

The  
Dover  
Society

# Newsletter

No. 25

April 1996



£1

The *Black Prince* of Fred Olsen Lines, the first ship to make Dover its home port

IF SOLD

SP

# THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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

PRESIDENT:

Brigadier Maurice Atherton

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

A. F. Adams, Mrs Silvia Corral, Ivan Green, Jack Ind  
Peter Johnson, Miss Lillian Kay, Miss Philomena Kennedy, Peter Marsh  
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rees, Jonathan Sloggett, Terry Sutton,  
Miss Christine Waterman and Martin Wright

THE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Jack Woolford

1066 Green Lane, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3AR Tel: 01304 822871

VICE-CHAIRMAN (1): John Gerrard

77 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 01304 206579

VICE-CHAIRMAN (2): Jeremy Cope

53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD Tel: 211348

HON. SECRETARY: Leo Wright

"Beechwood", Green Lane, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3A Tel: 01304 823048

HON. TREASURER: Jennifer Gerrard

77 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 01304 206579

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Sheila Cope

53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD Tel: 01304 211348

SOCIAL SECRETARY: Joan Liggett

Tel: 01304 214886

EDITOR: Merrill Lilley

5 East Cliff, Dover CT16 1LX Tel: 01304 205254

CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE: Lawrence Gage

9 Castle Street, Dover CT16 1PT Tel: 01304 242749

CHAIRMAN OF PROJECTS SUB-COMMITTEE: JOHN OWEN

83 CASTLE AVENUE, DOVER CT16 1EZ TEL: 01304 202207

PRESS SECRETARY: Terry Sutton

17 Bewsbury Cross Lane, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3HB Tel: 01304 820122

ARCHIVIST: Sibyl Standing

16 Harold Street, Dover CT16 1SA Tel: 01304 210715

A. F. Adams, Adrian Galley, Margaret Robson and Ken Wraight,  
with Mike McFarlane as an Advisory Member.

# Contents

166	EDITORIAL	
168	CHRISTMAS FEAST	Nan Wheeler
168	AN APOLOGY	
169	LETTERS: To the CHAIRMAN	
204	To the EDITOR	
169	A CHANCE OF A LIFETIME	Philomena Kennedy
170	PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT	Lawrence Gage
170	Plans for Connaught Park and Dover Pageant, 1997	Mike McFarnell
172	PROJECTS	John Owen
	Tree Planting, A Woodland Outing, Cowgate Interlude	
175	UNFINISHED LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Jack Woolford
176	IMPACT UPDATE	Linda Wade
178	MEMBERSHIP NEWS	Sheila Cope
179	St. MARTIN'S EMMAUS AT ARCHCLIFFE FORT	Terry Sutton
179	One of the last Hereditary Freemen - <i>Obit</i>	Mrs K. J. Short
180	DOVER'S NEW CRUISE TERMINAL	John Gerrard
181	CRUISE LINER RECEPTION GROUP	Terry Sutton
182	"MUSIC FOR THE IRON VOICE"	
183	THE FESTIVAL OF DOVER	
184	SAMPHIRE HOE	Matthew Shepherd, <i>Project Officer</i>
186	INTRODUCTION TO THE 'OLD DOVER' FEATURE	The Editor
187	'SHAKESPEARE CLIFF TO LANGDON BAY'	Derek Leach
190	FOUR INTERESTING PICTURES	Budge Adams
191	RECOLLECTIONS OF AN EDWARDIAN CHILDHOOD	Extracted by Merrill Lilley
195	DOVER'S FRONT-LINE THEATRE	Dick Whittamore
201	EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER TO AMERICA, 1942	Nan Wheeler
203	WINE & WISDOM	Merrill Lilley
203	Dover International Model Boat Show	Mike McFarlane
205	DOVER HISTORY - A selective bibliography	S. S. G. Hale
215	THIS AND THAT - DOVER CHAT	The Editor

## 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, archæology, 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. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All Members receive three News-letters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events - talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

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

## Editorial

March 25th is the date of the March Members' Meeting and, incidentally, the date when *Newsletter 25* is expected to go to print, in time for members to receive their copies by 1st April.

It is impossible, therefore, to include in this issue a report of the meeting and of the talk by John Turgoose of Dover Harbour Board on the new Cruise Terminal in the Western Docks, due to be officially opened in June 1996. For members who do not attend the March Meeting, there will be a full report in the *Newsletter* on 1st August, by which time a large number of the expected 97 cruise ships will already have visited the port.

Meanwhile Vice-Chairman John Gerrard, has written a report for this issue of the *Newsletter* and, because it was the first cruise ship to declare Dover its home port, we have chosen for our cover this time a picture of The Black Prince, of Fred Olsen Lines.

Another reason for using the picture of a cruise ship on the cover is the fact that the opening of the Cruise Liner Terminal is the one piece of good news to report in, it seems, an otherwise rather depressing time for Dover.

Anyone reading Lawrence Gage's Planning Report in this issue will be inclined to echo his pessimism. There is no support for the idea of a "Sports Academy" and Ice Sports Centre at the Old Park Barracks site; no chance of submitting the Society's application for millennium funding for a project on Western Heights, which seemed so promising; no sign of the removal of the hoarding at the York Street roundabout; Burlington house remains an eyesore and the Town Grants Scheme is to be discontinued.

However, since the Planning Report was written, several members of the Dover Society Committee recently attended a meeting with six officers of the Dover District Council, for

an open and frank discussion of several items of concern to us all. The Committee feels that our relationship with Dover District Council was strengthened by this meeting, which was part of our on-going dialogue between the Council and ourselves. Among the subjects discussed were Old Park Barracks, Millennium bids, the St. James' Scheme, Western Docks developments, relocation of the miner's statue, maintenance of the Rolls statue and the future of the Town Centre Management Scheme.

Many members of the Dover Society feel that there is tremendous potential for the future development of Dover and that this should be explored and utilised. It is hoped that many of the inventive ideas and schemes which have been proposed will, eventually, reach fruition.

IMPACT finishes its three year programme in Dover at the end of March this year but the team will be staying on at the Castle Street premises for a further two months, before moving on to Folkestone. We appreciate all the work the team has done in Dover and look forward to Julian Owen's speech to the Society at our Annual General Meeting.

The first two meetings of the Society in 1996, the slide show in January and the Wine and Wisdom evening in February, were very popular and successful. The January meeting is reported at length in the main section of this issue on the theme of Old Dover. Many thanks to all the contributors to this section, especially to Dick Whittamore and Nan Wheeler for their fascinating memories of the war years in Dover.

The summer programme is detailed, as usual, on the inside back cover of the *Newsletter*. An application form for the Chatham Dockyard trip is enclosed with this issue but at the time of going to print all the details of the French trip are not yet available. The trip will cost £20 and if you wish to reserve a place, please telephone

Joan Liggett. Application forms for the London trip will be included in *Newsletter* No. 26, due out on 1st August.

There are several other events, the most notable being the Vardon Organ Recital on 18th May in the chapel at Dover College. Admission is free, and programmes, priced £1.50, will be on sale at the door and available from committee members in advance. Proceeds from the concert go to the East Kent Hospice.

For the tour of Buckland Paper Mill on Wednesday 19th June, maximum number 20, names will be collected at the March meeting. It is anticipated that the demand for places will exceed 20 and if this is so a second tour will be arranged. If you miss the chance of this tour on June 19th and would like to join another tour at a later date, please contact Joan Liggett.

The idea of arranging visits in small parties, which was suggested at last year's Members' Meeting, is being explored and will be tried out this summer with a number of venues. These are mentioned in 'Dover Chat', page 216. No dates have yet been fixed. Members will have an opportunity to discuss this scheme at the March meeting in the session after the interval.

The Dover Festival this year has a theme of Spirit of the Sea. The Festival runs from 25 May to 8 June and includes, as usual, a wide range of activities, talks, exhibitions, concerts and workshops. As in previous years, all contributions in the form of articles or reviews relating to the festival will be welcomed. So if you attend any of the Festival events please write about them for our next issue and send your copy to the editor by the end of June.

Finally, two reminders to members. The Annual General Meeting is on 22nd April, 1996, and the Agenda is included with this *Newsletter*. Annual subscriptions are due in April at the new rate, £6 for single and £10 for joint membership.

Best wishes to all our readers and success to all our summer outings and events.

THE EDITOR

# The Christmas Feast

AUDREY KIRK

GAZING AROUND the lofty interior of Dover College Refectory on the night of 16th December I pondered on the Christmas feasts of many years past. Had there been austere meals with chanting or were they riotous feasts with music? Probably both, we'll never know, but most likely it would have been very cold!

Our feast, with John Gerrard acting as Master of Ceremonies in the absence of our Chairman, who had 'flu, was fit for a "King and Queen" with the most varied and sumptuous choice of dishes both savoury and sweet and washed down with good table wines.

It was a fitting occasion for our President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton, to present the Arjo Wiggins paper mill with a special award for their splendid new gas-driven power plant, which as well as being a good modern design is extremely efficient in its operation.

After the speeches, we were royally entertained by members of the Dover Choral Society under the able leadership of



THE BRIGADIER MAKES THE AWARD TO ARJO WIGGINS Michael Foad who, between musical pieces read some evocative and at times, highly amusing poetry from John Betjman and Allen Bennett.

As usual, Jeremy and Sheila Cope did the Society a great financial favour by running the raffle, which I understand raised the record sum of over £160. Following the raffle we all sang the evening to a splendid close with popular carols and wished seasonal greetings to all our friends.

A special thank you to Joan Liggett and her husband Richard who, as usual, splendidly organised the whole evening. On this occasion she deserved special praise for recovering so effectively from the misfortune of spilling all the table place names on the floor immediately prior to our arrival.

---

## AN APOLOGY and Errata

The *Newsletter* expresses regret that paragraph 2 of page 117 of issue No. 24 contained inadvertent factual inaccuracies and, below, prints the corrected version.

"He then introduced the first speaker, Ian Gill, of the East Kent Initiative, recalling that he was once Town Clerk of Dover and had succeeded James A. Johnson in that capacity. Mr Gill had collaborated with the New Dover Group in saving from destruction one of the remains uncovered by the archaeological dig in the Market Square area organised by Brian Philp, in which the Painted House was discovered. He became Chief Executive of Thanet District Council in 1975 and was now returning to Dover as Managing Director of the East Kent Initiative."

18th December 1995

Dear Mr Woolford,

May I thank the Dover Society for their very kind invitation for my wife and I, on behalf of Arjo Wiggins, to attend their splendid Xmas Feast at Dover College on Saturday last and to accept the Society's Certificate of Award for Buckland Mill's Combined Heat and Power plant.

It was an altogether splendid evening. The college did a really excellent job on the fare, we were looked after right royally throughout the evening, and the after-dinner entertainment by Michael Foad and the Dover Choral Society was quite superb.

As I said at the dinner, we here at Buckland Mill have a very strong "good neighbour" ethos and by a process of

continuous improvement we all strive to see the mill prosper as a benefit to the local community and the Dover economy. It is very gratifying to have had our efforts towards these aims, and the environmental and energy efficient issues, recognised in this way.

It was very nice to meet your President and Mrs Atherton; his words at the presentation were very much appreciated. I should also like to thank John and Jennifer Gerrard in particular for their very enjoyable hospitality.

Thank you once again for thinking of us in this way. The Society's Certificate of Award itself is beautifully produced and will have pride of place at Buckland Mill.

Yours sincerely,

J. A. SHEPLEY,

*Development Manager*

## A Chance of a Lifetime!

### A VERY SPECIAL OFFER

In recognition of the great interest which members of the Dover Society have shown in the discovery of the Dover Bronze Age Boat the opportunity of a short trip is being offered in the newly-restored vessel. The Committee (whose members have been busy practising paddling skills in order to gain a Certificate of Proficiency) will take turns in crewing the boat, with Lt-Cdr John Owen, Chairman of the Projects Sub-Committee, as Captain.

To take advantage of this totally unrepeatable offer you should assemble on the Snargate side of the Wellington Dock between 9.30 and 11.30am. Be prepared to wait as only ten passengers can be taken on each trip. Please wear waterproof clothing and a life-jacket (just in case!) Obviously all trips must be completed by midday on Monday, 1st April.

Philomena Kennedy

*The work of the*

# PLANNING

*Sub-Committee*

Reported by LAWRENCE GAGE, *Chairman*

This has been a rather disappointing period for us as many of our initiatives have come to nothing and a number of our comments on planning applications have been ignored.

## OLD PARK

The sub-committee produced a thorough ten-page document outlining why we believe the site could and should be developed for a high profile use such as a regional 'Sports Academy' and Ice Sports Centre. Our ideas were presented to the Dover District Council which decided not to support such a proposal. The application for a large industrial and warehousing project over the whole site, together with a substantial amount of new housing, a petrol filling station, restaurant and other ad hoc facilities, has recently been given planning permission. We objected to this application on the grounds that its approval; will seriously affect the success of the adjacent White Cliffs Business Park which is currently struggling to attract tenants and investors. Additionally we believe there is no need for more new housing sites to be allocated, as Dover is already over-provided for in terms of sites designated for housing. Our objections, and those of others, were not heeded and Dover looks like having another unsuccessful Business Park and housing it does not need. It is a great shame that the enormous potential of this spectacular site to provide a high profile use, giving the town a new regional rôle, is being lost.

## DOVER MILLENNIUM PROJECT

We were delighted that the Dover Society's application to the Millennium Commission for funding of a project to regenerate the Western Heights as a managed nature reserve together with a New Millennium Pharos there was confirmed as meeting the Commission's criteria at the first stage. Much work was done by the Committee to prepare the documentation for the next stage of the application and the project had the support of English Nature and English Heritage. However, at the eleventh hour the District Council decided it was not willing to support our application. As the Council own the land and their support was crucial, we reluctantly had to withdraw the application. We were particularly disappointed with the Council's decision as not only has two years of considerable effort been wasted, but we were not even asking for financial backing – just its enthusiastic support.

It is clear that Dover has a very strong case for a project of national importance to mark the Millennium – and it has been pointed out that it is difficult to think of another provincial town in Britain that so famously represents the image of our nation, particularly as we approach a millennium that will undoubtedly be inextricably linked with Europe. It is a great shame that Dover now looks like missing out on the big 'golden opportunity'. Fortunately applications for a number of smaller projects to be funded by different Lottery funds are in the pipeline and we wish them every success.



## FORMER EYE HOSPITAL

Despite our objections, planning permission has been given to build flats on the site of the former Eye Hospital at Noah's Ark Road.

## HOARDINGS AT YORK STREET ROUNDABOUT

Despite our considerable success in encouraging the Council to refuse planning permission, and the Council's decision being upheld at an appeal, the hoardings are still there! All those hoardings are illegal – but it seems that at present the Council is powerless to do anything about it!

## BURLINGTON HOUSE

Thankfully, the planning application to convert 'Dover's Eyesore' into housing has been refused. An appeal is pending and the Dover Society will be there to continue to oppose the application and to press for the demolition of the building to make way for an appropriate re-development as part of the 'Dover St. James Masterplan.

## ECONOMIC STRATEGY

We have recently commented in detail on the draft of an annual document prepared by the Council. It reports some encouraging new initiatives that are being

taken, but generally lacks a vision for the future of the town.

## TOWN GRANTS SCHEME

Dover has a fine stock of historic buildings, especially those of the 19th century, many of which display particularly imaginative and high quality detailing – an asset that is not always fully appreciated. Unfortunately, many of these unusually good examples of the period are sadly neglected. Previous grant schemes have gone some way to help 'stop the rot' and funding from the Town Grants Scheme, albeit modest, was crucial in this process.

Now it is distressing to learn, just at the time when the valuable urban regeneration work of IMPACT is drawing to a close, the Town Grants Scheme is not to be continued, thus losing for Dover the money from the agreed three-way partnership funding from English Heritage and the K.C.C. Does this mean that Dover will be left with little or no conservation resources?

## In General

The Committee will remain watchful of all planning matters and will continue to keep the pressure up to make Dover a better place to live, work and play in.

---

*Contributed by MIKE McFARNELL*

## PLANS FOR CONNAUGHT PARK

Information from the Dover Society's questionnaires has been collated. At a meeting at Dover Girls' Grammar School in February it was thought that probably the best chance of obtaining any money for Connaught Park was through the channel of Sport in Education. As new guidelines from the Sports Lottery Fund on this are being issued in April, further discussion was postponed until they appear. A further meeting will be held in June. Any progress will be reported in the next *Newsletter*.

## DOVER PAGEANT 1997

Noreen Thomas has written the script for the 1997 Pageant, which for this special occasion will be at Crabble Athletic Ground which in that year celebrates its centenary. It was opened on 7th June 1897.

The 1997 Pageant will be on 4, 5, 6 and 7 June and the theme will be TRANSPORT.

# PROJECTS : Update

JOHN OWEN, Chairman, Projects sub-Committee

## National Tree Week's 50th Anniversary

### TREE PLANTING IN THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The Defence Land Service (MOD) and the Duke of York's Royal Military School, joined forces in a tree-planting partnership on Wednesday, 22 November: it was, appropriately, the first day of National Tree Week 1995.

The Dover Society's initiative was enthusiastically received by the school, the DLS and farmer Mr Simon Phillips.

A DLS landscaping project at Broadlees Farm provided the opportunity and with National Tree Week imminent, Defence Land Agent Mr Nigel Fisher suggested the pupils of the Duke of York's School might like to assist with their tree planting programme.

Mr John Davey provided a volunteer party of boys and girls from the school who gave an afternoons hard work planting oak, beech and ash. A total of fifty bare root trees were put in, expertly supervised by staff of the Defence Land Service who provided the trees, shelters and stakes along with the necessary tools for the job.

It was something of a happy coincidence that we had a project involving the planting of fifty trees, fifty years after the ending of the second world war, by pupils with strong service connections working with the Defence Land Service and the Dover Society to enhance the environment in close proximity to the white cliffs of Dover.

TV viewers will recall the first-class local contribution by the Duke of York's choir in the presence of Her Majesty the

Queen at the Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance from which they had recently returned.

On completion of the tree-planting task a Dover Society framed certificate to mark the occasion was presented by the Chairman of the Projects Sub-Committee to Andrew Breach who received it on behalf of the school.

Before we dispersed events were completely upstaged at the farm by 'Pinky' and 'Perky', two newly acquired pigs who demanded and received the full attention of the young 'Dukies'. Never have backs been scratched so much nor such joyous grunts expressed!

PLANTING TREES AT BROADLEES FARM, DOVER





DUKE OF YORK'S R.M. SCHOOL, DOVER with DOVER SOCIETY CERTIFICATE HELD BY ANDREW BREACH

## A WOODLAND OUTING

National Tree Week also saw a small group of members taking coffee in Louseyberry Woods and enjoying a viewing stroll up and down public footpath ER182 in fine weather on Saturday morning 2 December. The recent winds had stripped most of the leaves but the trusty beech with leaves intact enabled us to readily identify the Society's plantings of some five years ago.

It will be remembered that our aim was to ensure its continuation as a beech wood after the decimation of the beech in the hurricane of

"WELL ESTABLISHED AND THRIVING"  
(THE BEECH, THAT IS!)



1987. Left to its own devices the wood, of course, regenerates naturally but with a predominance of ash and other species.

The invasive bramble now protects the young trees which are well established and thriving. With maturity they will provide a canopy which in turn will inhibit the bramble and produce the characteristic clear beech woodland 'floor'; but that will not be for some time yet.

We rounded off our visit with the planting of a fine young three year-old horse-chestnut which we had brought on from seed.

## COWGATE INTERLUDE

COWGATE CEMETERY, Dover, a Georgian/Victorian burial ground much overgrown in recent years and needing seasonal care and maintenance, the White Cliffs Countryside Project has taken it under its wing and has organised regular clean-up and tidying sessions within its volunteer programme.

It was one of these sessions which the Dover Society Support Group joined on Friday 10 November. We matched its volunteers one for one with our team comprising 50% of the work force.

Apprehension owing to the overnight rainfall soon disappeared for the skies cleared, rain kept away and the sun came out.

A briefing from WCCP officer Phillip Green set us to work cutting back year-old ash, sycamore and much bramble. Meanwhile regular WCCP volunteer Tom wielded his motor mower and made short work of the grass pathways.

Mounds of cuttings, the result of extensive use of the provided sickles, saws and loppers, were put to good use in producing a magnificent bonfire worthy of the occasion. The all-important kettle was put on and tea was soon made available to the thirsty workers.

The management of the cemetery is largely seen as one of containment, preserving its assumed status as an important local wildlife habitat. The graveyard is of considerable historical interest but addi-

tionally it attracts a great deal of attention for its flora and fauna and perhaps especially for its birds and butterflies.

tionally it attracts a great deal of attention for its flora and fauna and perhaps especially for its birds and butterflies.

We set about culling some of nature's more extravagant excesses, which are rampant if not controlled. Bramble and rose proved quite vicious at times as if protesting at the intrusion.

Joe had to leave early for the gasman was calling. Margaret was late arriving having wisely done her shopping first. Jack, who refused a sugared coffee (Ann made it), stayed the course but had to leave for his regular lunchtime appointment.

Noisy hovercraft apparent throughout, though good for the localeconomy, were enough to waken the dead. The work went on and that done by the Society team was much appreciated by the WCCP. It is some time since a Society group as such has turned up to help; hopefully it will not be so long before we are able to do so again. All in all it was a most enjoyable and friendly occasion with a little hard work thrown in.



Three members of the Support Group:  
JOE HARMAN, ANN OWEN and  
JACK WOOLFORD..



# UNFINISHED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

---

---

JACK WOOLFORD

---

---

MEMBERS WILL RECALL that the Local Government Commission recommended that Kent County Council and existing District Councils should survive, the view which the Dover Society itself supported. We protested against the Government's appointment of a new Commissioner and the changing of the rules in favour of Unitary Authorities in North-west Kent, as reported on p. 121 of *Newsletter 24* of December 1995. The new Commission has recommended that Gillingham-Chatham-Rochester should become a unitary authority outside the KCC. This is what we have said in reply to John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment, who has to make the decision:

Although Dover, which retains its two-tier structure under the County Council, is not directly affected by the revised findings of the Local Government Commission, the view of the Dover Society has been and remains that Kent is an integrated peninsula needing strategic unity, from which the exclusion of Gillingham-Chatham-Rochester, as "peripheral", is arbitrary and absurd.

We have already pointed out that the government was intent on promoting unitary authorities (for political advantage) and sacked the Commissioner and re-wrote the rules to get what it wanted, despite the overwhelming public endorsement of the status quo in Kent.

The government wanted two Unitary Authorities in N. Kent (Dartford-Gravesend and Gillingham-Rochester-Chatham) and the Commission has now rejected the former but accepted the latter.

The preferred criteria are geography and history, economics (both past and prospective) and local preferences.

Dartford-Gravesend survives because of past differences and present antagonisms, ratified by opinion surveys. Gillingham-Rochester are patronisingly joined despite hostile opinion surveys because it would be good for them. This is palpably inconsistent.

The Dover Society trusts that self-evident common sense will prevail.

+ + + + +

The Dover Society very much welcomes the establishment of a Parish Council for Dover and is pleased to distribute the enclosed information leaflet from the Kent Association of Parish Councils. Two members will be chosen by each of the eight wards and if there are more than two nominations per ward there will be elections on May 2nd.

IT IS VERY MUCH TO BE HOPED THAT ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE DOVER SOCIETY WILL BE NOMINATED AND ELECTED.

## STOP PRESS

Mr Gummer can now decide, but the pressure is off because there is no longer time for the projected elections to the new authorities this year. They are postponed to 1997, with re-organisation from 1998, before which much may happen. If, however, Mr Gummer does have time to decide, he is presumably likely to opt for the Commission's suggestion, despite our good advice.

# IMPACT

ACTION IN LOCAL IMPROVEMENT

UPDATE by LINDA WADE

**JULIAN OWEN**, our Project Manager will be speaking to the Dover Society at the AGM on 22 April, so I do not want to steal his thunder in this report by anticipating too much of what he will have to say then. However, he has let it slip that he hopes to provoke the usual lively debate. He will be reflecting not just on whether IMPACT has made an impact, but also as I mentioned in the last *Newsletter*, that the scheme in Dover and Deal formally comes to an end on 31 March 1996. The District Council has finally agreed that the KCC team can stay on a little while longer at the 69 Castle Street office so that the IMPACT team will still be very much involved with on-going work locally as well as beginning to turn their sights to the next projects – principally in Folkestone.

## TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Impact is now very much closer to forming the Dover Town Centre Management Partnership into a Limited Company and to appointing a town centre manager to continue the commitment to town centre issues. The continuing management of the town centre has always been a key development of the IMPACT programme. It has created key partnerships with all those concerned and had been crucial in generating confidence in the centre's future. The stop-watch scheme is an example of how town centre management has effectively helped retailers in the town centre to set up a radio link security system linked to CCTV. This brings them into closer contact with each other; they are able to exchange information about potential "n'er do wells", and the system helps combat everyday petty crime before it happens.

The other good news is that Dover now has a community policeman on the beat in the town centre. The town centre management partnership has always experienced a close working relationship with the local police and is delighted that a friendly and recognisable police presence will give a greater perception of care and comfort which, in turn, will continue to promote Dover as a safer place to shop and do business.

Also the town centre management partnership is now becoming quite skilled at putting together town centre promotional packages aimed, in the national retailers' jargon, at increasing footfall, or, to you and me, just making it a good place to be.

Easter will provide the next occasion to welcome extra customers into the town. The Town Centre Management Promotions Working Group will be co-ordinating its usual package of special shop window displays, a children's Egg and Spoon Race and an Easter Bonnet Parade. Anyone interested in joining in these activities should contact me on 01304 214141. Last year's Easter bonnets were a sight to behold, and the children had a lot of fun.

## THE NEW IMPROVED SEAFRONT

IMPACT is very proud of its work in partnership with Dover Harbour Board which has brought about such a delightful improvement to Dover's seafront promenade. On 23 January Kent County Council Chairman, Derrick Molock, unveiled a plaque to mark the completion of the work. The ceremony also opened to the public an integral feature of the project – Ray Smith's "On the Crest of a Wave" – the sculpture inspired by Dover's history of Channelswimming. Alison Streeter, M.B.E.,

Channel Swim World Record Holder, was also one of the invited guests.

At the opening, Gill Hedley, the Director of the Contemporary Arts Society, said how Ray Smith "has a vast amount of experience at listening to what people want, and reading all the values of the place - consulting the genius of the place, as a landscape artist might say. What he has come up with is something, if you will forgive the pun, distilled so that the spirit of the place is revealed".

It was good to hear that Dover Harbour Board plan to continue with the rest of the promenade.

### YORK STREET CORNER

By the time this *Newsletter* is published work should be complete on the prominent York Street corner, very important in terms of first impressions for visitors and passers-by. The scheme was complex in its creation, involving a series of partnerships with various landowners, changes to leases and the agreement to shift sideways the footpath alongside the Nu-Age nightclub. The retaining walls have been re-faced in flint and brick and the car park will be screened by shrubs and hedging. All the planting will be taken into the District Council's programme of care.



IMPROVEMENTS AT THE YORK STREET CORNER WILL GREATLY ENHANCE THE APPEARANCE AND VISIBILITY OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH

### NEW BRIDGE

Adding on to the improvements already carried out on the seafront, works on the second phase of New Bridge are now taking shape. The two refurbished sections respond to the fine building façades and will delight all who use it as a route to and from the sea. It includes lawns, high quality natural paving, and specially designed lights, and the scheme is expected to be finished in May.

### VICTORIA CRESCENT

As I write IMPACT is awaiting competitive quotes for work in front of Victoria Crescent, including re-instatement of the railings and repair of the walls and hope to be on site during April.

### CASTLE HILL

Also due on site during March is KCC's highway safety scheme at Castle Hill, which involves a number of lit traffic islands. In such a sensitive location, we have been

concerned to avoid as much as possible the 'creeping urbanisation syndrome', and so IMPACT'S contribution will help fund better paving, granite kerbs and more traditional lights.

### WORK IN DEAL

Remembering IMPACT'S remit includes not only Dover but also Deal, a series of improvements and enhancements have been carried out, all aimed at strengthening the town's existing character and its points of arrival such as Middle Street Car Park. The latest idea to be tackled is the Pier entrance area. IMPACT has designed a scheme which re-models the flower beds and reduces the height of the front walls to allow the new planting to be more easily viewed from the street level.

Dover District Council is also looking after the selection of a suitable art feature for the centre of the entrance area. This has arisen as a result of a bequest left to the town of Deal. The donor, Mr Kennett, requested that part of the proceeds of his estate be given for or towards the cost of improvement of the entrance and forecourt of the pier.

The bequest was made in appreciation of the many pleasant years Mr Kennett had spent in the town and of his kindly associations with the residents. It is hoped that the newly improved entrance area will receive a work of art which will be both stimulating and worthy of its setting, and of the spirit of Deal, which Mr Kennett had clearly experienced during his time there.

### WHAT NEXT?

One of the things IMPACT said it would do is to leave behind a 'shopping list' of future project ideas including some wacky ideas of our own! For the KCC team, working in Dover has been a challenge, but also (mostly) a real pleasure and certainly the County Council has been pleased enough with the results to decide to continue with the IMPACT programme, despite budget cuts. There was fierce competition for the next location, which in the end came down to Folkestone, where we will again be tackling the problems of the coastal towns, as partners in a very wide-ranging "Believing in Folkestone" initiative.

---

## Membership News – Spring 1992

---

Numbers continue to rise steadily. Subscriptions now due are payable at the new rates of £6 single and £10 joint. The committee believes the subscription represents good value. Our financial situation is sound and we hope to hold subscriptions at the new level for some time.

Once again, I commend Standing Order as a method of payment: why not ask me for a form? Complete it and send it to me – I will add your membership number if you have mislaid it – or, if you wish to send it direct to your Bank or Building Society, please let me know if you have done so.

Since November 1995 we have welcomed: Mrs M. E. Dixon, Mrs J. Groves,

Dr J. C. G. Binfield, Mr D. H. Popman, Mr & Mrs J. Steed, Dr & Mrs J. Hinton, Mr R. & Mrs D. Hearn, Mr R. J. Meares and Mr P. & Mrs J. Cook.

Obituary: In addition to two of our Vice-Presidents, Sir Clifford Jarrett and Lord David Ennals and Mrs May Elvey Bradley already mentioned in August 1995, sadly we have also lost Mr D. G. Eagles, Mr G. Brown, the Rev. G. Johns and Mr Harry Fagg.

SHEILA R. COPE

**STOP PRESS** A Standing Order form is enclosed with all *Newsletters* delivered by hand. Some of those sent by post will also include a form.



# St. Martin's Emmaus at Archcliffe Fort

179

TERRY SUTTON

The first Companions have now moved into Archcliffe Fort — even before the centre has been officially opened— and they have been busy plastering and painting the rooms.

At the time of writing the Trustees have not obtained written permission to take over the Henry VIIIth-built fort, but English Heritage has verbally given permission.

It was a big disappointment for the organisers that English Heritage declined to spend, or contribute, money towards the estimated cost of £110,000 to make the fort wind and water tight. As a result proposals for the conversion of buildings have had to be curtailed.

Generous benefactors have already given over £90,000 and Dover District Council has made a grant of £35,000 to provide improved access.

A bid has been made to the National Lottery Charities Board but, so far, without success. Charitable Trusts are also being approached. The Trustees say there is

still a need to raise about £200,000 to complete the project so that the community can become self-financing.

Miss Kendal Beasley has taken up duties as co-ordinator at the fort, where she is now living. She came from St. Thomas's Hospital where she was a senior staff nurse. Her family home is at Northbourne, near Deal and her parents, brothers and sisters have already demonstrated their support for the project. Kendal has spent time, training, at other Emmaus communities.

The Trustees have set up a panel of speakers to tour schools, churches and organisations to explain what the Emmaus project is about.

Christians Together in Dover, members of which initiated the project in Dover, are organising a fête in Pencester Gardens on 22 June in aid of St. Martin's Emmaus.

The centre now has a large van for the collection of unwanted items (practically anything) and Miss Beasley or the Companions will collect from your home. Offers, please, to 01304 204550.

## One of the last Hereditary Freemen of Dover

**HARRY SIDNEY FAGG**, lately Dover Society member [ ], was one of the last remaining hereditary Freemen of Dover. Born in Dover on 13 April 1901 he spent his boyhood in the town and was a pupil at Barton Road School. He served in both world wars but spent much of his civilian life in a North London suburb. In 1968, after the death of his wife Marion, he returned to East Kent, to a house on the outskirts of Eythorne where he lived until 1988 when advancing years forced him to move nearer to his family in Deal. He was very active until he died on 18 November 1995. His cheerful disposition and his ready wit will be sorely missed.

BUDGE ADAMS:

### "On the subject of the Newsletter . . ."

*Since we changed to a smaller type size and a two-column format - to ease the pressure on space - I have been acutely aware of the loss of legibility the change brought about and have searched widely to find a suitable replacement.*

*At last I discovered "Veljovic" - with a name like that it could have originated in central Europe or maybe in the poly-racial USA. It is straight-forward and well-balanced and the "x-height" has a happy relationship with the ascenders and descenders. The "c\_eness" of the lower-case e's and o's and a's should make reading easier and it condenses well. I hope you will like my choice.*

# Dover's new Cruise Terminal nears completion

JOHN GERRARD gives the Society the latest information on the development of the Harbour Board's plans for the Cruise Terminal at the Western Docks.

THE MAIN CONTRACTORS for the Terminal are the Canterbury-based firm of Wiltshiers who have recently been taken over by the Dutch firm of Ballast Nedam and they are confidently aiming to hand over the project in mid-April.

Given the appalling state of the roof structure left behind by British Rail after years of neglect, the contractors have done wonders to restore the steel and glazing in the terminal area near to the old war memorial to their present pristine condition. However, further expensive restoration work remains to be completed in the rest of the station area which will be used as a covered car park for cruise

customers and it is hoped that much of the high cost of this work will be covered by Government grants.

The first informal cruise ship call is scheduled to take place on 19 April when the Fred Olsen Line *Black Prince* makes one of her regular visits and the first major call will be the arrival of the Festival Lines *Balero* on 23/24 May.

The grand formal opening is likely to take place on 20 June, when the Cunard Line *Royal Viking Sun*, recently voted the world's finest cruise ship, makes a six-hour stopover.

Following some aggressive marketing by John Turgoose and the Board's cruise



Following some aggressive marketing by John Turgoose and the Board's cruise team, ninety-four calls are expected so far this year and over eighty are booked for 1997.

The following cruise lines are now booked and some of them have made Dover their permanent base:

Fred Olsen Lines  
Cunard Line  
Holland America Line  
Norwegian Cruise Line  
Royal Cruise Line  
Princess Cruise Line  
Costa Cruise Line  
CTC Cruise Line  
Festival Cruises  
Hapag Lloyd.

The largest ship expected this year is the 44,000 grt *Royal Princess*, which carries 1250 passengers and has a length of 235 metres.

Not content with resting on their laurels, the cruise team is off to the Sea Trade Cruise conference at Miami in March to attract yet more business to Dover and they are after some very big fish indeed!

A great advantage Dover will enjoy, in comparison with other U.K. cruise ports, is that local residents will be afforded good close-up views of the ships from the nearby Prince of Wales Pier.

On some days this year there will be as many as four cruise ships in the port and in these circumstances it will be necessary to use the existing terminal at the Eastern Docks. Details of arrival times will be placed on our seafront information boards.

All of this has to be good news for Dover. It is hoped that a substantial proportion of the cruise visitors will come into the town and enjoy its many tourist attractions. The Chamber of Commerce is currently working with the District Council and others to develop this potential.

JOHN GERRARD

## Cruise Liner Reception Group

TERRY SUTTON

THERE HAS BEEN intense activity amongst tourist groups and local traders to ensure that there will be a warm welcome for passengers arriving on cruise liners at the new terminal.

The Cruise Ship Welcome Group was set up by the White Cliffs Country Tourism Association (WCCTA) and has members drawn from all tour companies, taxi firms, town centre management and Dover Harbour Board. Ken Wraight represents the Dover Society and the chairman of the group is James Overton, tourism manager for Dover District Council.

The group has prepared an excellent brochure showing the many attractions of the district. Brochures will be placed on the cruise liners before they reach Dover.

There has been difficulty in providing funding for this brochure, costing in the region of £5000-£6000 for 40,000 copies. Having failed to find a sponsor nationally, attempts to get funding have now switched to local companies. Initially this cost is being funded by loans from members who want to make sure Dover benefits from the visits of cruise liners.

The group is also considering other ways of attracting passengers. One idea is to produce a video, to be kept on the ships, highlighting the many attractions in and around the town. Another plan is to produce good class posters about Dover, which can be displayed at the terminal, where Dover Harbour Board has offered wall space. However, at present, with lack

182 of progress in finding finance for the brochure, these two other projects cannot be put into operation.

WCCTA accepts that not every passenger who arrives at Dover will want to visit Dover District, but operators suggest that there is always a substantial number of passengers who remain at the port-of-call and explore the port area.

There are three sectors of the market to target: passengers who embark and disembark at Dover, those who come ashore

during a port-of-call and crew members, who are unable to go far from the port when their ship is in dock.

Several members of the Dover Society have offered their services to supplement Dover District Council's 'welcomers' at the terminal. If any other members wish to volunteer their services they should contact tourism executive, Cheryl Gilling at Dover District Council Offices (Dover 821199), giving name, address and telephone number.

***DON'T FORGET THIS IMPORTANT DATE IN MAY***

*The Dover Society presents*

**“Music for the Iron Voice”**

An Organ Recital by

**Terry Vardon, MA., ARCM**

of Temple Ewell and Dover Boys' Grammar School:  
Headmaster of King Henry VIII School, Coventry

An Illustrated Recital of the King of Instruments:  
from Bach's Toccata and Fugue *via* Widor  
to (Scott Joplin's) Ragtime

**Saturday, 18 May at 7.30**

in the Chapel at Dover College

*by kind permission of the Headmaster*

Admission Free. All proceeds from programme sales and refreshments will be given in aid to the East Kent Hospice



DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL'S Arts and Special Events Programme for 1996 is centred around the theme 'Spirit of the Sea', chosen to reflect the celebrations and anniversaries of the year.

The Festival of Dover is now in its fifth year and has established itself as an annual celebration promoting hundreds of activities. Local involvement has grown extensively with community groups and clubs eager to be part of this major event.

The programme, a balance of popular culture and traditional arts, will provide something for everyone and for this fifth anniversary includes some activities in Deal, Sandwich and the rural areas.

● **The Dover Maritime Show - Maritime '96 23-27 May, Dover Marina**

A new major event aimed at visitors from a wide area including nearby Europe. There will be a wide variety of vessels in the Marina and entertainments, arts and crafts on dry land.

● **Festival Europe Day - Sat. 25 May**

The Festival opens with the true spirit of the sea and the links across the Channel. The children's French Theatre production "Attrape Couleurs" will be staged in Deal, followed by "Henry VIII and the Field of Cloth of Gold" by Luc Tassart, Director of Boulogne Tourism. Crabble Corn Mill will host an exhibition of French artists

and the Junior Library will be host to a special exhibition of "Asterix from the wonderful land of Gaul".

● **Teddy Bears Pirate Picnic- Bank Holiday Monday, 27 May - Kearsney Abbey**

A traditional fun day out, with Punch and Judy, Teddy Bears competitions, deck games modelboat displays, Postman Pat's Road Train, Honey demonstrations and a special appearance of Singapore Dancers.

● **Jolly Roger Fun Day - Wednesday, 29 May - Dover Town Centre**

Half-term Fun Day of pirates and maritime activities. Free entertainment, music, street theatre, story telling, competitions and free entry to White Cliffs Experience for all young pirates!

● **Cinema 100 Celebrations**

Recognising this Centenary, the Silver Screen Cinema hosts a series of Saturday morning picture shows for young people. The Dover Film Society has a classic film evening at The Empire, Sandwich. Special £1 entry to all cinemas on 2 June.

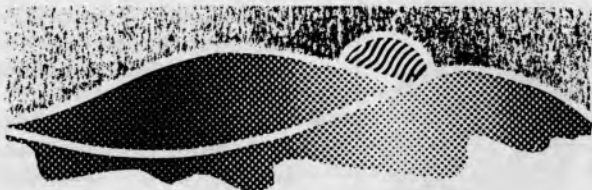
● **"The Tempest" by Kent Shakespeare Project, 6th - 8th June - Prince of Wales Pier**

This open air production by a local theatre group will be followed by a firework display to crown the final Festival evening.

A full Festival Programme, including highlights of the 'Spirit of the Sea' 1996 events taking place up to the end of September will be available from late April at all local outlets

From 1st May tickets will be on sale at the Box Offices at Dover and Deal Tourist Information Centres.

You may register for an advance copy of the programme by ringing the Festival Hotline on 01304 375192.



## WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT



MATTHEW SHEPHERD  
*Samphire Hoe Project  
Officer*

# SAMPHIRE HOE

SAMPHIRE HOE is an amazing place. Many of you will have followed the story of its creation in recent years. For those who haven't, it was created from just over half of the seven million cubic metres of chalk marl excavated from the Channel tunnel (the rest went to France). Situated below Shakespeare Cliff it covers about seventy-five acres (thirty hectares). Part of it is occupied by service facilities for the tunnel, with the rest being managed to create an attractive place for both wildlife and people.

Habitat creation on this scale in such conditions has not, to our knowledge, been done before. For young plants Samphire

Hoe is a horrid place - the chalk marl is sticky and poorly drained when wet and baked solid when dry, it has low fertility and the plants have to cope with winds and salt spray!

Six seed mixes, using seed collected from local sites, were chosen for different areas of Samphire Hoe. These mixes and their use are outlined below. Some plant species (for example Red Fescue, Viper's Bugloss and Birds-foot Trefoil) are in several mixes and have not been mentioned in any specific one.

*Cliff Crevice* mix was used in a narrow strip immediately above the sea wall. Its nine species include Sea Beet, Rock

The grassland habitat created on a mass of chalk marl by W.C.C.P.



Samphire, Rock Seas-lavender and Sea Mayweed. On the slope just above this and around the brackish pools at the western end a *cliff grassland* mix of Creeping Bent, Kidney Vetch, Tall Fescue, Nottingham Catchfly and seven other species were sown. At the top of the seaward facing slopes *chalk grassland* mix of fifteen species was sown. Meadow Oat Grass, Tor Grass, Sainfoin, Restharrow, Common Cat's Ear and Salad Burnet are some of the more obvious plants here. *Amenity grassland* was sown by the car parks, in which Hedge Bedstraw, Rock Rose, Rough Hawkbit, Cowslip and Small Scabious can be seen. A very steep area of the bund around the buildings was sown with a mixture of *native grasses*.

Of the remaining area, most is sown with *rye-grass*. This is only expected to survive a few years, but will serve to create better conditions for naturally-invading seed to establish (Prickly Sow-thistle and Bristly Ox-tongue are two plants that already have established themselves). Finally the shores of the ponds have been left bare for natural colonisation.

Other wildlife is already finding its way onto Samphire Hoe. Flocks of gulls can be regularly seen enjoying the seawall with Cormorants or sharing the ponds with visiting Wigeon. The grassland is popular with Skylarks and Meadow Pipits. Stonechats flit around the foot of the cliffs and Fulmar soar overhead. Rabbits and other small mammals have also moved in.

Samphire Hoe is also a place for people. It has always been the intention to open it for visitors. The major factor influencing this is the vegetation growth, as in places there have been problems with plant establishment and soil erosion. Obviously we want people to be able to use and enjoy Samphire Hoe at the earliest possible time, but if the grass will not survive pressure from visitors then we must consider delaying the opening.

We do not want this to happen and are busy working towards opening Samphire Hoe in the late summer. In addition to improving the grass growth, we are making the site safe and accessible for visitors, preparing interpretation panels and information leaflets, sorting out the sea angling and leading monthly guided walks.

Involvement by the local community is important for the future of Samphire Hoe. We have been talking to local people to find out how they would like us to manage it, and discussing ways in which they can become involved. If you would like to contribute to this or just see for yourselves the exciting things happening at Samphire Hoe, please join one of the monthly walks. Alternatively, if a group of people is interested we can arrange a special visit.

For information on these, or just a chat, contact me at the White Cliffs Countryside Project, telephone 01304-241806. I look forward to hearing from you.



The access tunnel opening on to Samphire Hoe.

The twin openings further left are for the railway tunnel under Shakespeare Cliff

# Memories of Old Dover



DEREK LEACH



'BUDGE' ADAMS



DICK WHITTAMORE



MERRIL LILLEY



NAN WHEELER

////////////////////////////////////  
 EDITOR'S FOREWORD  
 //////////////////////////////////////

*From time to time the Newsletter has included articles on Old Dover, almost as an on-going series, whenever members sent in their memories.*

*Whilst for several issues there have been few of these reminiscences, Newsletter 25 makes up for this by presenting a central section on Memories of Old Dover.*

*It was felt that this was an opportune time to put together several different articles, as Budge Adams had just given his excellent slide show on Old Dover on January 15th and Derek Leach has written a report of the presentation. Then there is Budge's own choice of some of his favourite slides from his collection.*

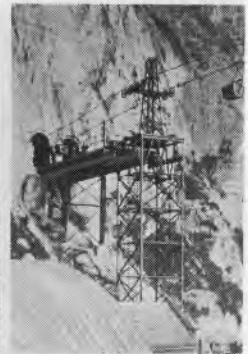
*There follow three other pieces: first an account of May Bradley's childhood to the age of thirteen, compiled by the Editor from May's scrapbooks and albums; second an account by Dick Whittamore of his work in the old Hippodrome during the war years 1939-1944; and lastly extracts from a letter written by Nan Wheeler in 1942, in the midst of some of the worst bombing and shelling that the town endured.*



St. James's Lane leading on to the old Townwall Street



Promenading on the Seafront, 1906



The wire ropeway from Tilmanstone Colliery



# *Shakespeare Cliff* to *Langdon Bay:*

A SLIDE SHOW of WATERSIDE DOVER

---



---

DEREK LEACH

---



---

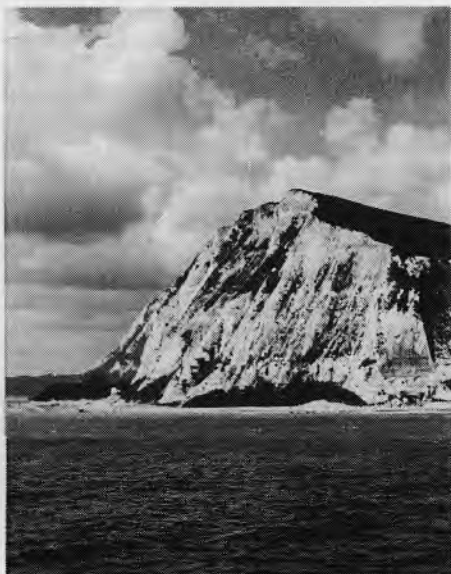
On 15 January Budge Adams, eighty-six years young, presented to an eager gathering of Dover Society members what he described as his swan song. We were treated to a whole evening of Budge Adams talking about his favourite subject – Old Dover – well before he was born as well as the Dover he knew as a boy and as a young man. His talk was complemented by fascinating pictures of the town which came to life as Budge trotted out anecdotes about himself and the Dovorians of yesteryear. As a relative newcomer of some twenty-two years I have always regretted that I had not known old Dover. Budge's talk intensified that regret but on the other hand I felt that despite my keen interest in Dover's history for twenty years my knowledge and appreciation of old Dover and the strong feelings of Dovorians for their past made a quantum leap in a single evening.

Budge took us on a perambulation from Shakespeare Cliff to Langdon Bay with barely a mention or sight of anywhere further inland than Townwall Street. Even in this restricted area I had the feeling that Budge only had time to reveal the tip of the iceberg of his local knowledge.

We heard how popular Shakespeare Beach was for bathing and how the coming

of the railway affected the area. The imposing and solid Pilot's Tower stood in the way of the railway. Faced with the unattractive options of diverting the line or demolishing the tower the solution was to put the line through the arch at the base of the tower! We moved into the Pier District with all those hotels catering for

SHAKESPEARE CLIFF



the cross-Channel travellers - the Lord Warden, the King's Head, the Ship, the Hotel de Paris and the magnificent Dover Castle Hotel. Apparently hoteliers were not averse to exaggerating the bad weather conditions in the Channel to encourage their guests to stay a bit longer until matters improved!

We touched upon the cross-Channel packet boats. In 1840 the boats grossed about 40 tons and had engines of approximately seven horse power. Budge told us of the boyhood treat of the Penny Ferry (rowing) boat in the inner harbour. At times, when there was "less than four feet over the bar" at the harbour entrance, passengers were landed on the beach in the bay. Apparently the extortionate prices charged by boatmen to carry travellers ashore was the origin of the name "Dover Sharks". We heard about the trans-Atlantic Liner Terminal that opened on the Prince of Wales Pier in 1905, served by a rail link that ran from Strond Street, across the Wellington Bridge and on to the head of the pier. Obviously history is repeating itself in the building of the new Cruise Liner Terminal at the Western Dock, albeit without the benefit of a rail link.

Minet, the banker and Amos, the photographer were two Dover celebrities that we heard something about. Minet was a Huguenot refugee and Amos a born and bred Dovorian. Amos had premises in Snargate Street and we were treated to superb photographs of the docks taken with a pin-hole camera using five- to seven-hour exposures! Minet came to Dover as a refugee in the late eighteenth century and made his name and fortune with a house on Custom House Quay. Mention of Custom House Quay stimulated my interest even more, being a Customs man. In more recent times the Customs were housed in Southern House (formerly the Lord Warden Hotel) with our Long Room occupying the former Banqueting Hall. The only reminder of past glories in the Western Docks now is the isolated and derelict Watch House on South Pier.

As we strolled along the old streets Budge identified shops and their owners, including his maternal grandparents who had tea rooms in Snargate Street. His father, who was born in 1855, came to Dover in 1875, but his maternal ancestry in Dover goes back to the Finnis family early in the 18th century and to the Holness 'tribe' in Kent to the 16th.

Budge moved us on to the seafront area with a story about the Granville Bars and Restaurant: "We were warned not to go there because there were *women* there and they *danced!* And so, of course we went." One of the hostelries attracted Budge and his contemporaries because the landlord's beautiful daughter often took to dancing (or was it cartwheeling?) on the bar counter. Here, too, there were fine hotels - including the Grand where Budge recalled the haggis being piped in as part of a Burns Night celebration and then noticing that his wife had disappeared, as had also the Mayor's chain of office! He found his twenty-two year old wife on the marble steps at the front of the hotel, wearing the Mayor's chain around her neck and feeding haggis to two policemen. The Burlington was another imposing hotel which during the war provided the German gunners across the Channel with a superb range-finder for shelling Dover! The town was not only the Gateway to England but also a popular holiday resort with well-to-do Londoners renting seafront houses for a month for themselves and their domestic servants.

Dolphin Lane is thought to be the oldest thoroughfare in Dover. In Woolcomber Street we saw the barber's shop where Budge as a boy had his hair cut every fortnight for four old pence, whilst his Dad, at the same time had to pay sixpence. Anything and everything could be bought in the old Woolcomber Street. What can be bought there now?

Moving on to East Cliff we saw the salt water sea baths, ingeniously filled via a large-bore pipe from the baths to the sea at low water mark. During the war, when the baths were full of soldiers disporting them-

selves, it was destroyed by enemy action with heavy loss of life. The outline of the baths survives in the sunken garden adjacent to Marine Court.

Budge learned to swim from the Ping Pong breakwater in the harbour (now the Nib jetty) but he had no idea how it got its name.

The County Skating Rink became a sea-plane hangar during the first world war with two squadrons established there, one equipped with float-planes and the other with tiny mahogany flying boats. The buildings still standing below the Mote Bulwark were used as workshops and for administration. Behind and a little to the SW of the Skating Rink was the riding school of the Royal Field Artillery.

Climbing up on to Langdon Cliffs we learned that Langdon Prison, so it was generally believed, had been built to house convict labour to be used for the construction of Dover Harbour. More enlightened policies apparently ruled this out and the prison was eventually shut down and its buildings were taken over by the military.

The building of the harbour was a subject in itself. For its time it must have been comparable with today's Channel Tunnel project. The shape of the cliffs was changed in providing infill for the harbour walls

LANGDON PRISON (on cliffs above the Eastern Docks)



LANGDON BAY

and an overhead railway was constructed to bring coal from Tilmanstone colliery to the Eastern Arm. Youngsters collected spilt coal wherever the overhead railway crossed roads or footpaths.

All too soon – even though it was 10.45 – Budge drew to a close and I could stop trying to take notes in the pitch darkness.

It was clear that he was as sorry to stop as was his audience. As he said, his greatest pleasure is talking about Dover. If this was his swansong, may it be the first of many. Since Budge says he must live until he is at least 120 to do all the things he wants to do, I am sure we have not heard the last from this man of Dover.



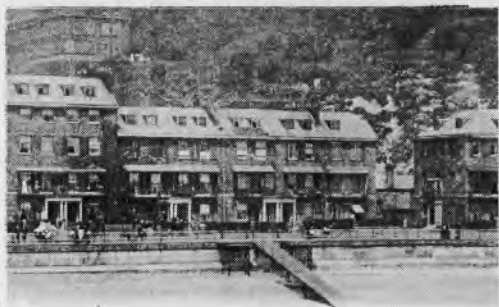
1



2



3



4

# FOUR

'BUDGE'

# FAVOURITE

ADAMS

# PICTURES

The first is Henry VIII's Moat Bulwark at the foot of the cliffs below the Castle and monochrome does not do it justice. In early summer, and often later, light, bouncing off the stones, the bricks, the white cliffs, the green grass and the cliff plants, entrances me. As a Dovorian I look upon it as part of my inheritance and I thank Henry for his foresight.

The second, a scene in the very early 18th century and part of a much larger picture, shows Dover people at their best – volunteers launching into a raging sea to bring help to a ship in distress off the Varne Bank. The whiteness of Shakespeare's Cliff and its pointed tip, alas no longer there, are as much the badge of Dover as is the Castle. The pilot's tower reminds me that Dover men for years gave their working lives to guiding ships up, through, or across, the Channel.

The next, the Prince of Wales Pier, soon after the turn of the century; functional and uncluttered, and in its own special way, a graceful structure.

The last, the Sea Front as I knew it as a boy. From the sloping groyne – the 'Ping-Pong' – I learnt to swim and hurt a leg by jumping from one of the platforms at the shoreward end to the beach below. Happy memories.

*Many others that I have could equally be termed 'favourite'. Regretably, in monochrome, much of the visual effect of the pictures is lost.*



# Recollections of an Edwardian Childhood

---

Extracted from the Scrapbooks of MAY ELVEY BRADLEY (1905-1995)

by MERRIL LILLEY

---

I WONDER if the keeping of scrapbooks has gone out of fashion and how many people have such a documented record of their lives as did May Bradley.

May was born, May Elvy Wilde, on the 2nd May 1905 at 6.30 a.m. and baptised at St. James Church on August 30 the of the same year. She records that she had a happy, contented childhood and liked to amuse herself.

Her parents kept a shop in Townwall Street, selling tobacco, cigarettes and sweets and the family lived in the flat above the shop. Her father had been trained as an electrical engineer in Canterbury, but he chose to start a business in Dover rather than pursue his training. His family were, apparently, upset that he would be branded as a tradesman!

Photographs in May's scrapbook show many family groups, many on Dover beach. There is one of May with her sister and a friend in 1909 in their bathing "drawers" and hats; another one with her mother wearing a green spotted muslin dress opposite the Grand Hotel; another on the zigzag path.

"Most afternoons were spent on the beach or walking on the hills," she happily recalls. "We were great walkers; most winter afternoons, if not at school, one of our parents would take us along the sea front, up the East Cliff path and over the hills behind the castle, returning down the zigzag, probably the old main road up the steep hill, then a pleasant three-laned grassy walk."

It is the picture of a happy childhood in the years before the first World War. May wrote,

"A child's life in those peaceful days of the lower middle class (?), was happy and protected and, although we did not have much money, our parents were happy and hard working, the shop being open from early morning until eight or later at night and midnight on Christmas Eve".

There are so many delightful touches about the little things which May remembered from her childhood days, which reveal much about the way of life in the early days of this century and also of Dover during those years. In writing

192 of her pursuits, her clothes, her parents and grandparents, she gives the reader a revealing glimpse of the period one feels privileged to share.

Her mother's parents moved to Dover and lived in a small house near the docks in Snargate Street, Grandpa giving up his work of repairing and re-decorating large houses and mansions around Canterbury for a tobacconist's shop. Her grandfather was a kindly man, fond of animals and children and he often made toys for his grandchildren.

"I remember especially a blue painted see-saw, little washing tubs and a doll's house. I still have a miniature chest of drawers full of pens and pencils, which he made over sixty years ago, perfectly finished. It is strange how small things remain in the memory - our pepper black in a grater, but Granny used white in a glass pot and I loved it much better than ours.



MAY BRADLEY, née WILDE, (Centre), her sister and a friend

May described the clothes she wore as a child, many of which she hated; tickly combinations, bodice with buttons, navy serge knickers with cotton linings, flannel petticoat, white petticoat and a dress. She recalled many happy hours spent with her sister on the beach. They wore "bathing drawers",

which were put on over their dresses, plus large straw hats, loaded with flowers. They used the old wooden, horse-drawn bathing boxes in which to change, as they would never have dreamt of undressing on the beach. She says the bathing boxes had a special, exciting smell about them.

She remarks:

"How lovely it was to dispense with our many petticoats. The young today do not know how lucky they are to wear so little".

She also recalls an occasion when her friend Peggy's mother was considered very smart in a black costume with long sleeves and long legs, topped off with a large, frilled, bonnet-shaped rubber cap.

May also has recollections of the sounds of the town; the muffin man's bell when he appeared carrying a large basket of muffins and crumpets on his head; the organ of the hurdy-gurdy man who came every Friday morning with his poor little monkey; the Town Brass Band consisting of three or four blue-uniformed men, playing music under the elm trees by the river and the clamour of noisy rooks that nested in the elm trees.

In summer, she recalls, the military bands played in the Granville Gardens, opposite her parents' shop, morning, afternoon and evening. During the interval the bandsmen would crowd into the shop and all the family would lend a hand to pour glasses of ginger beer from large stone containers or to press down the glass marbles stopping the bottles of American cream soda, Zola Holm, Cherry Cider and the like. Sometimes, "much to our delight" says May, the cornet player would ask if he could stand in the front room window on the second floor and play 'echo' solos.

The children got to know the bandmasters and bandsmen and could recognise their various uniforms and cap badges.

May wrote a lot about her parents and about the tobacconist and confectionery shop they kept in Townwall Street, wondering how they ever made a living.

"My father must have smoked a good part of the shop profits, while my mother and sister and I had as many sweets and chocolates as we wanted. Many a bar of 1/2d chocolate went down my throat while I looked after the shop while my father went up to have 'second' dinner. We opened at 8 a.m. and closed at 8 p.m. (9 p.m. on Sundays)."

Almost every year May's parents would arrange a lovely display of be-ribboned chocolate boxes in the large plate-glass window, only to see it ruined when the rain seeped through the glass during a gale. May recalls that the shop-soiled sweets were made up into one penny "Dover bags" and sold cheaply to the boys from an orphanage a little further along the street.

May started school at the age of six, attending Glenmount School in Godwyne Road. Of her school life May gives details only of her P.T. and Dancing lessons.

"P.T. consisted of dumb bells and clubs, swung to martial music, and exercises, at a tumble down hall in the town, when we wore white jerseys and green serge skirts. Music lessons were extra, as was the Saturday morning dancing class, when we were put through our paces by a strict and quick-tempered French woman, but how I loved to charge around in the polka".

She does record her first "taste of the literary world", encountering Tiger Tim's comic, Little Folks magazine, a book called 'That Naughty Goblin' and another called 'When the Milkman Came'. Later she progressed to Susie Sunshine, of the Rainbow, then the Angela Brazil school stories and Sexton Blake paperbacks.

Among out-of-school activities she mentions cutting girl pictures out of pattern books and dressing them up in various frocks and coats. Outdoors May and her sister delighted in their first scooters which they rode near their home, charging down a small incline. They also loved playing in the Granville Gardens, running away from Grandpa



COULD THIS BE MAY BRADLEY ON THE BEACH IN 1912?

and hiding behind some high hedges, much to his annoyance.

In the school holidays they looked forward to the beach and to going for picnics, sometimes as far afield as Folkestone Warren. The family rarely had holidays as summer was the busiest season in the shop. May could remember only a few days in Deal in 1914 and the next holiday after that was a fortnight in Taunton in 1920.

The family had a large, black retriever dog called Jack. Every morning before breakfast, May would take Jack on the sea front and run from one end to the

other. She heard later that some people said they could set their watches by her morning run.

So May records the events of her childhood in Dover; the long summers with beach outings and picnics, regattas and band concerts; the winter walks and Christmas fancy-dress balls; school routines and music and dancing lessons.

Then, when May was nine years old, the first World War started and gradually her life changed.

In 1915 her father joined the army and left his wife to look after the shop and the two girls. In May's album is a photograph of a posed family group in 1917, with her father in his uniform. All the other snapshots of this period are of her mother and her two daughters. Father had very little leave. May remembers that on his first one he gave her a stamp album, which started her on a life-long interest. May tells how her mother, in order to do her bit, gave hospitality to many service men and often had their wives to stay so that they could be with their husbands.

May records that Dover had 185 bombs during the war and she recalls seeing a Zeppelin sail majestically over the town.

In 1917 Glenmount School closed and Miss Moore, the headmistress, went to Ipswich High School and started

a boarding house, Broughton House, for the Dover girls. Winifred went to Ipswich in the Spring Term 1918 and May, then aged 13, followed in the Summer Term.

Before going to boarding school May had her hair cut in the new 'bob' fashion, feeling she would be unable to cope with curls on her own.

"Oh, May, What have you done to your hair?" exclaimed the teacher who met her at the station. May felt it was a bad start and says she felt terribly unhappy and homesick. She had never been away from home before. In one sense May's childhood ended here, when she went to boarding school in Ipswich at the age of 13.

"It would never have happened but for the war."

I have written only about May Bradley's childhood, ending when she went to school in Ipswich. Her story continues in her scrapbook and albums, recording the highlights of her life; photographs, postcards and reports, and notes of her own add detail to the account.

My grateful thanks to members of May's family for the loan of the scrapbook and albums and to Miss Lillian Kay for her invaluable help with this account.



A REMARKABLY DETAILED PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WILDES' SHOP IN TOWNWALL STREET, PRE 1914/18 WAR.



# DOVER'S FRONT LINE THEATRE

195



---

---

## DICK WHITTAMORE

---

---

**F**OUR PRIVATE BOXES, 500 seats in the stalls, circle and gallery; five bars (one at each level), a front bar and, entered from Northampton Street, a stage bar; all went to make up the Royal Hippodrome Theatre in Snargate Street, Dover, often affectionately called, in Cockney parlance, the "Dripping Bone". Built in 1790 it was one of the oldest theatres in the land and served the folk of Dover for over 150 years before its demise, destroyed by a German long-range shell, in September 1994.

A five-piece orchestra accompanied the various variety acts. The leader and first violin was Charlie Haynes who never missed a show although he lived at Kennington, near Ashford and travelled to Dover (which was a restricted area) each evening in an old car for the use of which he received a small petrol ration. Other musicians were Bob Page (piano), Harry Chandler (trumpet), Bill Delahaye (clarinet) and Mr Cooper (second violin). Unfortunately the theatre drummer left

at the outbreak of war and was never officially replaced. The drum kit was still there and another member of the orchestra would lean over and hit a cymbal or give a drum roll when called for. For a while, by kind permission of his Commanding Officer, Jack Rayfield, who in civilian life was Harry Roy's drummer, was allowed to play in the orchestra. Throughout the war the stage manager was Harry Spain. He, too, never missed a show and had been at the theatre for many years.

Secondary lighting at the theatre was by gas, so when the occasion arose that the main lighting failed, usherettes and staff had to stand on chairs, or be lifted up, to light the gas brackets which had no mantles, gave little illumination and were very noisy.

The war-time proprietor, the late H. R. Armstrong, took over the theatre in 1936. Despite all the dangers and difficulties of war, he kept the theatre's flag flying. Very few civilians from Dover's dwindling population, visited the dockside theatre and therefore the audiences were made up of members of H.M. Forces, some stationed locally, others just passing through on their way to or returning from the battlefields in Europe. I can also see Mr Armstrong, standing at the front of the blacked-out theatre, informing all that there were "seats in all parts". Also I can see him standing in the front stalls telling the audience that an air-raid or shelling warning had sounded and they could, if they wished, leave and take shelter in one of the many caves in the area. But hardly a soul ever moved. Well, would you have left the theatre knowing that the strip-tease dancer was on next? I wonder!

A very faithful staff often dodged bombs and shells and the constant threat of invasion to keep the theatre open. A few names worth mentioning of staff who worked all through up to the fatal day are: George Sidders, the cellarman and senior stage hand, Nobby Granger in the spotlight box and Mrs Hanson, the elderly chief cleaning lady who was a cripple but always

managed to get to work from her home in York Street. The usherettes and other staff frequently changed but their services were, nevertheless, greatly appreciated. I make my apologies to any I may have missed.

I started work at the "Hip" at the age of fourteen in August, 1939, as a page boy. Some may remember my ill-fitting pale blue uniform with lots of buttons and a greasy peaked cap. The first show I saw was a touring version of "The Ovaltinies". It was a promotion where a disc from a tin of Ovaltine would gain admission. The Ovaltinies took up a complete hour and mainly consisted of young budding actors with a finale singing the promotion song, "We are the Ovaltinies . . . ."

At the outbreak of the war the theatre closed for a few days whilst all windows were blacked out and neon signs disconnected so that no light was visible outside. It re-opened on 12th September with a visit from Robin Richmond with his electric organ in a appropriately named show, "Black Out the Blues!" Variety programmes followed and even two pantomimes were

KALA HARI, January 1943



presented that first Christmas of the war. **BABES IN THE WOOD** opened on Christmas Day (Yes, the "Hip" opened on Christmas Days during the war to entertain the many troops who had nowhere to go), and on 8th January 1940 **LITTLE BO-PEEP** played for six days with matinees. In May **SUZETTE TARRI** entertained. It was during that week that a lone Nazi raider dropped one of Dover's first bombs. It landed in the Wellington Dock behind the theatre, in the middle of **HENRI HILTON'S** conjuring act — he carried on regardless!

The famous **PHYLLIS DIXEY** entertained in June and in August the lovely **GLORIA** demonstrated how young ladies of the future would disrobe by electricity! During this time Dunkirk took place, followed by the Battle of Britain with a lot of activity in the skies over Dover.

About this time it was decided to abandon the booking of seats as it was impossible to guarantee performances, so a continuous system was set up — come and go as you please. The summer of 1940 brought the first bombardment from German long-range guns but the Hippodrome carried on. On Monday, 9th September, the Hip had to close through failure of the electricity supply. It re-opened next day, but on Wednesday, the 11th, the sea front was badly bombed by hit and run raiders. The Grand Hotel, the Sussex Arms and several properties were hit and casualties were extensive — sixteen killed and twenty-three seriously injured. The theatre escaped damage but there was still no light and the show was abandoned for the week. I well remember, as a page boy, carrying **LEON CORTEZ'S** bag to the station next morning.

After 21st September, 1940 Defence Regulations were made which restricted cinemas, theatres, clubs and restaurants. They were ordered to close by ten o'clock each evening and they were not permitted to re-open until half-an-hour before sunrise the next day. The local chief of police was also permitted to bring this forward to a nine o'clock closing if he thought this was necessary for public safety. The Hippo-

drome dutifully changed its houses from 6.30 and 8.50 to 6.00 and 8.00 p.m., and later in the war to 5.10 and 7.00 p.m. During most of the war the last buses used to leave no later than 9 o'clock.

There was no panto at Christmas 1940 but many good variety bills entertained. In April 1941 Sunday ENSA shows first came to Dover. These were arranged by NAAFI at prices of 3d, 6d and 1/-. One ENSA show I particularly remember was **THE GHOST TRAIN** which was written by Arnold Ridley (Godfrey of Dad's Army) and he played the rôle of the Station Master in a tense drama.

The Spring of 1941 brought Dover's 1000th alert and the theatre concentrated on strip shows for the forces. On 15th September 1941, **EVELYN LAYE** volunteered to play Dover and her £100 salary was donated to local charities. On 15th December **TED AND BARBARA ANDREWS** started. They were the parents of **JULIE ANDREWS** who had a baby with them which I believe was the well-known star of the future.

One week in October 1942 a shell burst in Northampton Street behind the theatre just as it was being cleared.

ROYAL	
<b>HIPPODROME</b>	
<small>Managing Director—H. R. Armstrong 1943 Telephone 999</small>	
<b>5.10 CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCE</b> <b>Week commencing Mon. Dec. 6 7.0</b>	
<b>The Radio and Film Star</b>	
<b>BABS DUDLEY</b>	
<b>The Golden Voice and a Piano</b>	
<b>RAY and</b>	<b>DeBEAR &amp;</b>
<b>RAYFORD</b>	<b>DuBRAY</b>
<small>Gay Deceiver &amp; the Nitwit</small>	<small>The Delightful Deceptionists</small>
<b>The Fascinating Nude</b>	
<b>:: GLORIA ::</b>	
<small>In her</small>	
<b>Dance of the Seven Veils &amp; Fan Dance</b>	
<b>SYD BESSON</b>	<b>THE FIELD</b>
<small>Monarch of the Bells</small>	<b>SISTERS</b>
<small>Marimba—Xylophonist</small>	<small>Dancers—De-Luxe</small>
<b>JIM NOLAN</b>	
<b>A Real Enemy of Gloom</b>	
<small>Stalls 3/-, 2/-, 1/6 Circle 2/6 Box Seats 4/- Pit 1/- Gallery 8d.</small>	
<small>H. G. Wright, Printer, 196 High Street, Dover</small>	

A few slates were cracked, a window was broken and several shrapnel holes appeared in the side of the old building.

During 1942 the Assistant Manager, John Denton, resigned and I was made acting Assistant Manager and full Assistant Manager in January 1943. My duties included ordering the beers, wines and spirits from the brewers (we always over-ordered because supplies were always cut down), looking after the petty cash, keeping the bars supplied with cigarettes and spirits, banking, keeping books and paying the artistes on Saturday night, a practise commonly known in the profession as "the ghost walking".

Early in 1943 I had my eighteenth birthday and had to register for National Service. Mr Armstrong tried to get me deferred but it wasn't allowed and I became a BEVIN Boy at Snowdown Colliery in March 1943. I was not too unhappy about this as I was able to live at home and also carry on working at my beloved Hippodrome after my colliery shifts. Also in common with other civilians, I did one night's fire watching a week at the theatre, giving our regular night-watchman a night off each Saturday. I have to admit my fire watching consisted of sitting in the manager's office watching the electric fire all night! I was never called on but was on the premises if anything had happened. A few shells fell in the vicinity on some occasions but I was not disturbed.

One of the greatest shows ever to entertain Dover audiences appeared on Sunday, 19th December, 1943. It came about quite accidentally. A local army unit was to put on a Sunday show in aid of the R.A. Prisoners of War Fund, but the Lord's Day Observance Society intervened and the show had to be cancelled. This was given national press coverage and Tommy Trinder saw it and offered to bring a first class show to Dover that would not infringe any Sunday regulations. The show played to a packed house. Prices: Boxes at

25/- and 20/-, Stalls 4/-, 2/6d and 2/-, Circle 3/- Pit 1/6 and Gallery 1/-. The show, which handed over a nice fat cheque to the Prisoners of War Fund, ran for THREE HOURS and included TOMMY TRINDER, SONNIE HALE, TESSIE O'SHEA, DEREK ROY, CHERRY LIND, MORETON FRAZER and THE JERRY ALLEN TRIO with their wonder electric organ. Luckily for us it was a peaceful evening without enemy action.

On 18th January 1944 the last panto ever to play in Dover was CINDERELLA. With two matinees it played to record audiences during a quiet week almost free from the hazards of war. Even some civilians and children visited the old Hip and enjoyed traditional panto.

## THE CARPET BAGGERS' BALL



*The Crew of H.S.L. 186*

*request your company*

*at the Lord Warden Annexe,*

*on Thursday, 17th February, 1944*

*at 7.30 p.m.*

By kind permission of the C.O. and Entertainments Officer, H.S.L.'s Dover

One night early in 1944 a large stage carpet was stolen from the theatre. Police investigators discovered it cut into pieces and covering the floors in some of the RAF Crash Launches which were moored in the Wellington Dock behind the theatre. The Hippodrome manager did not prosecute but asked for compensation to the value of the carpet. The RAF lads tried stitching the carpet back together but it was not acceptable.

To raise the necessary cash they organised a ball to be held at the Lord Warden Hotel Annexe on Thursday, 17th February, 1944. So THE CARPET BAGGER'S BALL took place and the debt was cleared.

The organising committee had the nerve to send a Complimentary ticket to the Hippodrome Manager! He took it in good part — after all there was a war on!

I can recall a lady in black, who for a time frequented the Hippodrome Bars. It was rumoured she was a spy, some said she wore a swastika locket and there were others who swore they saw a light shining from her lodging house window at night. She never said much, but was she listening? However, one night she didn't show up and we never saw her again! I wonder?

"BEAUTY'S IN TOWN" attracted good houses during the weeks of 10th April and again on 21st August. In all this revue played Dover four times during 1943 and 1944.

In the week of 28th August three performances of a variety bill were interrupted by shellfire, and during the week of 11th September only two-and-a half performances were possible. At this time the Canadian Forces were marching up the French coast and capturing the long-range guns. The German gunners continued to bombard Dover by day and night in an attempt to get rid of their shells before capitulation. The bill that week (the last ever to play the Hip) included Renara (renowned pianist), Joe Peterson (the singing choir-boy), Frank E. West (comedian),

Rex Ashley, Sonia, Billy Barr and Lady, and the Six Dancing Diamonds. After the misfortune of that week it was decided to close the theatre for a week and re-open on Monday, 25th September when it was hoped that the threat of shelling would be over. A variety bill was booked and SANDY POWELL offered to appear on the Wednesday as a guest star. Alas, it was not to be. The theatre never re-opened. On Monday 25th September 1944, at approximately midday, Hitler dealt his final blow and the Hip was very badly damaged by one of the final shells from the long-range guns. This was all the more unfortunate because the very last shell to land in Dover left the Nazi gun on Tuesday, 26th September. It hit an umbrella shop just off the Market Square. The Hip was beaten by twenty-four hours!

The *Kent Messenger* in 1950, mourning the old theatre as it was being demolished to make way for dock extensions and road widening, said: "A former patron, Mr L. Mason, told a *Messenger* reporter, "The bar under the stage had such a unique atmosphere that the finest war artistes of Britain and America, try as they did, could not get it down on paper. It defied English tradition and allowed artistes to come in wearing stage make-up and costumes to have a drink with civilians and servicemen from the audience'."

THE DAMAGED 'ROYAL HIPPODROME' and adjacent buildings, looking up Snargate Street towards New Bridge



After the theatre was so badly damaged in 1944, first-aid repairs were made, and the front street bar was re-opened. It so remained until the theatre was demolished and the site was cleared in 1950.

I would like to conclude by recalling one or two interesting items about the Hip:

The telephone number was, believe it or not, DOVER 999. Yes, it's true — if you wanted the police in those days you rang Dover 100!

Whilst the theatre never closed during the early part of the war, in 1944, when things got really hectic, the powers that be enforced closure during shelling warnings.

Very often phone calls were received to ask members of certain MGB's and MTB's to return to their boats. To avoid fake calls, at the beginning of each day's programme, the officer of the day would ring and identify himself, then when we had a call we asked for identification. On two occasions we received a message that *ALL* servicemen were to return to their bases. This nearly emptied the theatre and the "turns" played to half-a-dozen or so civilians.

One evening, during the last interval, an usherette was stabbed in the "gods". An ex boy-friend ran up the gallery steps, stabbed the girl, then ran out and gave himself up near the clock tower on the sea front. The show continued whilst the usherette received treatment and awaited the ambulance. She wasn't badly hurt and returned to work within a few weeks.

On several occasions, unbeknown to the public, the show opened on Monday night with only two or three acts. However, others arrived, made a quick change, dashed up on to the stage and ensured continuity. This sort of thing happened when Dover was in the news after shelling attacks and artistes were very reluctant to play the nearest theatre to the enemy, and doctors' notes arrived cancelling contracts.

The theatre's agent, the Universal Variety Agency, of Haymarket, always managed to find substitutes.

Theatre digs: There were several in Dover where the acts stayed. Locations were in Chapel Place, the Shakespeare Chambers, the Esplanade, London Road and others. Some top-of-the-bill acts stayed at the Half-Way House on the Canterbury road, and others returned each night to their homes in London.

Variety artistes were very poorly paid. A top-of-the-bill would earn £25 to £30, whilst supporting acts managed any sum from £10 to £20. Out of this they paid 10% to their booking agent, their digs, their travelling between theatres, their make-up and costume costs, "tips" and gratuities especially when one takes into account the weeks when they were "resting".

This is my story of Dover's Royal Hippodrome during those frightful war days, but, despite everything, they were some of the best days of my life and remain very clear in my memory to this day.

Recently, you may know, a plaque to the Hippodrome's memory has been installed on the wall of the Dover Gateway Hovertel, opposite the site where the theatre once proudly stood.

There is also a seat in the Granville Gardens commemorating the name of the war-time proprietor, the well-known H. R. Armstrong, and on my death I have

arranged for another seat, in my name, to be placed somewhere in Snargate Street, thus ensuring three focal points which will, I hope, remind future generations of Dovorian, and others, of the important part played by the Royal Hippodrome Theatre in the life of the town from 1790 to 1944.

The unveiling of the plaque in Snargate St. *Left:* Dick Whittamore, *centre:* Cllr. Ray Allen, Dover Council Committee Chairman and *right:* Mrs 'Sandy' Peters of the Dover Hovertel.



# Extracts from a letter written by Nan Wheeler in 1942

During the 1939-45 war the English Speaking Union of America bought, furnished and equipped a cottage in Barham for the use of all the Girls' Clubs in Dover, Deal and Folkestone, to enable their members to have a short break from shelling, bombing and other horrors of war. Nan Wheeler visited the cottage, called "White Cliffs", with parties of Girl Guides and Sea Rangers.

In 1942 she was asked to write a letter on behalf of the Girl Guide Association to the American people responsible for funding this project. The following are extracts from her letter.

“ Some of us are Air Raid Wardens, some Fire Brigade workers, some First Aid Party, as well as our day-time jobs, and to know that we need not scramble out of bed, drag on slacks and sweater, snatch a tin hat and rush to our Post for goodness knows how long, or how many times a night, is just “paradise”.

Sunday morning sees Edith waking us with cups of tea. In a short time we are ready for church where we arrive for

8.0 am Holy Communion. The villagers are very friendly and speak to us as we make our way home to a breakfast of bacon, tomatoes, fried bread *and* eggs (!) which Evelyn's mother kindly sent from their home. Some of us had almost forgotten what they looked like! ... We ... climb the hills to a wood. In a clearing there we have a very beautiful ceremony at which Phoebe and Nan are enrolled as Rangers. Around us we find wild strawberries



Our 'home':  
"White Cliffs Cottage",  
Barham,  
now in private  
occupation

and modest wood violets, quite three months out of season. ... With our spread we have some cider. Our first drink is a toast "To our friends in America". In the afternoon we walk to a nearby farm where a Ranger friend of ours lives. It is called "Heart's Delight" and is a perfect Kentish farm, living up to its name. There are oast-houses, where the hops from neighbouring hop-fields are roasted, and stretching away up the hillsides are the orchards. ... Tea over, we wend our way round the village, then return "home" to ... pack up the goods, and say "bye-bye" till next time. Oh! how we wish we were there for at least a week!

... that visit will always stand as a landmark in our passage through the war. It gave us much relief from strain. Although after thousands of alerts one ignores them, yet there is always the sub-conscious thought that there is nothing to prevent a shell just where you are, or hurling death from the skies on those you love so much. Our eyes had become accustomed to noticing a flash over the Channel: we started counting, and when eighty had been reached we dodged into shelter – or carried on – or else knew nothing at all. Our ears have become attuned to the burr, burr, burr of bombers' engines, the pop-pop-pop of machine guns, and the swish of a bomb, and we know it is tin hat time. Now however, we see more of your Air Force or ours, or together, about. We listen to ascertain whether they have gone just to the French coast when we shall hear rumbles and our windows and doors will rattle as the Germans and their accomplices suffer for their pig-headedness. Every one of our party has known the horror of finding homes and precious belongings gone, or our places of work mauled about, or worst of all, the absence of workmates to whom we were talking only the day before and with whom never again will be shared the joys and hardships of our work. Then it is we pause and wonder, where does all this lead to, is it worth while., and why should innocent people suffer? But a feeling of revenge, mingled with profound sympathy

for those who may not even think about the whys and wherefores of it all, spurs us on to renewed efforts. We know that those who have given their lives would say it was worthwhile, and even little children must suffer, as a lead towards that glorious end when all people shall be free.

Accounts of blitzes, raids, etc. may be read in books, so perhaps a few amusing stories of incidents in raids here will be more unusual:-

A fellow some of us work with is very disabled and can only walk with the aid of a crutch. He had just left hospital after treatment, when a plane dived, releasing its bombs across the town. Our friend lay flat in the gutter and was quite unhurt. He tried to get up but had difficulty owing to his infirmity. An ardent First Aid Party member rushed up and ordered him to stay still. His protests were over-ruled and a whistle brought an ambulance which, in a few seconds, whisked the gentleman to the hospital he had left only a few minutes before, but this time, as he walked away, he left a gaping F.A.P. member and a smiling nurse.

A sneak raider dropped a bomb which sent shoppers hurrying into doorways. When they crept out the road was covered with pamphlets. Hurrah! a leaflet raid! Everyone swooped for a trophy, only to discover they were bills blown from a nearby shop.

A gentleman sold fish from a barrow outside the Museum in our Market Square. When an aircraft dive-bombed overhead, he popped under his barrow – not much protection! When he emerged, his eyes widened as he saw on his barrow in place of fish, two stuffed ducks blown from the museum!

Phoebe ran to the Fire Station to report for duty for the first time when the alarm sounded. She rang the bell outside for admittance, and alarmed the whole neighbourhood as a fire engine came rushing out and enquired from our frightened friend where the fire was? She didn't know she'd sounded the main alarm in error."



# Wine and

# Wisdom

## The February Meeting

MERRIL LILLEY

ANOTHER well-attended Wine and Wisdom evening was held on Monday, 19 February at St. Mary's Parish Centre and once again CLIVE TAYLOR was the QUIZMASTER.

This seems to have become the established February event for the Dover Society and thirteen teams of six settled down to enjoy the usual fare; nine sets of questions in various categories with the middle one being the interval Dingbats - to be solved whilst partaking of wine and a ploughman's.

With the freedom to play a joker on the category of one's choice the final score should have been out of a possible 100 points. However, the contestants had sallied forth bravely, at the beginning of the evening, to a threat of heavy snow showers and by nine o'clock the snow had started to fall. The Quizmaster made the decision to omit the penultimate category and to finish early. The markers reacted

with alacrity and jotted up the scores in double quick time.

The winners of the Dover Society engraved glasses were the "Simpsons". The runners-up, the "HSS" team, received Dover bookmarks. Our Chairman, Jack Woolford, presented Clive Taylor with a cheque towards the Crabble Mill Corn Trust - very dear to Clive's heart. Then, after thanking Joan Liggett, our social secretary, for her usual splendid organisation, everyone hurried off on their snowbound homeward journeys.

The following morning we realised that we had been very lucky to have enjoyed our Wine and Wisdom evening at all, as Dover was then cut off from the county until lunch time.

## *Dover International Model Boat Show*

*Contributed by* MIKE McFARNELL

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, 25 AND 26 MAY 1996. 10am - 5pm  
Admission: Adults £1.50. OAP £1. Children 50p.

VENUE: The WELLINGTON DOCK (UNDER MADONNA'S BRA)

In addition there will be a Son et Lumiere on the Saturday, 25 May from 9 - 10pm For this event there is limited seating and tickets are available in advance by phoning 0378 376777. Admission: Adults £2.50, OAP £2 and Children £1.50. These tickets also give admission to the Boat Show on both days. This event will give the Dover Pageant team an opportunity to prepare for 1997.

In organising this event I wanted to support Dover Harbour Board which has developed some exciting new projects such as the marina and the cruise terminal. I have been encouraged in the planning of the Model Boat Show by promises of help and support from many sources.

For those interested three presentation evenings have been arranged at the Wellington Dock - Tues. 2 April, Wed. 8 May and Thurs. 16 May, from 7.30-8.30 pm on each day.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam Editor,

The cessation of the Train Ferry service from Dover to France on 22nd December last seemed to cause very little stir, although for many old people who remember its inception sixty years ago it was the end of an era.

First we had the building of the train ferry dock which itself was a feature of great interest and attracted the attention of many people living in or visiting south east Kent, so much so that the Southern Railway Company allowed members of the public to visit the dock before the train ferry service commenced operations.

A surprising number of people took advantage of this. No charge was made but each individual had to sign an indemnity absolving the railway company from any responsibility for an accident or injury that might be sustained whilst on their premises.

One feature of the ferry dock that visitors found to be of special interest was the dock gates which rose from the bottom of the dock in contrast to the usual type of gate which opens and shuts like a door.

The purpose of the gates was to retain a fixed water level in the dock (by means of pumping) so that a link span could connect the ship with the railway lines at the head of the dock. The first train ferry to be delivered in 1934 was the "Twickenham Ferry". If memory is not at fault the Master who brought this ship from the builders (Swan Hunter & Wigham Richardson) was the late Captain Len Payne.

This ship was handed over to the French company A.L.A. (Angleterre-Lorraine-Alsace) who operated it with the two British owned ferries, "Hampton Ferry" and "Shepperton Ferry", which were delivered from the builders in 1935.

The train ferry service commenced between Dover and Dunkerque in 1936.

Beside rail freight wagons and roll on/roll off motor vehicles a notable innovation was the sleeping car service between London, Paris and Brussels which travelled by the night ferry service. The sleeping cars were the property of the Wagon-Lits Company which ran on trains all over Europe.

This sleeping car service ceased to run several years ago.

The three original train ferries were augmented in 1951 by a new French vessel named "Saint Germaine". It was owned by S.N.C.F. (French Railways) and was of a more advanced design. It was driven by diesel engines instead of steam turbines.

During the Second World War the T + rain Ferry Dock was used by the Royal Navy as a base for motor torpedo boats, including launches manned by the Norwegian crews in connection with which Budge Adams made his trip to Norway to present certificates to ex-crew members. The R.A.F. air-sea rescue launches also used the dock.

In the early war years the "Hampton Ferry" and "Shepperton Ferry" were taken over by the Royal Navy and were used for laying mines in the English Channel. The mines were stored in rail wagons on one track in Shakespeare Tunnel and in consequence there had to be single-track working of trains through the tunnel.

While the two train ferries were part of the Navy the crews were given R.N.R. status and the former Captains had the rank of Lieut-Commander R.N.R. and acted as navigating officers.

After the privatisation of the cross-Channel services the train ferry service was operated entirely by a French owned ship, the "Nord Pas de Calais" from a new berth at the Admiralty Pier..

Now we have said "Goodbye" to what was in its day considered to be a very innovative project.

Sincerely,

BILL BREEZE

99 The Gateway,  
Dover

# *Dover history*

## *– a selective bibliography*

The modern method of teaching history is to have pupils read historical documents, diaries and wills from the past comparing them with contemporary documents and conditions. Thus seeing what changes have occurred and whether any progress has been made. Essentially a good method it does however have its drawbacks. It is possible to study the period 1750-1900, the Industrial Revolution, and be totally ignorant of Nelson and Trafalgar and Wellington and Waterloo. One gathers from Mr Davy, head of social studies at Channel High School, that this has been going on for at least twenty years.

Most of the schools that I have worked in have poor, inadequate libraries and therefore cannot supply the documents and books necessary to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. A few crafty teachers are now publishing 'case books' containing selections of historical documents, brief quotations, too frequently out of context, to fill the gap.

Dover pupils and students are particularly fortunate in that there are many books on Dover history and many primary sources of information and access to these are in the Local Studies Collection at the Dover Public Library.

So much is available that I have only selected books comprehensible to pupils and have sufficient information to justify reading.

### HISTORIOGRAPHY

The viewpoint of the writer and the reader are of equal importance and errors of judgement can occur unless we keep reminding ourselves of this. The doyen of Dover historians is John Bavington Jones and he wrote when England was the centre of the largest empire in the world and it was the duty of the white man to bring civilisation to 'the lesser breeds without the law'. Bavington Jones was as highly prejudiced historian and it shows, but he was an honest recorder and worthy of respect. This is characteristic of all these historians in this bibliography and it is obvious that times have changed – but have they improved? I doubt whether Bavington Jones would think so! This is the function of history and we must always be aware of the question of historiography.

The bibliography follows standard scholarly format/ First is given the author, followed by the title and completed with the imprint which includes the publisher and the date of copyright preferably or the date of publication. The letters n.d. indicate that no date is available. Squared brackets indicate that the information came from another source other than the book.

If you know of a book on Dover that is not included in this bibliography leave that information at the Dover Local Collection for inclusion in a revised annotated bibliography.

### DOVER HISTORY – A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Arnold, Col. B. E. *Conflict across the Strait*. Dover, Crabwell Publications, 1982
- B. P. *A short historical sketch of the town of Dover and its environs collected from ancient records and other authentic materials*. Dover, T. Rigden, 1844
- Batcheller, William (publisher). *New Dover Guide*, W. Batcheller, 1836–1845.
- Batcheller, William A. *A new history of Dover, and description of the villages near Dover*. W. Batcheller, 1828.
- Batcheller, William. *The present state of Dover*. Batcheller, 1828

- 206 Blackburn, George. *Tramway routes of Dover, past and present. 1897-1994, a pictorial history*. Dover Transport Museum Society, c1995.
- Boorman, H. R. Pratt. *Hell's Corner 1940, Kent becomes the battlefield of Britain*. Kent Messenger, 1942.
- Brown, Reginald Allen. *Dover Castle*. 2nd ed. HMSO, 1974.
- Brown, Roger. *Old houses and cottages of Kent*. Robert Hale, 1994
- Burridge, David. *Guide to the Western Heights defences. Dover*. Kent Defence Research Group, c1992
- Coad, Jonathan. *Dover Castle*. Batsford, c1995.
- Collins, P.R. *Political, social and economic development of Dover*. Course essay, 1977.
- Collyer, David. *Buzz bomb diary*. Kent Aviation Historical Research Society, 1994.
- Collyer, David. *East Kent at war in old photographs*. Allan Sutton, 1994.
- Colvin, H. M. "An iron age fort at Dover", *Antiquity* vol. 33, No. 130, June 1959.
- Darell, William. *History of Dover Castle*. Hooper and Wigstead, 1797.
- Divine, David. *Nine days of Dunkirk*. Faber, 1955.
- Elvins, Mark Turnham. *St. Thomas of Dover*. Buckland Press, c1994.
- Elvins, S. W. G. *Invicta, the story of Dover Castle*. Denis Weaver, n.d. [1953].
- Firth, J. B. *Dover and the Great War*. Alfred Leney, c1919.
- Foster, Reginald. *Dover front*. Secker and Warburg, 1941.
- Green, Ivan. *Book of Dover, Cinque port, port of passage, gateway of England*. Barracuda Books, c1978.
- Green, Ivan. *Dover, a pictorial history*. Phillimore, c1987.
- Green, Ivan. *Yesterday's town: Dover, an illustrated record recalling the town 1780-1914*. Barracuda, c1980
- Haines, Charles. *Dover Priory*. Cambridge University Press, 1930.
- Hannavy, J. L. *Libraries of Dover and Folkestone*. University Microfilms, 1968.
- Harbour, Henry. *Dover and its surroundings, a handbook for residents and visitors*. Homeland Association, 1897.
- Harley, Robert J. *Dover's tramways*. Middleton Press, c1993.
- Hassenson, Alec. *History of Dover Harbour*. Arum Press, 1980.
- Hollingsbee, Bob. *Dover in old picture postcards*. European Library, 19898.
- Horn, J. *Description of Dover*. Horn and Allard, 1819.
- Horn, J. V. *Dover Corporation tramways*. 1955.
- Horsley, M. *Some memories of old Dover*. C. Goulden, 1892
- Humphreys, Roy. *Dover at war, 1939-1945*. Alan Sutton, c1993.
- Ingleton, Roy. *Gentlemen at war*. Cranborne, 1994.
- Jones, John Bavington. *Annals of Dover, including histories of the castle, port, passage, religion, the corporation, mayors and their times, corporation officials, representation in parliament and social history*. 2nd ed. Dover Express, 1938
- Jones, John Bavington. *Dover, a perambulation of the town, port and fortress*. Dover Express, 1907.

- Jones, John Bavington. *Records of Dover, charters, record books and papers of the corporation, with the Dover customal*. Dover Express, c1920.
- Kennedy, Philomena. *Walk around Dover*. Dover Harbour Board, c1988.
- Langabeer, Ray. *Sunny Corner, England*. A. R. Adams, 1982.
- Lyon, John. *History of the town and port of Dover and of Dover Castle with a short account of the Cinque Ports*. Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme and Brown, 1813.
- Lund Paul and Harry Ludlam. *Trawlers go to war*. W. Foulsham, 1971.
- Macintosh, D. C. *Dover—the gateway to England*. Corporation of Dover [after 1951].
- Mais, B. *Land of the Cinque ports*. Johnson, 1949.
- Mowbray, A. W. B. *War time Dover, its post office and staff*. Powell Print, n.d.
- Ogley, Bob. *Kent at war*. Froglets, c1944.
- Paske, C. T. *Sunny Dover, then and now*. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton. 1894
- Philp, Brian. *Excavations of the Roman forts of the Classis Britannica at Dover 1970–1977*. Kent Archæological Rescue Unit, n.d.
- Philp, Brian. *The Roman painted house at Dover*. Kent Archæological Rescue Unit, n.d.
- Philpott, D. R. E. *Dover – Historical Geography of the Town and Port since 1750*. M.A. thesis, University of London, 1965
- Puckle, John. *Church and fortress of Dover Castle*. John Henry and James Parker, 1864
- Reymond, John. *Fortitude South, Kent's wartime deception*. Kent County Council Arts and Libraries, c1994.
- Scott, Lt.-Cdr. Peter. *The battle of the narrow seas*. Country Life, 1945.
- Searle, Muriel V. *Down the line to Dover, a pictorial history of Kent's boat train line*. Bloomsbury, c1983.
- Sencicle, Lorraine. *Banking on Dover*. [No publisher] c1993.
- Statham, Samuel Percy Hammond. *Dover Charters*. Dent, 1902.
- Statham, Rev. *The history of the castle, town and port of Dover*. Longmans, Green, 1899.
- Vine, Jessie. E. *Dover remembered*. Meresborough, c1984.
- Welby, Douglas and Joe Harman. *Fair shares for all, a short history of Dover Co-operative Society*. Co-operative Retail Society, 1994.
- Welby, Janice. *Dover's forgotten fortress, the Western Heights*. Kent County Library, n.d.
- Whitney, C. E. *Discovering the Cinque Ports*. Shire, c1978.
- Williamson, James, A. *The English Channel*. William Collins, c1959.
- Woodruff, Cumberland Henry. *An account of discoveries made in Celtic tumuli near Dover, Kent*. [Antiquaries] Society, 1872.

©1995 S.S.G. Hale

## DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

for Issue No. 26 – for publication on or about 1 August, 1996 – is Monday, 24 June.

The Editor welcomes contributions and interesting drawings or photographs.

Publication in the Newsletter does not imply the Society's agreement with the views expressed nor does the Society accept responsibility for any statements made. All published material remains the copyright of its authors, artists or photographers.

**A.****SECONDHAND****I****M****M****O****N****DIAMONDS****S****We buy, sell  
and value****Jewellery. Watches, Clocks  
and Silverware****Trust our craftsmen with  
your repairs, re-mounting  
and commission work****OUR SERVICE IS LEGENDARY****53 Biggin Street, Dover  
(01304) 203326****other branches at Deal,  
Hythe, Folkestone &  
Canterbury**

Two-Day Courses in

***Decorative Paint Finishes***

e.g. Marbling, Ragging, Sponging, Stencilling, etc.

*EXPERT TUITION IN SMALL FRIENDLY GROUPS*

£65 for two days including all materials

TEL: 01304 242006 or 01303 840874

TUTOR: LYN CLACKETT

**PRIORY  
FRAMING**

A. J. Mole

**TEL: (0304) 204107*****RIGDEN NEWS****14 Worthington Street  
Dover CT17 9AD***TOBACCO & GROCERY***TELEPHONE (01304) 206095*

# ANTIQUES WANTED

## Three Castles Antiques

3a Victoria Road, Deal, Kent CT14 7AS

**Established antique dealers and valuers  
wish to purchase  
antique furniture, silver, objets d' art.  
In strictest confidence.**

**Tel: 01304 380732**

### C-A-B

Dover & District Citizens Advice  
Bureau  
Maison Dieu Gardens, Dover  
01304 202567

**Advice : Free,  
Confidential  
and  
Impartial**

Open on weekdays 10 - 12 noon  
Mondays & Thursdays 2 - 4pm

D O W N L A N D

### *Dover care and repair*

Our staff is trained to help you and will:

- Visit your home and advise on the repair needed
- Discuss paying for the work and arrange for any grants or loans to meet the cost
- Help you employ a reliable builder to do it
- Make sure the work is carried out quickly and to a good standard
- Give you any help needed until the work is finished

#### **DOVER CARE & REPAIR**

1 Cleary House, 1 Maison Dieu Road  
Dover. CT16 3PQ  
Tel: 01034 211551

*Ladies*  
**Something Special**  
 for you

**DOVER'S**  
**BODY TONING**  
*and*  
**BEAUTY SALON**



**17 BIGGIN STREET**  
**DOVER**  
**Tel: 211728**

**BLAKES**

52 CASTLE STREET  
 DOVER  
 01304 202194

Ale, Wine & Fine Eating House

Daily Chef Specials  
 and Full a la Carte

Fish Specialities always available

Real Ale Selection

52 Malt Whiskys

**BLAKES**

of DOVER

"Caterers to Ladies and Gentlemen,  
 their Sons and Daughters"

**REGULAR OR TALL - OUTSIZE OR SMALL**  
**WE FIT THEM ALL**

WIDE SELECTION OF SUITS, JACKETS, TROUSERS, SHIRTS  
 LEATHERS AND CASUALS, etc..

OVER 300  
 SUITS ALWAYS  
 IN STOCK

KING SIZE  
 SMALL SIZE  
 TALL SIZE  
 ANY SIZE



**EVENING HIRE - WEDDING HIRE**

AT LOW, LOW PRICES

x x x x

ALL OUTFITS SUPPLIED FROM OUR OWN  
 STOCKS

x x x x

GUARANTEED FIT

**PAGE BOYS' OUTFITS / HIGHLAND HIRE**

ALTERATIONS TO GARMENTS PURCHASED FROM US ARE FREE OF CHARGE

**ALLAN HUGHES — QUALITY MENSWEAR**

1 CANNON STREET, DOVER TEL: 01304 205715

**NEVER LESS THAN 250 SUITS IN STOCK**



# DOVER HARBOUR BOARD

---

*Working for and with the  
community*

---



**DOVER**  
HARBOUR BOARD

---

*Harbour House  
Dover, Kent CT17 9BU  
Telephone (01304) 240400  
Fax (01304) 241274*

---

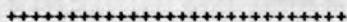
*1994 Kent Company of the Year*

# The Cabin

## English Restaurant

(Fully Licensed)

Proprietors: Roger & Pauline Marples



**Traditional & Game Dishes**  
**Evening Meals, Tuesdays - Saturdays**

*Vegetarian Dishes*

*Over 100 different wines*

*Single vineyard brandies & vintage port*

Open at 18.30 with last orders at 22.00

91 High Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1EB

Telephone: 01304 206118

# THE WAREHOUSE

PINE AND ARCHITECTURAL  
ANTIQUES



Beds chairs  
chests dressers  
mirrors tables

Baths brackets  
doors sinks  
fireplaces etc.

OLD METAL  
TOYS & MODELS

*Painted Furniture*

29-30 Queens Gardens, Worthington Street  
Dove., Kent CT17 9AH Tel: 01304 242006

# Castle Fine Arts Studio

26 Castle Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1PW  
01304 206360

SPECIALISTS in the  
CONSERVATION and RESTORATION  
of FINE ART, PRINTS, DRAWINGS and  
WATERCOLOURS for MUSEUMS,  
GALLERIES, TRADE and  
PRIVATE CLIENTS

PICTURE FRAMING SERVICE  
TRADITIONAL ENGLISH HANDMADE  
FRAMES TO ORDER  
HAND DECORATED MOUNTS

Proprietor: Deborah Colam

# C.C. Taylor A.R.I.C.S.

Chartered Surveyor

- Planning & Design Service
- Extensions & Conversions
  - New Buildings
  - Refurbishment
- Structural Surveys

Please Call:

(01304) 822217

91 Lewisham Road,  
River, Dover,  
Kent CT17 0PA



## George Lock

Tailors - Uniforms - School Outfitters

60 & 61 Biggin Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1DD  
Telephone: (01304) 206337

ROBIN QUARRELL FBCO FAAO  
O P T O M E T R I S T

**PERSONAL-EYE-CARE  
THURSDAY-EVENINGS**

BY APPOINTMENT: 01304 821182

*"caring for your eyes"*

AT THE ABBEY PRACTICE - TEMPLE EWELL

Jim & Jean Davies

## COASTAL AWARDS

*Glass/Crystal Engraved on the Premises*

**TROPHIES & ENGRAVING**

13 London Road, Dover

Phone: 01304 210586

Fairways

**GOLF & SPORTS CENTRE**

SPECIALIST SUPPLIERS OF ALL GOLF EQUIPMENT

51 CASTLE STREET, DOVER,

TEL: 01304 207282

## "CENTIQUE"

Sizes 8 - 26 Prices £2 - £20

**Ladies and Childrens  
Dress Agency**

Sharon Guest House  
100 Folkestone Road  
Dover

Tel: 01304 204373

Open mornings  
9 - 1 o'clock  
or by appointment

Also  
Hats and Evening Dresses  
for Hire

**TROSLEY  
EQUIPMENT**

**PLASTIC VACUUM  
FORMING**

**01304 211411**

SUPPORTING THE DOVER SOCIETY



Specialists in  
High-Class  
Laundering,  
Dry Cleaning  
& Linen Hire

**THE ELMS VALE  
CLEANERS**

20 PENCESTER ROAD, DOVER  
Telephone: Dover (01304) 201054



## Britannia Cars & Coaches

53 Castle Street, Dover

Taxi:

**01304 204420**

Minibus:

**01304 228111**

24 Hour Service - Contracts  
Airports - Tours - Express  
Courier - Meal Pick-Ups  
4 - 16 Seater Vehicles  
available

Samples of our competitive  
rates for Taxis

### Dover to:

Folkestone	£6.50
Elvington	£6.00
Ramsgate	£18.00
Canterbury	£12.00
St Margarets Bay	£4.00
Capel	£4.50
Bridge	£10.00
Gatwick	£55.00
Heathrow	£65.00
Luton	£83.00

Fares from £1.20

Freephone in Icelands

Uniformed and Lady Drivers

After midnight £1 surcharge in town,  
£1.50 out of town

No surcharge to and from work

## MATTER OF TASTE

3 WORTHINGTON STREET  
DOVER, KENT CT17 9AF  
Tel: 0304 201618

*Quality Confectionery  
Pipes • lighters  
Smokers Sundries*

## Mowl & Mowl SOLICITORS

DOVER AND CANTERBURY



BUYING AND SELLING  
HOUSES FOR CLIENTS FOR  
MORE THAN 100 YEARS

**Free estimates given  
All legal services available**

34 CASTLE STREET, DOVER  
Tel DOVER 240250

68 CASTLE STREET, CANTERBURY  
Tel CANTERBURY 767063



The Society extends its  
Best Wishes and Thanks  
to all the advertisers in  
the *Newsletter*.

Their support for the  
journal is invaluable and members  
are urged to buy their goods or use  
their services as often as possible.

Much may still be bought in Dover —  
seek and ye shall find!

# THIS AND THAT

## — DOVER CHAT

Members like to chat to each other and there never seems to be enough time to organise enough situations when this is possible. Usually a time is slotted in at a Member's Meeting in each Society year. This year there is a session after the interval at the Members' Meeting of March 25th, just too late, alas, for the results to be included in Newsletter 25, which goes to print about that time.

Getting into groups to do a bit of "brain-storming" has proved a very useful exercise over the last few years and it is to be hoped that this year will prove no exception. Members always suggest a wealth of ideas for outings, meetings and speakers, more than enough to provide the social planning committee with material for twelve months ahead.

One of the topics for discussion on this occasion, the compilation of a "shopping list" of improvements still needed in Dover, will be of use to Julian Owen of Impact, before he gives his address to the Annual General Meeting in April. Readers may remember that, in this way, Dover Society members made a comprehensive list of suggestions three years ago before IMPACT started its three-year programme in the Dover District and that many of these ideas have been implemented since then. Now there is time to review the situation and make more suggestions for the future, when a Town Management team will be responsible for new developments. A list of members' ideas will be reported in the next *Newsletter*.

Another new topic for discussion is the organisation of visits in small parties of twelve members. These outings are additional to those already advertised on the programme page of this Newsletter. As this is a pilot scheme it is to be tried out this summer, initially by offering these visits to those who sign up for them at the March meeting. Members will be asked to give their opinions and ideas. Obviously the task of organising these trips will entail a lot of extra work for Joan Liggett, our Social Secretary and it is envisaged that only one of each trip will take place in summer 1996. Suggested tours are of the Coast-guard Station, the Port Control and a Faversham-Swale barge trip (each has a maximum of twelve people). If the scheme is a success then additional trips can be planned in 1997 and offered to more members.

Many of our members may have walked past the site of the new BP petrol filling station on Townwall Street and wondered what the archaeologists have discovered there. A bulletin has now been posted on the railings. I called in at the site to chat to Keith Parfitt and obtain a copy of Bulletin 1, which gives the news to date.

The very earliest soil layers on the site are likely to predate the Norman Conquest of 1066. This area of Dover formed an important region of the town in *Mediæval* times. Soil deposits and buildings of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries have been located and, overlying these, traces of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings are being recorded. The most interesting of these, so far, is a large square building in the middle of the site which could represent a blacksmith's forge. The site lies within the grounds of the former Burlington Hotel, destroyed during the last war.

Sometimes in Archaeology what is not found may be as interesting as what is found! Of the fourteenth century old town wall, a section of which was glimpsed when the Bronze Age Boat was uncovered and believed to run in this direction, so far there is no trace! The CAT archaeologists have until the end of May to continue their investigations. So look out for further bulletins which will be posted as the work progresses.



APPLICATION for MEMBERSHIP

Date ..... / ..... / .....

If Renewal, MEMBERSHIP No. please

Please tick as appropriate

NEW  RENEWAL  FULL  JOINT

NAME (Mr/Mrs/MissMs) .....

ADDRESS.....

2nd NAME if Joint Membership.....

POSTCODE..... PHONE No.....

I/We agree to abide by the Constitution of the Dover Society.

Signed (1)..... (2) .....

(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: Individually - £4 annually. Joint Membership - £6 annually. Please note: Subscriptions will be increased to £6 and £10 respectively on 1.4.96.

Please make cheques payable to the Dover Society and forward the cheque or cash to the Membership Secretary; Mrs Sheila Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD.

*It would help us in our planning if you would please complete this section.*

I/We could sometimes give practical help with the following. (please tick boxes)

- SOCIAL EVENTS
- PROJECTS
- CLEARANCE WORK
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- \*SPECIAL INTERESTS
- \*PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE
- WRITING REPORTS
- REVIEWS
- ARTICLES
- SURVEY WORK

*\* Please give details on a separate sheet of paper*

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*.

# PROGRAMME

**APRIL 22**

Monday 7.30

**Members only**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Speaker:*

Julian Owen of IMPACT

St. Mary's Parish Centre

Parking at Stembrook

**MAY 11**

SATURDAY, 10am

**Members welcome**

**KFAS SPRING CONFERENCE**

Lunch, tea and coach trip - £5

St. Mary's Parish Centre

Parking at Stembrook

**MAY 18**

Saturday 7.30

**Members and Guests**

**VARDON ORGAN RECITAL**

Quiz Master: CLIVE TAYLOR

Dover College Chapel

Parking in Effingham Crescent, Priory

Road Car Park or College Grounds

**JUNE 1**

Saturday 9am

Pencester Road

Usual pick-up points

**VISIT TO CHATHAM DOCKYARD**

DOVER FESTIVAL MARITIME THEME

£12, includes coach and entrance to Dockyard

**JUNE 19**

Wednesday 7pm

**TOUR OF BUCKLAND PAPER MILL**

Meet at the Mill

Maximum number: 20

**JULY 27**

Saturday approx 7.30am

Pencester Road

**A RURAL COASTAL TOUR of the CÔTE d'OPAL  
with Commentary.**

Lunch Stop with views of the Channel.

Cost £20, *excluding* lunch. Phone Joan Liggett

to reserve a place. Full details will be

available nearer the date.

**SEPTEMBER 14**

Saturday

**LONDON TRIP**

Details in next *Newsletter*

**OCTOBER 21**

Monday 7.30

**MEMBERS' MEETING - Two Speakers**

St. Mary's Parish Centre

**NOVEMBER 8**

Friday

**CONUNDRUMS AND CONVIVIALITY**

Dover Museum

**DECEMBER 14**

Saturday

**CHRISTMAS FEAST**

Dover College Refectory



**The Pines Garden  
& The Bay Museum**  
Beach Road, St. Margaret's Bay  
Tel: 01304 852764

MUSEUM - Commencing  
Saturday, 29th May  
2.00 pm - 5.30 pm  
(last entrants 5.00 pm)  
Closed Mon. & Fri. but  
open on Bank Holidays.  
Closes 5th September 1993  
until Easter 1994

GARDENS  
Open Daily and Weekends  
throughout the year.

Closed on Christmas day

**One  
Off**

**chartered architect  
and art services**

9 Castle Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1PT  
tel: 01304 242749 fax: 01304 213072

**Piano  
Tuning**  
**ROBIN BASFORD**  
**207886**  
**(evenings)**



**DOVER COUNSELLING CENTRE**

**Offers You & Your Company in Kent**  
General Counselling, Dcc Support Line  
Employee Counselling, Relate Marriage  
Guidance. Cruse BereavementCare,  
K.C.A. Alcohol Counselling

**9 St James's St., Dover 01304 204123**

Charity Number 800988

**FIELD'S SECRETARIAL SERVICES (DOVER)**

18 Castle Street, Dover  
Telephone: 0304-215761 Fax: 0304 213072

**STRICTEST CONFIDENCE GUARANTEED**

**THE COPY SHOP THAT CARES**

\* **SUPERB CANON LASER COLOUR COPYING** \*

**AO SIZE PLANS & DRAWINGS UP TO (3.6mm Long)**

**ALL BUSINESS & PERSONAL PRINTING & STATIONERY**

**ARTWORK/DESIGN - POSTERS/LEAFLETS**

**FAX/TELEPHONE ANSWERING/BUSINESS ADDRESS**

**RUBBER STAMPS - WEDDING STATIONERY**

**HOT FOIL PRINTING OF PROMOTIONAL ITEMS & STATIONERY**

**EXCELLENT QUALITY AT BUDGET PRICES**

**Typing/Word Processing Specialists for:**  
**CV s - Theses - Manuscripts**  
**Company Reports & Overspill Work**