieved overall.

Many Dover Society members, having had plenty of advance information from Peter Ryan, one of the Festival Planning Committee, in previous Newsletters, attended the Festival events of their choice and thoroughly enjoyed them, as can be seen from the reviews included here. We cannot report every event in the Festival, but the selection of reviews we have printed will give readers an indication of the variety of the programme and a taste for future festivals.

EDITOR



# A Joyfull Noyse

## THE CANTERBURY WAITS

*Philomena Kennedy*

IT WAS indeed a 'Joyfull Noyse' in the Town Hall on the evening of the 29th of May. With each item entertainingly introduced, we first heard 'Spanish Music from the Time of Columbus' which included pieces that were tender, jolly, raucous ('Calabaza, no sé' on the rauschpfeifen) or even, I thought, slightly South American ('Pase el agoa' on recorders and viols).



Several Almans, slow dances during which sweet nothings could be whispered to one's partner, dominated the section entitled 'The Jacobean Fancy'. 'The Mediæval Sound - from the Time of Robin Hood' included 'Ja nun hons pris', by Richard Cœur de Lion, played on the gemshorn (a goat's horn - "first catch your goat in C sharp") and the intense 'Lamento di Tristan' on bagpipes and tabor.

After the interval we heard some very agreeable music by Michael Praetorius, interspersed with suitable readings, some of them humorous.

The Canterbury Waits, founded in 1971, wear costumes of dark blue, silver and white.

They play an astonishing, and sometimes strange, variety of instruments, among which are the ear-piercing shawn (said to be good for the health-of the player!), pibcorn, nazzari,



hurdy-gurdy, sackbut, bombarde, serpent, bones, racket and garklein; one of the players also makes some of the instruments. It was a delightful evening.







# Orchid Safari : on the Western Heights

Harry Dyer

OUR group of twenty (plus two very well-behaved dogs) set out from the Market Square in brilliant sunshine on the 20th of May for a three-mile safari on the Western Heights.

Under the leadership of Melanie Wrigley, one of the Project officers of the White Cliffs Countryside Project, the first stop was the Cowgate Cemetery. After many years of neglect the site is now managed as a meadow to protect the many types of flora and fauna. Much of the work has been carried out by volunteers, including local schools.

From here we climbed the 64 steps that form one of the approaches to the Western Heights and during a well-earned "breather" there was a short explanatory talk on the management of the area. Our leader emphasised the importance of scrub clearing and grazing, (the latter carried out so effectively by the Dexter cattle). By this process the coarse grasses are kept down, thus encouraging the growth of finer grasses and flowers. Among the various orchids to be found here are the common spotted orchid, the bee orchid and the late spider orchid. Although there were no orchids in bloom, because it was too early in the season, there was sufficient leaf growth to show the difference between the various types.

Within a few weeks some areas here would be carpeted with hundreds of common spotted orchids, a feature of the Heights.

However, on our safari we were compensated for the lack of orchids by the carpets of cowslips covering the floors of the caponiers of the Drop Redoubt. As we progressed along our route, with an almost continuous commentary from our guide, we were encouraged to look, smell and even taste some of the wild herbs, like sage or marjoram. Wild Cabbage grows in abundance here, although it is rare elsewhere in Britain.

We wondered at all this beauty to be found amongst a military fortification only a stone's throw from the town centre.

Members may like to be reminded that there is to be a walk around the ditches and batteries of the Western Heights, led by Jon Iveson of Dover Museum, starting from the top of the Grand Shaft at 2.00 pm on Sunday 25th October.





# *An Evening with the Author P. D. James*

Merril Lilley

P. D. JAMES (Baroness James of Holland Park) addressed an appreciative audience of her readers at the Junior Library on 28th May. After pointing out the subtle distinction between crime writing and detective fiction and commenting on the characteristics of some of the most famous fictional detectives, P. D. James gave the audience a fascinating insight into her own work.

For her the starting point for a novel had often been a particular feeling experienced in a suitable setting; on seeing boats on a quiet beach in Norfolk (*Devices and Desires*) or looking up at a tower in Dorset (*The Black Tower*) The long process of researching the background and of building up and getting to know the characters took much longer than the actual writing of the novel. It was for her a process of revelation rather than creation.

She regaled the audience with various anecdotes of the writing process, stressing the necessity of accuracy in detail, quoting from readers' letters, which flooded in whenever an error was made.

Speculating on the popularity of detective fiction, she said that readers like the familiar structure of the detective novel as well as the excitement, suspense and anticipation. They like a good story and the solving of a puzzle by human perseverance, intelligence and reasoning.

Afterwards Baroness James answered questions and signed copies of her books. A very successful evening and an excellent choice of venue for the event Δ

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## *Spring:* ONE-OFF GALLERY EXHIBITION

Leo Wright

The 'One-Off' Gallery in Castle Street timed another of its interesting exhibitions to chime with the Arts Festival: this one featured some dozen East Kent artists.

There were water-colours and oils, large and small, and, full of character, the hand-tinted etchings by Michael Baker. These mostly showed interest in people and situations, some reminiscent of George Cruikshank's. There were many local subjects: Dover, Canterbury, St. Margaret's, Folkestone, several of which succeeded in that difficult artistic aim: faire quelque chose de rien.



CONT. OVER





In exotic contrast were Tim Showan's light effect in a French garden and Gloria Dean's Venice spectaculars: one red and one blue.

On a day warm enough for summer it was a special pleasure to see the flower paintings by Jean Jones and Jennifer Tyler.

Jean and her husband were well represented. We shall surely see more of his work in their next exhibition: 'Architects as Artists'. Most of his pictures this time were not architectural and showed considerable variety of interest and subject. There were some of Jean's delightful studies of beach scenes against the light which she has been favouring and there was another "Palm House at Kew".

Different visitors will remember different pictures but there was something for all tastes and a high standard at very modest prices. Try pricing similar paintings in London.

## *A Creative Writing Workshop*

with RUTH ELWIN HARRIS

Merril Lilley

During Festival week Ruth Elwin Harris stayed at Dover College as writer-in-residence, helping pupils with their writing. She also visited St. Margaret's Primary School for one day. On the Thursday (19th May) she gave a talk on "The use of original sources in writing" and on the Thursday (21st May) held a writer's workshop at the school. Unfortunately both events were poorly attended, which was a great pity as they were of great interest.

Ruth Elwin Harris has written a series of historical novels for teenagers, the Quantocks series, four novels about four sisters at the time of the First World War, a book for each sister. The first novel is called "The Silent Shore". While researching for one of these novels, the author found, in the Imperial War Museum, a collection of 201 letters by an old Dover College pupil, written from France in 1916. This discovery led to the publication of her latest book, "Billie", based on the collection of his letters.

The evenings with Ruth Elwin Harris were of interest and value to writers, historians or researchers, as they led to fascinating discussions of the uses of old registers, newspapers, magazines, catalogues, autobiographies, wills and correspondence and stressed the importance of visits to museums, libraries and record offices. They also included reflections on the publishing of MSS and the problems encountered by writers in finding a publisher for a first novel. One wished that Mrs. Harris might have had larger audiences to enjoy the discussions.





# *Dover in Words and Pictures*

at DOVER MUSEUM

Leo Wright

Christine Waterman and her staff made a characteristically distinguished offering to the Dover Arts Festival with the special exhibition: "Dover in Words and Pictures" - pictures and quotations about Dover from Julius Caesar to Ian Fleming.

The big well-known names were of course well represented: Shakespeare, Pepys, Defoe, Byron, Cobbett, Dickens and Noel Coward, illustrated by well-chosen quotes and carefully selected pictures from the museum's very large collection. But the net was cast more widely. It is of course a historical-geographical fact that for centuries almost anyone who travelled to or from the continent stayed at the Castle, or the Maison Dieu or the Priory. Later came the hotels. The remarkable thing is how many wrote about the experience. The net could have been cast just a little wider to include Charles d'Orleans. Of course, Matthew Arnold's "Dover Beach" was there and plucked my heart-strings once again ( quickly calmed by Anthony Hecht's "Dover Bitch"). But if as we are, I think rightly, told that Dover Beach is one of the best poems of the nineteenth century, then if just one French poem were to be included, it would be the Ballade by Charles d'Orleans (1391-1455) beginning:

En regardant le pals de France  
Un jour m'avint a Dovre sur la mer.....

and it would stir the heart of any French visitors or anyone who knew French. But begin on foreign names and there would be no end. Our predecessors wrote so much more than we do, and not just "Wish you were here!"

The success of the exhibition is that it contrives to be both scholarly and popular. On an ordinary week-day there was a pleasant stream of visitors - mostly not Dovorians on that day. The presentation is of our Museum's usual high standard. The accompanying booklet is a good buy and well worth keeping as an anthology.

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There will be another chance to see the Exhibition : 3rd August – 6th September.





# *The Noah's Ark Wind Ensemble*

May Jones

The entertaining lunch-time concert in St. Mary's Church on Wednesday, 27th May, was given by the Noah's Ark Wind Ensemble, with readings by Richard Bruce. Imaginatively rendered musical compositions with an animal theme, such as Christopher Le Fleming's 'Homage to Beatrix Potter', Saint-Saens', 'The Elephant' and Elgar's 'Farmyard' were interspersed with dramatic readings of Hilaire Belloc's 'The Frog', Kenneth Graham's 'The Duck's Ditty' and other animal poems. The final item consisted of excerpts from Isaak Walton's 'The Complete Angler' to accompany Carey Blyton's 'A Catch', illustrating fish of different types, characters and movements.

This was a light-hearted, but polished performance appealing to a number of tastes – and not just children – suitably reflected in the final applause and with an opportunity afterwards for informal discussion with the artists – a very pleasant festival experience.

# *Sounding Retreat*

B. J. Lilley

The Peninsular Band of the Third Battalion Royal Greenjackets gave a concert at Dover Town Hall on Friday, 22nd May, as part of the Dover Festival. The Peninsular Band has been at Connaught Barracks, Dover for the last three years, previously serving in Germany and travelling extensively for engagements in Europe and North America.

An enthusiastic audience of about 150 enjoyed a varied programme to suit all musical tastes, moving, in the first half, from Williams and Offenbach to Artie Shaw's Concerto for Clarinet and to Harry James's Trumpet Blues and Cantabile and concluding with an arrangement from Les Miserables. The second half of the programme opened with Reed's March of the Vikings, included a Gershwin arrangement, solos for Bugle and Tuba and ended with the Finale from Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony.

A splendid evening.





## *An Afternoon at the Cinema*      May Jones

Four Ray Warner films were shown at the Silver Screen Cinema on 19th May, two from the seventies, followed by two from the fifties, providing nearly two hours of nostalgia for those who remembered the events of those years.

The first was unforgettable for the breath-taking sequence of the lifeboat tossing on an angry sea, the second for the speeding electric train rushing through the Kentish countryside and London suburbs and that of 1959 for the Shakespeare production at Kearsney Abbey. And 1935? That failed to show the renovated Market Square with its crown in honour of the Queen's coronation which I still remember vividly, but (so that is a minor quibble) we were shown other royal occasions at Dover.

Tea and biscuits served in the interval stimulated the happy exchange of memories among the friendly audience. What a pity there were so few of us, but doubtless the early summer sunshine proved a greater attraction and perhaps more attended on other days.

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## *Jazz Night* ————— Ken Wraight

The Kimbara Brothers - Hot Club Jazz came to the Town Hall at Dover on 23rd May.

The session, which was sponsored by Eurotunnel attracted an audience of some sixty or seventy people. With the hall laid out with tables and chairs, a small dance floor and bar facilities the organisers had tried hard to create an atmosphere which was certainly helped by the wonderful sound of the group - very reminiscent of the Hot Club de France.

A very enjoyable evening which was certainly worthy of a much bigger audience

## *Snowdown Male Voice Choir*

On the 23rd of May the Snowdown Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir entertained about 100 people in St. Mary's Church. They presented an interesting and varied programme, which ranged from 'The Pilgrims' Chorus' by Wagner, through 'You'll Never Walk Alone' - Rogers and Hammerstein - to 'Flowers of the Field', a new work by two local composers, D. Cooke and J. Dupney.

The choir, which nowadays is made up of men from a variety of professions, obviously enjoyed themselves and were greatly appreciated by their audience.

The concert, which had been sponsored by Pfizers, was conducted by Graham Harvey, who had stepped in at short notice.





## Guided Walks

Katie Palmer (Aged 9)

I went on the guided walk of the Town Hall with Ms Kennedy and I enjoyed it very much. We started in the Main Hall where there were paintings and flags. Then we went in to the chambers.

I liked Connaught Hall best of all because of its colours, they were blue and

magnolia. At first Burges was going to paint Connaught Hall chocolate brown and creamy white. You would never think the pillars are made of cast iron, would you? But they are!

We went up top see the big bell and my tummy fluttered when I looked down, it seemed very high. I enjoyed the tour and I looked at things that would probably not notice on my own.

## Basically Baroque \_\_\_\_\_ Pam Taylor

The lunchtime concert given by "Basically Baroque" on 29th May was simply delightful and St. Mary's Church provided an excellent setting. One of the biggest surprises for me was the impressive range of the flutes produced by the 'main quartet' of players (quite literally an eye-opener) and to see at close quarters the bassoon being played, was fascinating.

Readers will guess from this that I am no musician, merely an enthusiastic music lover and listener, but if I were to express a preference from the programme it would be for the Telemann and for the final quintet by Jean-Baptiste Loeillet, whose name was totally new to me. I feel, however, that all members of the audience, including those who evidently were musicians themselves, thoroughly enjoyed the brief hour and the applause was warm and enthusiastic.

Unfortunately we were rather a small group, as was the case at most of the Festival events which I attended. Those who didn't show their faces were surely the losers (where were all the Dovorians who can be bothered to go regularly to the Marlowe, I wondered) and we can only hope that by next year word will have got around and the attendances will improve. My final words are of thanks and encouragement to the Committee who organised the Festival – *please* persevere. I am already looking forward to hearing good live music in Dover again next year.







# *The Festival of Dover*

**Maggi Waite:** writing on behalf of the organising committee for  
the first Festival of Dover — 18th – 31st May 1992

The idea of an Arts Festival was first conceived at a Dover Society meeting in 1989 when questions were asked about Dover and the Arts. A letter was sent from Kent Libraries to Donna Sowerby, Events Officer, Dover District Council, asking if there the possibility of a joint venture. A series of meetings was held and eventually both KCC and DDC agreed to go ahead with the festival in 1992; this was a gamble on the part of the steering group as it was not known, at a time so far in advance, whether funding would be available. The dates chosen were partly in term time to enable a series of educational events for schoolchildren to take place and partly during the Whitsun half-term when it would be more appropriate to feature street entertainment and 'fun' events.

The initial steering group included myself, Donna Sowerby and from Kent Arts and Libraries, Gavin Wright, Group Manager, and Peter Ryan, Events Officer. Members of the group liaised with local societies and artists and sought advice from many and various sources (in particular Philomena Kennedy and Michael Foad). It was intended wherever possible to involve existing groups and societies in the festival, although this was not always feasible. Dover Town Hall, Dover Library and St. Mary's Church were suitable venues and the search began for artists and performers to provide a balanced programme. Bearing in mind the previous experience of the two linked authorities, it seemed appropriate for Kent Arts & Libraries to put together the education and literature programme and for Dover District Council to concentrate on concerts and street entertainment.

This appeared to work really well. A meeting was called for all Dover schools wishing to participate; representatives from seventeen schools attended and others expressed interest. Schools were to receive generous discounts on writers' and artists' fees but, even taking this into account, they pledged large sums to emphasise their commitment to the festival. Events were organised either in schools or at the Town Hall or the Library. Brian Moses, poet and educationalist, agreed to become writer-in-residence and actors





Writer Nigel Hinton with children from Charlton Primary School



'WORDS ALIVE!'



'Words Alive!' were recruited to spend two and a half days performing poetry. The internationally famous author/illustrator Anthony Browne agreed to make one of his rare appearances and he was joined by Anthony Masters, Nigel Hinton, Robin Mellor, ESOS and Kent Music School. The highlight of the children's programme was to be two sessions with the poet and BBC broadcaster Michael Rosen. Kent Arts & Libraries mobile Art Gallery was pressed into service to take Colin the Clown to outlying schools to run puppet and craft sessions all through the first week.

Whilst the schools programme was being organised, Donna was arranging the street entertainment and a series of concerts involving Snowdown choir, the Peninsular Band of the Royal Greenjackets, the Joyfull Noyse and Dover Choral Society. Peter and Gavin worked with local artists to mount an art exhibition and workshops in the Town Hall, organised concerts in St. Mary's Church and events for the elderly in residential homes. They liaised with the Dover Society to put on a series of guided walks and organised the Kimbara Brothers' Jazz concert as part of the European Year of Music 'Heartstrings' project. I, meanwhile, was working on a dual language photographic exhibition about the history of cross-channel traffic, using material from Dover Library's local studies collection (this exhibition has since been taken to Calais), and organising children's holiday workshops and a long-awaited visit from writer P. D. James. Another opportunity presented itself when Martin Wright, the head of Dover College, approached me about the possibility of having the writer Ruth Elwin Harris as writer-in-residence at Dover



The interior of Kent County Council's mobile Arts Van, with work from Dover Schools



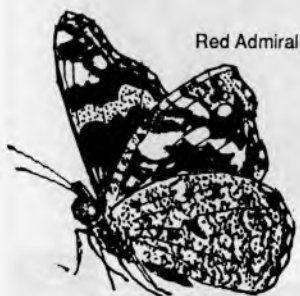
144 Our famous White Cliffs provide an excellent setting for observing a good number of butterflies and moths, including some uncommon ones. The vetches and trefoils which grow there are the food-plants of the caterpillars of the blues and one of the most spectacular members of this family is the Chalk Hill Blue. Essentially a chalk and limestone lover, which is found in restricted areas in the southern half of England, it is larger than the other blues and the male is a magnificent shining silver-blue. The female is brown with orange spots on the edges of the wings, a drab creature compared with the male; this arrangement is normal in butterflies if not in the human race! Look for this blue above the Eastern Arm from the middle of July until the beginning of September.

Two more unusual blues may also be seen in this area, the Adonis Blue and the Small Blue, both very localised insects whose haunts are presently diminishing. The Adonis, out in June and again in August, is a beautiful iridescent sky-blue whereas the Small Blue, which is about at roughly the same time, is black dusted with grey-blue. With a wing span of 18mm it is the smallest British butterfly and can easily be overlooked.

A fine member of the Brown family which can be seen on the cliffs and downs in July and August is the Marbled White (yes, it is a brown!). Quite a large butterfly, almost black in base colour with many white blotches, it is very local and has been on the decline.

In the summertime you will notice large, fast-flying moths careering back and forth across the cliffs and downs. These are male Oak Eggar and Fox moths, the former ginger and the latter fawn in colour, urgently seeking the females who give off a powerful scent. This is a good job, as the females only fly at night so the sexes would never get together! The food plants include bramble, hawthorn and ivy.

Amongst the smaller moths to be seen when walking across the cliffs and downs are the very noticeable Five-spot and Six-spot Burnets. Bright metallic greenish-black and scarlet in colour, the Five-spot is about in June and July and the Six-spot in July and August. They are quite lazy and prefer to sun themselves on the heads of knapweed to flying and will even crawl on your finger for inspection! Of course we are in a good position for migrants, both common and rare, which travel from as far as North Africa, via France. Common ones include the



smart black, with red and white bars, Red Admiral (nothing nautical, once 'admirable') and the lovely rose-coloured Painted Lady. These large, strong fliers arrive

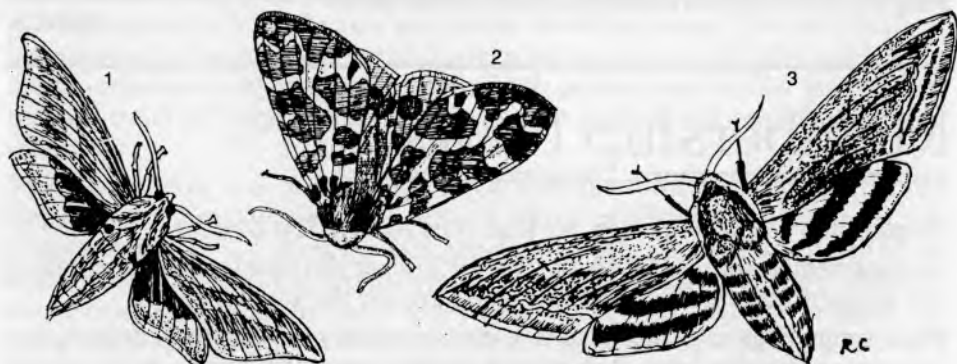


Comma

in May and June, lay their eggs on nettles and thistles for a summer brood which you may see on your buddleia. Less common immigrants include the gamboge Clouded Yellow, which follows the schedule of the previous two insects but uses clover as a food plant. Amongst the scarce visitors are the Camberwell Beauty butterfly, a deep chestnut, black and cream bordered with blue spots, arriving from Germany or Scandinavia and the *Convolvulus Hawk-moth*, night-flying, grey, fawn and pink with a 12cm wing span. Both have been seen in my garden at Temple Ewell. The downs at Temple Ewell are the home of the rarest butterflies in the country, the small Silver-Spotted Skipper. If you are lucky you'll glimpse this little greenish yellow creature, with silver spots on its underside, as it darts from flowers to attack anything larger that comes near to it, during two weeks in the middle of August. The Skipper family are the Jack Russells of the butterfly world!

Lack of space precludes the description of many more insects which may be seen in or around Dover, the jewel-like vermilion Small Copper feeding on sorrel and dock, the beautifully fresh Orange-tip feeding on hedge garlic and the fascinating day-flying migrant Humming-bird Hawk-moth, which hovers with rapidly beating wings whilst it pushes its long proboscis into flowers. However, next time you are clearing any ground spare a thought for the common plants which are the life-blood of these harmless creatures which help to beautify the world. Of the butterflies, only the Large White and the Small White can be pests on your cabbages and a few moths may cause problems on your garden plants or shrubs. None are dangerous; and mothers who scream in the press that hairy caterpillars have given a rash to their angelic offspring and therefore should be exterminated, would do far better to clout said offspring and tell them to leave the caterpillars alone. Or is this asking *too much*?

*Note:* I would be interested in occasional meetings with like-minded folk to compare notes, *not* to start a society.



1 Elephant Hawk-moth 2 Garden Tiger Moth 3 Privet Hawk-moth

The illustrations by Roy Chambers were first published in *Oasis*, The Magazine of Conservation Gardening.

# IMPACT

ACTION IN LOCAL IMPROVEMENT

Dover is next-in-line to receive help from the Kent County Council project, IMPACT, started in 1986 to foster regeneration of town centres. Impact has just completed three year's work in Ramsgate and is about to move to Dover.

The first sign for the public may be the name IMPACT above one of the empty high street shops, which it will use as a base for three years. Thereafter Impact will be working with Local Authorities, organisations and people to find ways of improving Dover's image.

The Impact team is interested in promoting improvements to streets and public places to make them more attractive; in traffic management; in preserving heritage sites; in community action; in high quality schemes to attract investment and in sustainability.

A committee of Impact members and representatives of KCC and DDC will be set up in July and by the autumn they should be at the stage of formulating some of their targets for Dover. In each year of the project KCC and DDC will each finance the scheme with a grant of £400,000 and additional funds may be raised from other organisations.

On 9th July Julian Owen, Impact Team Leader, spoke to the Dover Society Committee and showed slides and a video illustrating the type of work successfully undertaken in Ramsgate.

On 12th October all Society members will have an opportunity to see these slides and video, to hear Julian Owen outline Impact's aims for Dover, to ask questions and to put forward suggestions. Impact welcomes the ideas and views of the local community.

This is good news for Dover!

Don't miss the meeting on 12th October at 7.30. Be among those first to hear Impact's plans for Dover and maybe suggest some of your own.

EDITOR

## Membership News

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

Current membership is 355, an increase of 30 since this time last year after taking into account new recruits and those who have left the Society.

While some resign for valid reasons, a few, apparently through forgetfulness, just let their membership lapse. Reminders have now been distributed – with a cut-off date of 31st July – but we will accept even later subscriptions. Please do not merely fade away: we need you all!

We will be much more effective when our membership reaches 600 or thereabouts.

K<sub>ENT</sub> F<sub>EDERATION</sub> A<sub>MINITY</sub> S<sub>OCTIES</sub>

# A.G.M. and Spring Conference

## *'Leisure in Kent'*

Ken Wraight

THIS year the conference, under the chairmanship of Jack Woolford, was held at St. Nicholas, Maidstone.

The President, Sir Roger De Gray, opened with an address in which he implored all members to look to the appearance of their own homes and front gardens to improve their local environment.

Then Helen Drummond, a Maidstone Councillor, gave a brief listing of the main elements making up the town, their conflicting interests and the problems this set the planners and the planning committee of which she was a member.

Dr Brian White, the host of this year's conference, talked about Maidstone's rôle in the tourist industry. He made the point that whilst Maidstone may not be a very good 'place' for a holiday it did make a good 'base'. Too many tourist venues were being damaged by over-popularity – there could be a greater spread of people staying throughout Kent.

After lunch, the next speaker was Alan Smith, Operations Director of Heritage Projects Ltd. – who runs the White Cliffs Experience and the Canterbury Tales. The point he made was that Tourism needed to be managed if it was to achieve the greatest impact both for the area and for the individual tourist. He described how his company had gone about setting-up their various centres. He also spoke of the need to convince local people that recent developments were in their interests and that we could all help the tourist initiatives to succeed and improve our local economy.

The last speaker was Mr J. Hughes, Countryside Officer for KCC Planning Department. He said that whilst Kent had 4,000 miles of Rights of Way the amount of open space, at 3.5 acres per 100 people, was only just over a quarter of the national average. The need was to improve facilities. He said no more development would be allowed along the North Kent Coast – not defined – and that progress was being made with the establishment of Horse Trails, one of which will be in the Alkham Valley; there will also be a Picnic Site on or near the Eastry By-pass. Any new Golf courses would need to be small, local and 'look like Kent'. Landowners should be assisted to develop open space for its own sake. However, no Forestry Commission Land in Kent had yet been opened to the public.



# *An Appeal for Help*

FROM ROSEMARY DUNN

*re: A History of Dover Grammar School for Girls*

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For many years the Head of Music at Dover Grammar School for Girls, Rosemary Dunn is planning to write a book about the history of the School and she has written to old pupils to ask for assistance in this project. If any of our readers are able to help by contributing anecdotes, photographs or written material, please get in touch with Rosemary at 31 Blenheim Road, Deal, Kent CT14 7DB.

Rosemary suggests three main methods of supplying material:

1. Anecdotal material can be spoken into a microphone and recorded on tape, thus avoiding the chore of writing it down. Please let me know if you would like to do this, but do not have access to a tape recorder or tapes.
2. Newspaper cuttings and other relevant printed/written material can be photocopies. You may not wish to part with precious originals.
3. Photographs will be most acceptable, but they should be clearly labelled and named. They will not be required immediately, so they are likely to be in my possession for some time. However, they will be returned to you as soon as possible.

N.B. Please be certain to state the original source (and date if possible), so that an accurate Bibliography can be compiled, and a record of all contributions be kept.

The following list of categories gives an idea of some of the items upon which attention might be focused:

Pupils	War time Evacuation
Teaching Staff	Press cuttings about the School
Ancillary Staff	Games teams
Distinguished Old Girls	Sports Days
Governors	School Photographs
Speech Days	Buildings
Concerts	The OGA
Dramatic Productions	The PTA
School Magazines	Fund-raising events
Outings	The Curriculum
School Trips	Matriculation
School Exchanges abroad	'A' and 'O' Levels/GCSE

*Please help : Even yesterday is now History.*

# The Dover Society at the Dover Pageant: Libby Mason

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With a brilliant blue sky overhead and plenty of sunshine, we arrived at Connaught Park. The Society tent was already up and people were busy setting up tables for refreshments and raffles. John Owen, Budge Adams and some of their friends had arrived soon after eight in the morning so everything was practically finished due to their sterling efforts!

It was obviously going to be an eventful day, as the tannoy system echoed around the grassy verges with the message "Will all those with lost dogs, cats or children go to the Victim Support Tent!"

Once the tables, chairs, cakes, prizes and members were ready, all that remained was the start of the show.

The gates had opened and people were already finding their special places to picnic and to watch the events in the main arena. Fortunately this was immediately in front of the Society's tent. With any luck we had a ready-made clientele for the refreshments on the stall. Wagging tails of excited dogs and laughter of children seemed to be the order of the day. Everyone who passed by appeared determined to enjoy the day off work. The Dover Society was extremely honoured to receive a visit from none other than Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth I (Mrs Lorraine Sencicle) who greeted us with a regal "Hi, how are you?" She then swept away to meet her many other loyal subjects, ranging from Ancient Druids to young ballet dancers!

The Pageant began: it was a real contrast of modern technology and days gone by – the camcorders recording the events to show in later years to children, or grandchildren, perhaps. History never dies and we are all part of it.

Many local Groups and Schools played their parts as history unfolded before us; Druids, Romans, Saxons, St. Augustine, Vikings, William I, The Black Prince, Henry the Navigator, Magellan, The Cabot Brothers, The Court of Henry VIII, the Court of Spain, Columbus and the American Indians.

Then followed the now famous Chariot Races, our official starter being Dover's own Pearly Queen. Some of the charioteers had either had a lie-in or perhaps one too many the previous evening, as there were several requests for replacements for absent team members. Needless to say everyone, originals or replacements, participated with tremendous enthusiasm.

Meanwhile back in the Society tent wine began to flow and reminiscences were being shared by Society members. Some new members signed on the dotted line too!

So the Pageant ended with the Duke of York's School's military band and "Keep off the Grass" catering for different musical tastes. An excellent day out was had by one and all. Our Society claimed some new members and advertised that there are people in Dover who really care about the town and the surrounding environment.

The Dover Society Druids at Dover Pageant 1992

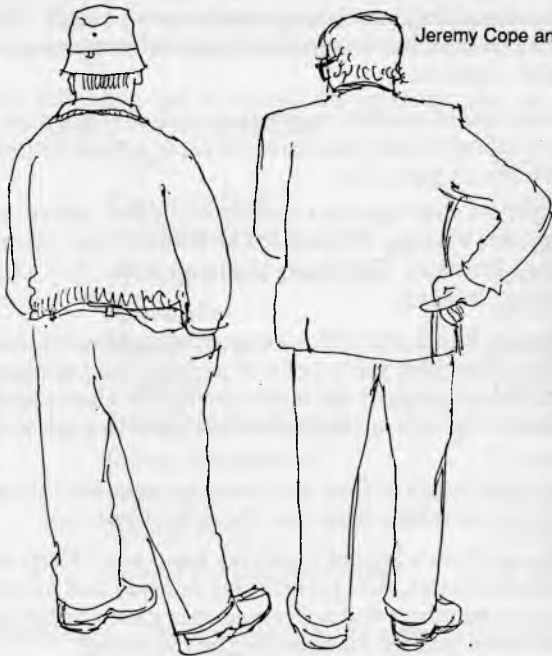


Philomena sketches the scene. Except one, all those in view are Society members



# THE DOVER PAGEANT

Jeremy Cope and the Chairman watch the proceedings



Old Father Time. Dover Society's Tony Payne

Druids setting forth upon their peregrination



# The Dover Pageant, 1908

Following the Dover Pageant of 1992, one of our members, Edna Littlehales, sent us a copy of the "Dover Times" Book of Pageant Pictures from 1908. She had picked it up in a second-hand bookshop some good few years ago.

The pamphlet, printed by the Dover Printing & Publishing Co. , Ltd. 144



A. R. Adams, the Seneschal in the 1908 Pageant

Snargate Street, and priced at Twopence is a pictorial souvenir of the pageant, but includes notes on the seven main episodes and lists on four pages the names of all the people who participated.

The pageant took place in the grounds of Dover College.

The choice of historical subjects included King Arthur, the Saxons and the Normans, King John, Edward I, Henry V, Henry VIII and Charles I, ending with a final tableau and march past.

Some of the most fascinating entries in the pamphlet for present-day readers, are the advertisements. In 1908 you could buy Dress Tweeds at one shilling and three farthings a yard from Mann,

the General Draper in Snargate Street, Champagne from Epernay from James Binfield of Last Lane at 4/- per bottle. Binfield's tea was from 1/- a pound. You could stay at Edinburgh House Private Hotel on the Seafront, in Waterloo Crescent at the north-east corner, from 6/- a. day, 35/- a week. The one advertiser with a presence today is Coulthard & Wilson, High Class Footwear, of Last Lane and Biggin Street but, alas, the only connection, since the 1930's, when the last Mr Wilson retired, is in the name itself.

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# THE DOVER SOCIETY TENT

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With a Naval Officer in command what can one say but that the good ship "D.S. Tent" was manned – pardon me, it seems principally *womanned* – by an enthusiastic crew who were drafted in, persuaded, perhaps – not impressed – and quickly demonstrated their abilities.

John Owen, for indeed it was he, has handed in a "muster list" of those who helped and we gladly print it here.

*Refreshments:* Ann Owen, Merril Lilley, Margaret Robson, Gill Palmer, Libby Mason

*Spot Raffle:* Sybil Standing

*Membership Table:* Sheila Cope, Jeremy Cope (8 new members, 1 re-joined).

*Transport and other things:* Adams, the Printers with Budge Adams to the fore.

*Druids:* Steve Peters, Jack Woolford, Bruce Lilley, Joan Liggett, Paul Merrick, John Owen, Joe Harman, Glen Hale.

*Donations, Refreshments and Raffle Prizes:* May Jones, Ann Owen, Sheila Cope, Merril Lilley, Lillian Kay, Sybil Standing, Jennifer Gerrard, Helena Colling, Marjorie Wright, Iris Peters, Iris MacFarlane, Winnie Cope, Margaret Robson, Mrs Hemmings, Mrs Goulding, Mrs Betty Fitch, Mrs V. Jones, Mrs M. Wiggins.

*Working Party:* Budge Adams, John Owen, Ken Wraight, Sybil Standing, Merril Lilley.

*Druids' Costumes* – Sheets and Pillow Cases: Dover Hovertel.

*Pageant Master and Pageant Mistress* are both Dover Society members.

*Other members* participated with other groups of which they are also members.

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# Consider the butterflies of the field .... \_\_\_\_\_ Roy Chambers

AND THE MOTHS, too! When I see newspaper photographs of conservation projects with well-meaning people hacking away at hawthorn, brambles and stinging nettles, shudders go down my spine. Perhaps they know what they are doing, but such plants are hosts to some of our most attractive insects and a worrying feature about conservation is that many of the participants seem to become engrossed in a specialist area, to the detriment of the whole.

Tree lovers worship trees in any shape or form and when it comes to replacement, rarely stop to consider whether the tree or trees were right in that position originally. Flower people only have eyes for flowers and, normally, bird enthusiasts trample around in the anxiety of their "twitching". A great pity!

Out of this, the least cared for are the insects which have already suffered more than most through "developments", intensive farming and chemicals. Some insects may hold little attraction for the average person but this cannot be said of butterflies and moths; they are the fluttering jewels of the countryside. Yes, many moths are brightly coloured too, and day-flying, not drab, nocturnal beasts who give your fur coat a short- back-and-sides whilst it is hanging in your wardrobe, as some people seem to think.

We are fortunate because our part of England, in spite of set-backs, is still home to a good variety of butterflies and moths. Out of the seventy different species of butterfly, including rare visitors, recognised in the British Isles, about forty-three can be seen around East Kent. I'm not sure about the moth numbers; there are over 2,000 varieties in the country, including micro-lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), and Kent has a good population. Whilst some butterflies have become rarer a number have increased their range in the last



1 Painted Lady    2 Red Admiral



few years, aided by the reduced use of some insecticides, the mild winters and hot summers. Two members of the Brown family, the Satyridæ, whose caterpillars feed on grass, are now to be found commonly in the Dover area when previously their limits were the Weald and Canterbury. The two are the Speckled Wood, the butterfly of dappled sunlight with its blotched brown and yellow wings and the Gatekeeper, a brown and clear orange coloured insect which idly flutters along hedgerows, usually staying within 100 metres of where it was born.

The Speckled Wood is almost continuously brooded from the beginning of April and can be seen until mid-September, whereas the Gatekeeper, which is also known as the Hedge Brown or Small Meadow Brown, is only on the wing in July and the first half of August.

A butterfly which has made a staggering recovery is the Comma which was almost extinct in the mid-1920's, however it is now widespread and can commonly be seen around Dover. A strong, fast-flying insect, it is called the Comma because of the white mark on the dark undersides of its wings. Whilst I find the common names of most butterflies and moths to be romantically descriptive I feel that a better one for the Comma, with its uniquely indented, rich orange and brown wings, would be the Beautiful Brocade. It certainly deserves a less pragmatic title than it has.

The caterpillars usually feed on stinging nettles but in my garden they feed on their alternative food, elm. My elms form part of a hedge and are cut back at the end of each year as I have discovered that this prevents them from getting Dutch elm disease. This butterfly is long lived, surviving for about nine months, hibernating during the winter in dense vegetation.



1 Green-veined White 2 Small Tortoiseshell 3 Peacock 4 Common Blue 5 Large White 6 Small Copper





had had to miss his performance: the kindness and good company of P. D. James who showed such interest in the festival and in the future of Dover itself: the moving and funny performance by 'Words Alive!' at Astor High School's parents evening: Sarah Lear, the children's librarian at Deal, dressed as a furry pink elephant on the hottest day of the year(!), alternately delighting and terrifying her young observers in the Charlton Shopping Centre: Donna's much derided Teddy Bear Rally on a glorious Whit Monday when all the world seemed to have come to Kearsney Abbey with teddies big and small, flat and fat, ancient and modern, to have a good time in the sunshine with Judy and Punch Puppet Company and the splendid staff from the GPO who gave their free time to bring Postman Pat to an entranced young audience. Most of all, I think, I appreciated the good humour and mutual support of the committee when things weren't going too well or when we realised the enormity of the project that we had undertaken so lightly, and also the hard work of Donna Sowerby whose enthusiasm kept us all going.

We have made some mistakes but we have learnt a lot and we will learn more when the District Council's survey results are analysed; this will stand us all in good stead whatever happens in the future. We would have been delighted if some people had taken it upon themselves to write to the Press expressing pleasure with events they had attended, but, alongside some criticism over the siting of the box office, we have all received encouraging verbal appreciation from many people and at least no one can say that we didn't have a go! We remain bloody, but unbowed.



## Deadline for CONTRIBUTORS

An important change has been made in the *Newsletter* publication dates.

As from the next issue publication will be one month earlier than has been our custom, ie in April, August and December. A number of advantages, both to the membership as well as to the Editor and producer will result from the change and will, we hope, soon become apparent.

The Editor welcomes contributions and illustrations, particularly line drawings, or other appropriate visual materials.

The deadline for issue No. 15, for publication on 1st December, is 24th October. The producer would prefer "copy" to be typed, and in any case asks that it be double-spaced. Single spacing, especially in manuscript, is a frequent source of typesetting error.

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College during the first week of the festival. With the help of John Rice, Arts Officer, Kent County Council, we managed to organise this and the college ran workshops for the general public and sessions in local schools. Chris Waterman of Dover Museum and Chris Lean, Public Relations Manager, Dover District Council, were invited onto the committee and Christine offered the museum as a venue for the festival launch and organised the superb exhibition 'Dover in Words and Pictures'. She also agreed to join Ivan Green, the historian, to present 'Dover Past and Present' at the Town Hall, Chris Lean was able to offer his expertise in obtaining publicity for the festival and in organising the brochure and posters.

Whilst all this was going on Donna was beavering away to obtain sponsorship; her efforts were amply rewarded and the festival was supported by Arjo Wiggins, Barclays Bank, Eurotunnel, KCC, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, National Westminster Bank, Pfizer, P & O European Ferries and South East Arts. All of the sponsors not only gave money to support the festival but also showed great interest in the venture for which we are very grateful. Help and support was also given by Dover Choral Society, Dover Film Society, the Dover Society, Friends of Dover Museum, the White Cliffs Experience and the Charlton Shopping Centre.

The meetings went on and on! Donna insisted on running a giant Teddy Bear Rally in Kearsney Abbey on Whit Monday. Misgivings were expressed by some of the committee who were concerned about the possibility of bad weather, drowned teddy bears or, even worse, drowned children, but it was decided to go ahead. Long discussions were held about how to run the Box Office without any extra staffing budget and the publicity material was cleverly devised by Anita Luckett at Dover Museum. The extremely complicated schools' timetable was revised almost daily to accommodate the needs of schools and artists and nearly drove me, and my assistant Jenny Hart, demented. Sleepless nights followed as the programme grew and most of us wondered what we had let ourselves in for!

We had our last meeting on Sunday, 17th May, when Donna and her husband Pete, Peter, Gavin and I went to the Town Hall to make final preparations. By this time we were past caring what happened!

Monday morning dawned bright and sunny and I thought it must be a good omen. I was wrong. By 9.20am I had a frantic phone call from Michael Rosen to say that he had been burgled, he was with the police and he couldn't come to talk to 450 children who had been looking forward to his visit for five months. I managed to telephone everyone just in time to stop the coaches leaving and I decided at that moment that whatever happened over the fortnight, it couldn't be worse than this so it must be downhill all the way from then on. I was right this time! Apart from minor hitches everything swung into action and worked just as planned.

Obviously, I wasn't able to attend all the events but some things stand out in my memory: the caring attitude and professionalism of Colin the Magical Clown who insisted on foregoing his lunch to go back to St. Martin's School to see a group of small children who



# PROJECTS

REPORTS by JOHN OWEN, Chairman of the Projects Committee

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## LOUSYBERRY WOOD SAPLINGS FIT and DOING WELL

At the time of writing the young beech, maple and cherry planted by the Society are thriving and holding their own amidst the surrounding growth.

Some Shelters have been removed where it seemed appropriate to avoid inhibiting growth. The few saplings which are still entirely encased have very tender leaves and where touching the plastic shelter tend to be burnt in the intense sunshine of late. To remove the shelter can mean too rapid a transition resulting in wind- or sun-burn, there being no possibility of a gradual hardening-off process. Hence careful judgment is needed when considering their removal during the growing season.

Most have grown way above their shelters and are prospering but it has been necessary again to clear invasive bramble where it has tended to dominate the young tree. Other surrounding growth has provided useful shade during the many periods of intense sunshine and heat.

## LYDDEN POND RESTORATION SUFFERS IN DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The changes in weather patterns in the South-East have again brought drought conditions. As a result the Society project of restoring the clay-lined Lydden village pond has not fulfilled early promise. After rain, water continues to be lost either because the clay has had insufficient time to weather down or there is a need for further treatment to the basin.

Following another dry winter and in spite of some heavy rain, the water-table remains low and the hot, dry summer continues. The hoped-for typical English summer (wet!) has not materialised at the time of writing. After our short 'set-aside' period we shall soon be considering our options for the coming autumn/winter season when we shall again welcome interested volunteers to our work sessions.

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John Owen  
 Chairman, Projects Committee

## DOVER CADETS IN 'ENVIRONMENT' CHALLENGE '92'



BEFORE



THE "CROP"



AFTER

Dover cadets were again invited by *The Dover Society* to join in a clean-up operation. This year we moved away from our March slot to join in with the nation-wide Environment Week run by the Civic Trust and BT.

Sunday 17th May saw a good turnout of sea cadets and members of the CCF Dover Grammar School for what proved to be a very keen competition between the two teams.

The area to be cleared of environmentally unfriendly rubbish was on private land to the rear of Pencester Road shops, in the centre of the town, where a lot of rubbish had accumulated over many years and had attracted adverse local comment.

Organised by *The Dover Society* an attempt was made to remedy the situation by bringing together the Society, cadets and local council in a combined effort.

Equipment was supplied by the District Council and the cadets soon filled with litter all the bags provided and more were called for; such was the enthusiasm of the two teams to win the trophy – a splendid cup provided by Dover District Council.



THE PRESENTATION

had set a good example in giving up their Sunday morning to take part in this voluntary environmental exercise. All hoped that the now tidy area would prove to be sustainable. Councillor Hubbard, Vice-Chairman, Technical Services Committee, DDC, presented the trophy to the Dover Grammar School CCF, the winning team.

On completion of the work the participants retired to M'Donald's restaurant for welcome refreshment.

Thanks are due to Tesco and M'Donald for sponsoring the cadets in this public spirited voluntary project.

The rubbish seemed never ending, ranging from litter to supermarket trolleys, large plastic packaging and, would you believe it?, two bedsteads. Not surprisingly the large skip was soon filled and as much rubbish again was stacked alongside for later collection.

Chairman Jack Woolford judged the competition and congratulated both teams on their efforts and said they

## A Statue Dover Never Got!

MARJORIE WRIGHT

Some time ago there appeared in the *Dover Express* under the title "Anniversaries" a statement that: "On January 8th 1895 Rodin's statue of King Lear was refused by Dover."

Intrigued by this I recently got around to investigating the extraordinary statement.

In the first place there appears to be no known statue of King Lear by Rodin. (The French are not very keen on Shakespeare, though they are at present comparing François Mitterand with King Lear.)

So, to the Local History Library where, with the help and guidance of the Librarian, I discovered that marvellous chronicle of Dover's history in the late 19th century: *The Dover Year Book*. Here at last the awful and - let's face it - rather shaming truth was revealed. I quote:

### DOVER DAY BY DAY

8TH JAN. 1895. A letter from the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava (Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports) to the Mayor was read at the Council saying that a French gentleman had executed a bronze statue of King Lear which he wished to present to the town. The offer was accepted but up to the present a suitable site has not yet been agreed upon.

22ND OCTOBER 1895. The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava resigned the post of Lord Warden in a letter to the Mayor.

28TH JULY 1896. Monsieur Mulot, the French sculptor, who had promised the King Lear statue to Dover, wrote that owing to the delay and manner (*sic*) his offer was dealt with, he would withdraw it.

NOTE: The life and works of Monsieur Mulot and his place in France's artistic history is another field for enquiry.

POSTSCRIPT: 17TH November 1896. The motor car made its first appearance in Dover.

## LOCAL ISSUES UPDATE

Leo Wright

# WATER – SEA BATHING – SEWAGE

Where has the water come from?

Well before Folkestone District Water Company applied for their 1992 drought order the Kearsney Manor lake was still full *and*, wonder of wonders, the ornamental lake at Bushy Ruff filled.

Then this little mention appeared in the local press :

### Temple Ewell

Millions of gallons of water are to be pumped into the Temple Ewell stream north of Dover from the underground chalk. A special drought order consent was granted by the Department of the Environment for the scheme.

(Dover Express 19 June '92)

*Adscene*, even more optimistic, added : "Special drought order consent has been granted by the Department of the Environment. Engineers will pump water from boreholes near the stream's sources." (This should have read : 'A special drought order has been applied for...')

In due course we all heard and saw Lord Crickhowell, Head of the National Rivers Authority, on radio and T.V., saying quite strongly, that the water companies must cease causing rivers to dry up. True, he took the Darent as his example, which tends to be in stockbroker country, but perhaps there has also been a strong circular letter, even unto F.D.W.C. in Gath and Ascalon.

It would seem to have been so. A spokesman for F.D.W.C., (the Engineering Manager, Mr G. A. Cross, who came to the Inquiry in Temple Ewell last year) gallantly refused all thanks and congratulations for the present happy situation. It was, he said, entirely the work of nature: the relatively high rainfall in March. If all went well later it would be due to the proposed special drought order and our thanks would be due to the N.R.A. in the first place and to F.D.W.C. in the second.

Last year there was no visible "compensatory" water for our streams and lakes, so where will any "compensatory" water come from?

The terms of the 1992 special drought order will be as follows:

There will be no change in the extraction from Stonehall and Holmestone but increased extraction from Kingsdown and the Rakeshole Valley. Now, Kingsdown *was* supplying Eurotunnel whose requirements are greatly reduced.

The conditions linking pumping at Stonehall and Holmestone to the flow of the Dour have been relaxed, to our possible disadvantage.

Nevertheless, F.D.W.C. hope and believe that there will be enough water available overall, provided the special drought order is ratified, for them to be able to honour the auld alliance with Temple Ewell Parish Council concerning "compensatory" water.

It is into Watersend pond that one million gallons a day may be pumped. If achieved, this might maintain the water level in our lakes and keep the River Dour flowing.

Meanwhile, let us count our present blessings while they last but also concentrate on what amenity societies and interested parties – and we are *all* water users! – should be saying to the water companies during the coming months and years. The companies should be seen to be spending more and more of their truly enormous profits more and more quickly on infrastructure: on repairing leaks, building reservoirs (Broad Oak, for example), inaugurating a partial national water grid and reducing the pollution of our sea beaches by improved sewage treatment and longer "long" sea outfalls. Even St. Margaret's Bay, our best beach, failed this year to merit inclusion in a list of Britain's top beaches which pass the E.C. standards for levels of pollution.

Southern Water who, as we know from our bills, are responsible for disposing of Dover's sewage, have promised improved sewage treatment and they have announced an exhibition "in the Autumn". The exhibition will display plans for a new treatment works in the Shakespeare Beach area and an outfall twice as long as the present one. So, do make a note of the exhibition and be sure to go to it *and ask questions..*

9th July 1992

To be continued ...

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## Planning Committee Matters

Ken Wright

Planning applications are thin on the ground at the moment and therefore the Planning Sub-Committee has had a quiet time.

The decision by CRS to demolish their building in Biggin Street and rebuild sparked comment. We have pointed out that the existing façade lends a degree of distinction to the main street and that if there is no alternative to demolition then considerable thought should be given to what is put in its place.

We are in the process of drafting a letter to our M.P., Mr David Shaw, about the disgraceful state of town centre roads affected by the A.20 development.

We were ready to appear at the enquiry into the Cannon Street Amusement Arcade but, as most people will now know, the application has been withdrawn.

# The Four Georges

An Exhibition of Original Clothing and Accessories from 1714 - 1830

Dover Museum : 4th April - 10th May, 1992

SHEILA COPE

When visiting any display of artefacts from the past, one always hopes for a revelation – an insight into the actual life styles and attitudes of people. Some disappointment is inevitable since only the "best" is generally saved. My own wedding dress, polythene wrapped, still hangs in the wardrobe, while everyday clothes are regularly cleared out for re-cycling.

This exhibition, selected from items belonging to the Kent Costumes Trust contained many ladies' gowns were of two main styles. Those of the earlier period were made from heavy fabrics, mostly heavy brocade, necessary to support the full skirt and tight bodice of an overdress. But there was evidence of re-cycling! The insert stomacher and petticoat or underskirt at the front could easily be changed. So different colours or fabrics would be adapted to accommodate an altering female figure or a subtle change in fashion. This process had taken place in many of these robes and spanned at least 100 years in one case; the original brocade dated from 1723 and the final version of the dress was worn at a family wedding in the mid 80's.

The later period showed quite a reaction. There was a comparatively plain cream silk dress from 1795 of "Jane Austen" style, high-waisted under the bust with low round neck and puffed sleeves. Now there was simplicity. Fabrics were fine cotton lawn or sprigged muslin, silk gauze or tulle and trimmings are dainty. Nevertheless, the task of the needlewoman, almost invisibly stitching such materials, must have been no less arduous. One's heart aches for Elizabeth Phillips in 1750, poring over her sampler design to show different darning techniques – so much labour for such a pedestrian result. Fortunately somebody treasured it.

Manufactured items, such as stoles and including a fabric piece woven in Canterbury around 1724, were extremely fine-spun and showed much foreign influence. Some excellent workmanship was demonstrated by the accessories on display. They were exquisitely embroidered gloves, hand-painted fans showing pastoral and mythological scenes and purses woven in silk or straw and decorated with beads. Ladies protected their faces from the heat of the fire – there is a hand-held fire guard – but mainly from the elements. There was a natural linen sun bonnet from 1790 contrasted with an enormous black calash from 1800. By what feat of will-power or engineering was this kept on the head? Such headpieces reflected status; the more elevated the hat, the more exalted the wearer!



Labelling in this exhibition was so discreet that in some cases it was difficult to discern particular items. More detailed descriptions of obsolete garments such as fichu and lappet would have been useful. This need was particularly relevant in the underwear section where the significance of corset and stays could be illustrated with diagrams. How many children understand the purpose of a busk? How interesting to observe that stockings were pink or orange and decorated and that garters in 1880 were not grubby circles of elastic but patterned lengths of ribbon.

There were ladies' pocket books with fashion plates illustrated elaborate dresses ornamented with frills, feathers and jewellery and embellished hair styles. But a few items demonstrated the practical aspects of women's lives. There was a Redincote (riding jacket) from 1780, tailored in brown silk/wool lined with pale blue silk satin and a pair of sturdy low-heeled green lace-up shoes in Grecian style from 1815. Even one elegant high-heeled satin slipper had its matching clog and there was a patten – an overshoe based on a cirlet of metal – which in 1800 would raise its wearer two inches above the mud.

Apart from several quilted and embroidered waistcoats which would have been stored for special occasions, there were few men's clothes on display. Some elegant tailed coats had ornamental rather than functional buttons, obviously an important feature. Were cream doeskin trousers in 1836 equivalent to black leather today? A Chapeau Bras of 1790 made of black silk shag was similar to that worn by Admiral Nelson. Silk cockades on the hat were not exclusive to the military.

In almost the final case of this fascinating exhibition was a collection of babies' robes and bonnets, passed down through the generations no doubt. But it was worth kneeling to examine the most interesting items of this section: a boy's dress in plain cream silk from 1770 and a small pair of breeches, shabby and in unbleached coarse cotton. How did they survive the wear and tear inflicted on them by a boy in 1830?

## Music on the Ramparts

Ken Wraight

On Saturday, 6th June, English Heritage, in association with Dover District Council, staged this concert in the grounds of Dover Castle, with the Keep as a backdrop. Two Brass Bands and the Thanet Male Voice Choir presented a very full programme, including the '1812 Overture', complete with fireworks. They had to contend with a recalcitrant piano, some very indifferent amplification, not to mention a cold and misty night. Nevertheless they succeeded in producing a very enjoyable evening.

The audience was not large, no doubt affected by the weather but also by the pricing arrangements. Having paid £6.50 for admission one does not expect to pay another £2.50 to park the car. Not in Dover anyway!

'Music on the Ramparts' was a novel concept and one which is well worth repeating, perhaps a little later in the year – with darkness adding to the atmosphere – and with a free car park!

## *Deal & District*

Roy Chambers

# *Model Railway Society*



**DOVER TOWN HALL : 27th – 28th JUNE 1992**

Until the cowardly and heartless attack upon the Royal Marines' School of Music this Society had presented, for many years, magnificent exhibitions in a large drill hall. In spite of the visually more interesting building the Town Hall was an enforced second best for this event, having less adaptable space, poor lighting, poor access and poor parking.

However, there was again a fine selection of models of all shapes and sizes and trade stands where you could dispose of your unwanted money for tempting new or second-hand pieces.

For the miniaturist there was 'N' gauge (2mm=1ft) showing a vastness of landscape with chalk cliffs and a distant castle and church above the station. American and Continental enthusiasts were catered for in 'HO' (3.5mm=1ft) with dramatic scenery surrounding operating trains.

Most layouts were in the popular '00' scale (4mm=1ft) showing an excellent selection of locomotives and rolling stock trundling through rural landscapes or industrial settings with terraced houses. The delightful Southern layout of the River M.R.C. had nodding cows, a smoking chimney and tiny rabbits hanging up outside the lighted butcher's shop. A fine Welsh narrow-gauge layout really oozed atmosphere as the characterful locomotives scaled the levels to the foundries.

Memories of the not-so-old were re-kindled by a well-presented Hornby Dublo 3-rail layout from Canterbury, whilst an Ashford enthusiast brought joy to the Hornby '0' gauge (7mm=1ft) fanatics with his beautiful tinsplate items. A friend and I also provided nostalgia, using my pre-war '0' gauge layout to operate examples by Bassett-Lowke, Hornby, LMC, Bing, etc.

And if you like real steam, what better than the smell drifting from the modern, large-scale models of narrow-gauge locomotives, double-heading a log train.

Something for all; a pity all were not there. Brilliant weather drove them to the beach or the garden!

THE OFFICIAL OPENING of

## DOVER TRANSPORT MUSEUM'S

## NEW HOME ————— Budge Adams

What joy to be – for a whole three hours – in the happy company of a dedicated band of enthusiastic amateurs : amateurs in their status but wholly professional in their attitude to their chosen speciality, their enthusiasm was amply demonstrated and was infectious.

Representatives from many local societies and clubs (Philomena and me from our society) were guests of the Transport Museum in the Maison Dieu and were presented to Dover's Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs W. T. Newman – to mark the civic importance of the occasion? After this pleasant touch of formality we all, the Mayor and Mayoress happily with us, embarked in a fleet of vintage vehicles which, after much photography by all sorts of people and from all sorts of angles, set off on very nearly the longest route to the new Museum in Cambridge Road. (No, the A20 contractors had no hand in the arrangements!). The cavalcade was led by an open-sided Dennis 28-seater bus, vintage 1929, and a 1959 Humber Super Snipe, a 1965 Commer Fire Engine, a 1934 Austin 10 Lichfield saloon and an antique double-decker bus completed it. What fun! People on the route smiled and laughed and were at one with us in our enjoyment of the whole affair.

At the museum the Society's President, Mr George Blackburn, using an efficient and well-modulated P.A. system, ably and succinctly drew a word picture of the organisation's birth, its aims and development and the underlying reason for today's occasion and then gave thanks to the Dover Harbour Board for making a home available for its large and most interesting collection, albeit on a (long-term.?) temporary basis. He said that as the new premises, in spite of their temporary nature, were more than reasonably adequate, the Museum had decided to apply its funds and income to the restoration, refurbishment and repair of its exhibits rather than use them on the building itself. An imposing frontage can be a great help in projecting an image but I think most people would agree that what is in the bottle is what really counts.

The Society's President thanked all the members, their wives and supporters, – and many friends – who had helped, using their varied skills and abilities, to make the Museum the success he knew it should and would be, and then, in a charmingly sincere denouement, complimented and thanked the 11-year old daughter of one of the members whose school project on the History of the Dover Transport Museum Society had so completely provided him with a ready-made speech full of facts and interesting sidelights.

Mr Blackburn then invited Councillor Newman, the Mayor, to unveil a tablet, made by Michael Harris, a member of the Transport Museum Society, which in a well-proportioned and pleasing design, commemorated the occasion.

The Mayor, in a suitably short speech in which every syllable could easily be heard, said "he was delighted to have led – he was a little unsure, he thought he led – the cavalcade of vintage vehicles. It was a wonderful, and to him, unique, experience and he was so happy to share in it. He thought the thanks of the town should be extended to the Dover Transport Museum Society for surmounting their problems" and "with committed zeal . . . with enthusiasm, with stubborn persistence and imagination . . . pursued their cause", — the establishment of the Museum in its new quarters. He also said that it was not just cars that the Museum Society's members were concerned with but they had "a belief in quality, a belief in craftsmanship, a belief in design" and "a care and love for the vehicles, a delight in vintage cars, which I think are" essential parts of "our rich and present inheritance. The spectacle . . . rallies and warms the heart. This is a great triumph, Mr President."

The Mayor then unveiled the plaque, the Museum was officially open, the guests were invited to take refreshment and there was a general invasion of the galleries. For me, the restored and restorable vehicles, the wide range of artifacts and paraphernalia of transport in a bygone age were fascinating, almost breath-taking, especially a 1930's railway ticket office, nostalgic, but so very accurate in all its detail – the unfinished mug of tea, the cards from a game of 'pontoon', the clerk's high chair with a rough tear in the leather covered seat, the whistle and the lantern. Working models of Dover trams, a whole sheaf of bus tickets, posters, time-tables, uniforms, luggage barrows, colliery 'tubs', the variety was endless. And on hand were enthusiastic members of the Museum Society ready to explain and amplify. I was a young boy in a seventh heaven! Go to see it!

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The Museum is open Wed/Thur/Fri/Sat from 2-5pm. On Sundays from 11am-5pm.  
Admission £1.50. Children, 3-16 years, £1. Senior Citizens £1.

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## BINDERS for the *NEWSLETTER*

The Society has a small stock of Binders for the *Newsletter* in the more recent A5 size. The binders were made to hold thirteen copies, but as the number of pages in our journal is now considerably more than was first envisaged, thirteen is beyond the designed capacity but they will hold at least a full three year's issues. The colour of the binders is a "warm brown" – almost mahogany and they are very durable. Gold lettering on the spine reads; "THE DOVER SOCIETY —NEWSLETTER". They are good value at £3.50 each + postage where applicable. A phone call (208008) or a note to Budge Adams at 24 Castle Avenue will reserve a binder for you.

The letters of Arthur Plantageney, Viscount Lisle, lovingly collected and edited by Muriel St. Clare Byrne (1981) are a prime source of history for the most memorable seven years of the reign of Henry VIII – 1533-1540.

More parochially, as Viscount Lisle was Lord Deputy of Calais, there was much Channel crossing and the three thousand letters include frequent references to Dover, many of which would merit quoting in the *Newsletter*. Below are two samples.

As we watch from the Cliffs or the sea front, or from the Gateway or Waterloo Mansions the comings and goings of the dredger, we can give a thought to the problems of Dover Harbour in a less technological age.

On 29th October 1527 Lord Lisle wrote to Cardinal Wolsey:

*“Please it your Grace to understand that this xxix day of October at Dover by the counsel and advice of the Mayor and others there, we have made as great diligence for to have passage as was possible. The ships which be in the Wyke cannot be get into the Road, howbeit there be many men with drags and horses to make way for them to be brought out. It is thought that if the wind continue this night our horses and carriage shall be shipped. And the next tide, God willing, we trust to make our passage . . . .*

There are frequent references to the difficulty of keeping Dover Harbour from silting up. On this occasion the Prior “gave” half a tide’s dragging for Lisle’s journey, and the Master of the Maison Dieu “gave” twenty-three tides when Wolsey went over and came back.

In 1535 John Whalley, paymaster of the King’s Works at Dover, informed Cromwell that he was having chains and drags made, to get rid of the great quantity of pebbles that are accumulating in the haven. A year later he tells him that “if the King comes to Dover he will be able to see a ship of four score or a hundred tons come into the harbour, as the channel and the harbour entrance have been almost cleansed.”

Lisle seems to have got away on that occasion a couple of tides later for on 31st October 1527 he wrote:

*“May it please your Grace to understand that the xxx day of October at afternoon we departed from Dover, and for expedition leaving behind our horses and baggage; and so that night we arrived at Boulogne haven at midnight, where we lay at road till four of the clock in the morning. We came to ill lodging in Basse Boulogne.”*

Not very comfortable to lie in the Boulogne roads for four hours. But the Channel crossing was always an ordeal until very recent times. Arthur Young wrote (5th June 1798) “Passage to Calais. 14 hours for reflection in a vehicle which does not allow any power to reflection – 21 miles . . . .

# A Dickens Evening

23rd November 1992

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NOVEMBER seems quite some way off but this is the best opportunity to draw attention to a rather special meeting.

On the 3rd of November we are organising an evening of Dickens readings after the manner in which Dickens himself excelled.

The reader is Professor Dr. George Curry, M.A., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of the University of South Carolina. He was a pupil at the Dover Boys' Grammar School.

He made a successful and profitable hobby of his "Dickens Evenings" which follow the traditional pattern of Dickens' own readings.

Professor Curry regularly performs at the National Portrait Gallery, London, and every Christmas at the British Embassy, Washington.

He performed at the Rochester Dickens Festival and has performed in many centres world-wide of the English speaking Union.

We owe his appearance in Dover to the personal contact of our Vice-President, Miss Lillian Kay, and Professor Curry is very pleased to be coming back to Dover.

He wishes to waive his usual fees; he wants the occasion to be open to the public and to be free of charge. The evening is being sponsored by the Complete Financial Services who now occupy the "David Copperfield House" in the Market Square.

Admission will be by programme.

There will be a raffle with unusually good prizes. Professor Curry wishes all profits to go to Dover charities and we shall make sure that these are as generous as possible.

So, do note the date in your diary and be sure to arrive early on the evening of 23rd November because the meeting is open to the public and it will be first come first served.

LEO WRIGHT

# Tracing the History of Your House

Peter Ewart

THE increasing interest in local history has led to a sharp rise in those who obtain enormous enjoyment from tracing the history of their house and its previous occupants.

One does not need to own a medieval hall house or a Georgian mansion to be able to enjoy the thrill of detective work involved in this most absorbing of pursuits. The most ordinary dwelling – urban, suburban or rural – has a past, and with luck and perseverance, the story of the most mundane building can be pieced together, as can the comings and goings of those who owned and or occupied the dwelling through the years. In order to be able to understand one's findings and place them in their appropriate historical and social context some wide reading will also bring benefits, as with all historical research.

My wife and I live in the outermost reaches of the Dover District Council area; indeed, our house is the second most northerly building in Staple parish. And herein lies an early lesson – it is as well to find out in which parish your house stands, both now and in the past, as many of our local archives were compiled and administered at parish level.

However, regarding the previous owners and occupants, a sift through the title deeds should enable you to draw up a list of your predecessors in chronological order. Our own deeds only survive as far back as the 1920's, but a stroke of luck revealed that we already knew a relative of the owner who died in 1977. Not only were we able to map out the family and learn of the alterations completed in recent decades, but our friend, a member of the Kent Family History Society, kindly provided photographs of two generations of the Hills family, who farmed from our cottage for nearly 50 years. Exhibits like this will embellish any scrapbook and researchers should make every possible attempt to trace previous occupants, hopefully obtaining photographs of the house and its owners. This is usually possible with



the use of deeds, correspondence, telephone directories and street directories. And don't forget to ask the neighbours – they may know more than you think!

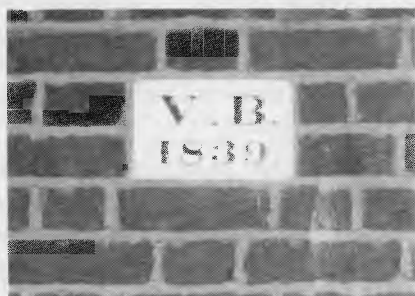
Although we were not sure who occupied our house at the turn of the century, street directories were extremely useful. These volumes – Kelly's, Post Office, etc.– are no longer published, but once listed every resident by address in a given district. The further one goes back, the more these directories only list the gentry or commercial entries, but most public libraries (including Dover) have a good collection.

Dover Library is the repository for the chief source used to trace the whereabouts of local residents during the 19th century – the 10-yearly census. An approximate (and later an exact) address is given between 1841 and 1891, enabling you to pin down the head of the household, his age, occupation and place of birth, as well as his family and any servants living there on census night. The family historians among you will already know these records, which, when used in conjunction with the parish registers, provide a vivid picture of a district in Victorian times. In order to be positive about the exact address, careful comparison with other records is necessary – street directories, parish registers and, if available, detailed maps.

Branch libraries hold good collections of census material and ordnance survey maps and a visit to Canterbury Cathedral Archives will generally produce the parish register or a copy. But was your house there in those days? Or was it, perhaps, a different building altogether? The large scale ordnance maps of c1907 and c1872 may answer these questions (Dover Library again). For the most revealing details of all, the Tithe Map of c1840 will show not only the building but the owner, occupant and the use to which any land or garden was put.

In our case the census shows that Richard Port, a farm labourer, and his wife, Charlotte, were in residence from 1861 to 1891. Evidence of the place of birth of their children and comparison with the parish register and rate books (Canterbury Cathedral Archives) pins down the arrival of Richard Port to 1858. This is also confirmed by the Staple churchwardens' accounts. We do not know when they moved to Sandwich, but they died there in 1904. Their children, some born in this house and some a year or two earlier, grew up and worked locally, mostly marrying into very local families. We have also identified the cottage where the Ports lived before they came to this house and we are in touch with a descendant who lives in Kent.

Richard Port had succeeded William Appleton, another labourer with a small-holding, and his wife, Sarah, and children. In ascertaining how long this couple had occupied the cottage, we became involved in trying to establish the identity of the owner and also the accuracy of the date stone above the front door, which contained the inscription, "V.B. 1839".





172 Datestones often indicate the year the house was built – but not always. Extensions, renovations or dates of purchase were also commemorated thus. However, the tithe map for the Shatterling division of Staple, although dated 1839, was surveyed in 1837, and showed a house on the exact site – owned by a Valentine Bushell and occupied by a William Appleton! Another map of 1797 (on which the Kent Ordnance Survey map of 1802 was based) clearly shows a building on the same spot and it therefore seems likely - because the existing brickwork and doorway are contemporary with the stone - that the present house was erected in 1839 on the site of another which was pulled down. The owner evidently re-installed the existing tenant, who, according to the churchwardens' accounts (Cathedral Archives) and Land Tax returns (County Archives, Maidstone) had already lived on the site for about ten years.

Any earlier tracing of the building's past must be done chiefly through its occupants. This is possible by referring to the wealth of parochial archives for the 18th and early 19th centuries, such as the churchwardens and overseers' accounts, Land Tax and Window tax. However, great care must be taken, when trying to establish a chain of occupancy, that errors are not made by hasty assumptions. Much can be discovered by the order in which the names are recorded each year, rendering sudden changes more noticeable, but alphabetical lists can make a mess of your calculations! As with all research, it is important to compare your findings with other sources, thereby building a strong hypothesis which appears more feasible than any others. By this method we have painstakingly traced the occupancy of the previous building to the Elvery family, a poor man and his wife in regular receipt of parish relief. Not until the 1760's do we have an owner-occupier.

But what of Valentine Bushell? Detailed genealogical work on him in parish registers of Ash and Deal, as well as family wills and electoral poll books, revealed that he was born, married and buried in Ash, but never lived there after his childhood. From the 1820's he ran a saddlery business in Lower Street (later High Street) Deal, until his death in 1859, when the business passed to his son. He bequeathed the cottage (which had been acquired for investment purposes only) to his son, Thomas, but with a life interest for his widow, who derived a quarterly income from the rents until she died ten years later. Valentine had originally acquired the property through a brother-in-law and we can trace the ownership of the house before his time, through the Adkins and Baker families of Ash and Staple. An astonishing stroke of luck revealed that Deal library holds a photograph of Valentine's shop in Deal in c1859, with two men posing outside – Valentine and his son, Thomas?

Much has been done but much remains to be done - the search never ends. But by making a start you will soon discover the thrill of reconstructing the story of the home in which you live, and perhaps identify with the men and women, boys and girls, who lived, worked, prayed and slept in the same rooms you inhabit today. .



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Compiled by Anne Mole

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**OXFAM:** Mrs Joan Pursey  
**RSPCA:** Mrs Flowers  
**SCOUTS:** Mr Ivor Disbrey  
852532 (home)  
**SENSE:** Audrey Merralls  
**SPASTICS' SHOP:** Mrs Danvers  
0634 578954

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## CROSSWORD — No. 6

### Clues Across

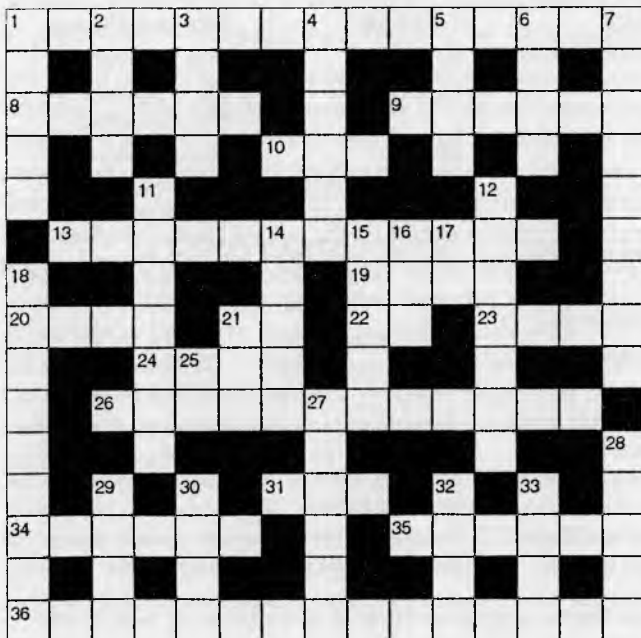
- 1 TML (5,6,4)  
8 He wrote "Dover Beach" (6)  
9 Local scheme to help Dover (6)  
10 Caught in Channel waters and paid on arrival (3)  
13 One way to cross the Channel (6,6)  
19 Smallest unit of an element (4)  
20 Boss of a shield or buckler (4)  
21 Sloane agreement? (2)  
22 Musical note (2)  
23 Colour or flower (4)  
24 Catching device (4)  
26 Lines of 16 were his (12)  
31 Ancient (3)  
34 Female parent (6)

35 A ruin? (6)

36 Our local? (3,5,7)

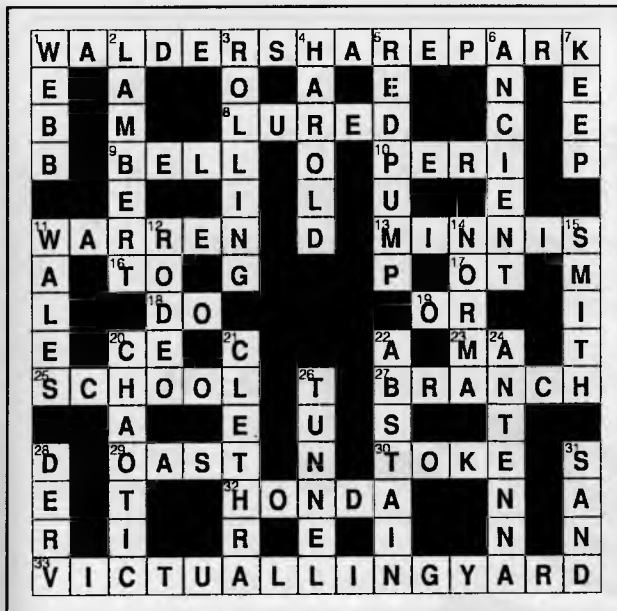
### Clues Down

- 1 For rail or racing — (5)  
2 Roman year (4)  
3 July or January phenomena? (4)  
4 Used for textile or stockings (6)  
5 Jane Austen heroine (4)  
6 Russian Great (4)  
7 Seabird found on The White Cliffs (9)  
11 She sought the Wizard of Oz (7)  
12 "He that gathers —, dreadful trade" *King Lear* (7)  
14 Hang loosely in folds (5)  
15 Consume utterly (3,2)  
16 15 in the past (3)  
17 Joint (2)  
18 Bird of the seashore (9)  
21 Species of ox from central Asia (3)  
25 Artist (2)  
27 I leave an army man to join up (6)  
28 Found on the Goodwins but not in Dover (6)  
29 Eye infection (4)  
30 To withhold assent (4)  
32 Retain in a castle (4)  
33 Wise shrub (4)



## Solution

to  
Crossword  
Puzzle  
No. 5



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## *The Objectives of the Dover Society*

*founded in 1988.*

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

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

Members receive three *Newsletters* a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events – talks, tours, visits, a Members' Meeting, a Christmas Feast, etc.

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



## THE DOVER SOCIETY

Please note: Annual Subscriptions become due on 1st April

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Please Print in Block Capitals For Renewal:  Membership No.

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ADDRESS .....

.....

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP: £4.00 per person per year.

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

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

Special Interests .....

.....

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

.....

.....

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

.....

.....

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

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# PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 12  
Monday

TRIP TO ST. OMER  
Coach from Dover

OCTOBER 12  
Monday 7.30  
Open Meeting

'IMPACT' IN DOVER  
Speakers: John Clayton, Director of Planning, DDC.  
Roy Adsett, Ramsgate Society  
Julian Owen, Project Leader, IMPACT  
Discussion of Local Issues.  
Members' questions and suggestions.  
St Mary's Parish Centre (Parking at Stembrook)

NOVEMBER 23  
Monday 7.30

DICKENS EVENING  
Readings by Professor Curry  
St. Mary's Parish Centre (Parking at Stembrook)

DECEMBER 12  
Saturday 7.30

CHRISTMAS FEAST  
Dover College Refectory

1993  
JANUARY 18 or 25  
Monday 7.30  
Members and Guest

THE ARCHÆOLOGY of the A20 CONSTRUCTION  
Speaker: Keith Parfitt, Director of Excavations  
Canterbury Archæological Society  
Menzies Hall, Folkestone Road (Parking in Priory Rd)

FEBRUARY 22  
Monday 7.30  
Members and Guests

WINE and WISDOM  
St Mary's Parish Centre (Parking at Stembrook)

MARCH 22  
Monday 7.30  
Members only

MEMBERS' MEETING  
St Mary's Parish Centre (Parking at Stembrook)

APRIL 13  
Monday 7.30  
Members only

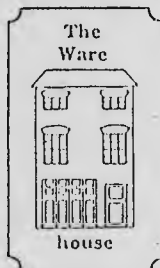
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Speaker : Mr W. Fawcus, Dover Harbour Board  
Property Development Manager  
St. Mary's Parish Centre (Parking at Stembrook)



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