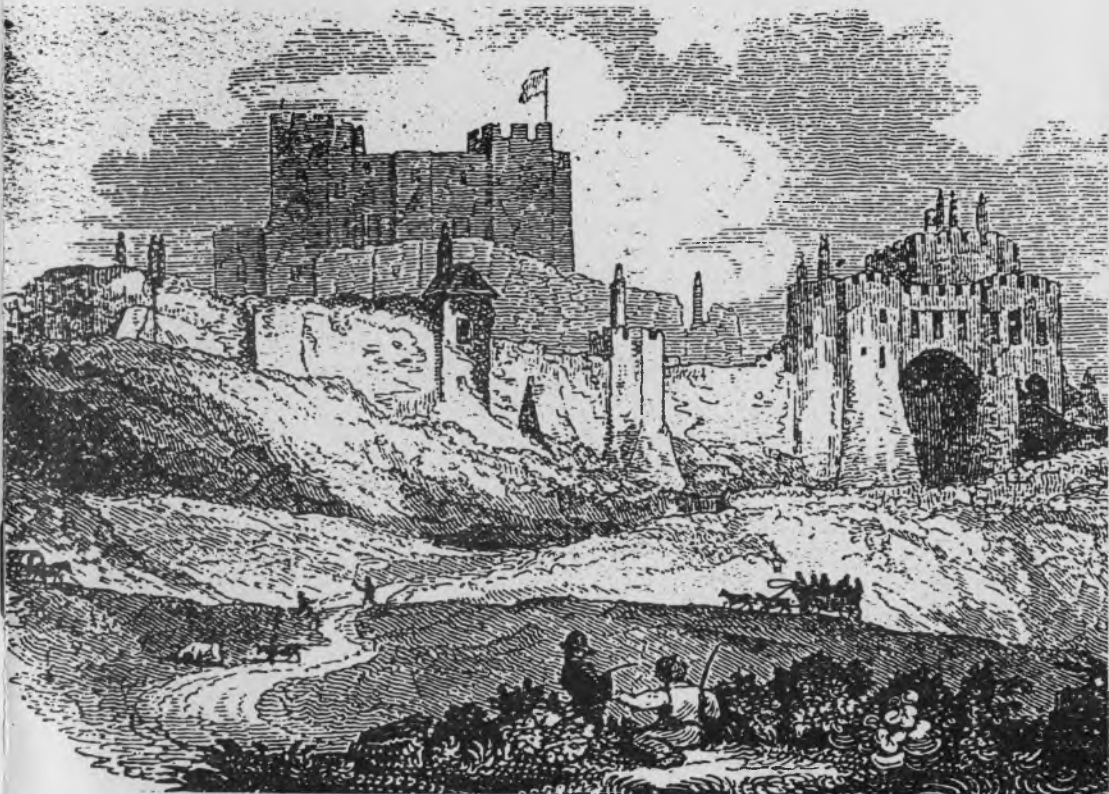


The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 29

August 1997



from Ivan Green's collection of pictures of Old Dover

Dover castle prior to the anti-Napoleonic alterations

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THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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

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Brigadier Maurice Atherton

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The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

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

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. 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

ONCE AGAIN the *Newsletter* begins with a Planning Report, a report of the Annual General Meeting and the Financial Statement for the year.

It also includes a report of the meeting held on 24 March, just too late for inclusion in the last *Newsletter*. As promised, we include a report by Audrey Kirk of the talk by Ken Scott on "The Future of Dover Castle". This is supported by an article by Ivan Green, which he has called "A Pocket Book Story of Dover Castle". Ivan has written this story especially for this issue of the *Newsletter*, so we are fortunate to be able to include this valuable summary of the castle's history, to remind us of the important role the castle has played in the development of the town through the centuries.

A regular feature of the August *Newsletter* is coverage of the Dover Festival, which has now been a feature of the May programme in the town for six years. This year the Festival was entitled "New Horizons" and we are grateful to Sheila Cope and to Donna Sowerby for contributing their excellent reports on some of the events which took place in Festival week.

Hugh Bax has written a delightful account of the first summer outing of 1997, to a Railway, a Castle and a Garden, and also contributed the photographs which accompany the report. Other major summer outings, The Silk Hall, Le Touquet and Buckingham Palace, will be reported in *Newsletter* 30.

The first meeting of the Autumn will be held at St. Mary's Parish Centre on Monday, 20 October. The speaker will not be as advertised in *Newsletter* 28, as Ron Chatburn will be away in October. Instead the speaker will be Robert Bailey, Dover's new Town Clerk. As Mr. Bailey will be talking about the new Town Council and its role, our Chairman, Jack Woolford, considered that this would be an opportune time for members to give their views on the matters raised during the talk and to have the

opportunity to raise other issues. One topic of discussion will be signposting in and out of the town and a questionnaire on signposting which has been designed to collect the views of visitors to the town. As you know we have often held this type of discussion session at the Member's Meeting in March and found it very valuable. We hope members will be able to attend the October meeting and, once again, contribute in a major way to the group discussions. To remind members of the last session of this kind, there is a brief report here of the findings of the March discussion groups.

Also at the October meeting we hope to meet many of our new members. As the Membership Secretary, Sheila Cope, mentions in her report there will be committee members standing at the door and she asks new members to introduce themselves as they arrive. It has been suggested that committee members wear badges so that members can easily identify them. With the membership increasing each year it becomes more difficult to meet and remember everyone. So, new members - and old - please take the opportunity at meetings to chat to others and make new friends. The intervals at meetings, discussion group sessions and more informal summer outings should provide opportunities for members to meet and chat.

All our meetings are, as usual, listed on the back cover programme with details as far as December and dates for the beginning of 1998.

As you picked up your copy of the *Newsletter* this time you may have noticed that it feels thinner. This is because it IS thinner! This issue has 44 pages instead of the customary (until now!) 52 pages - some past issues have even run to 56 pages. The intention is, in future, to produce a slimmer *Newsletter* in order to reduce costs.

The first *Newsletter* appeared in June 1988. Edited by Philomena Kennedy, it comprised five double-sided A4 sheets

and it continued in this format for seven issues. By issue 6 advertisements were included and by issue 7 the size had increased to 44 pages. In September 1990 the first new-look *Newsletter*, number 8, was produced, 44 pages, edited by Philomena, with the page-setting arranged by "Budge" Adams. The early *Newsletters* always had plenty of illustrations by Philomena and these were greatly missed when she gave up the editorship after issue 10.

From *Newsletter* 11 onwards I have edited the *Newsletter*, with Budge doing the page-setting and, I suppose, we have developed a routine of our own for producing it which has worked remarkably well. No one else will realise exactly how many hours Budge puts in when he arranges the pages for each issue and what is involved in the final production. We have two excellent proof readers, May Jones and Pam Taylor, on whom we rely to spot any mistakes.

At the beginning of this year Budge told the committee that, regrettably, he had decided to give up his involvement with the production at the end of this year, with issue 30. This was a great blow to us all, but we fully appreciate all his reasons for resigning. He has a lot of other writing he wants to do and he wants more time to devote to it. When we knew about this we started thinking about the future. Any production without Budge's input will cost a lot more than past issues. Therefore one way of reducing costs will be to reduce the volume to forty-four, or even forty, pages.

We hope readers will find the slimmer *Newsletter* as good as previous ones and resign themselves to the inevitable. With each issue I have tried to do more of the work by submitting copy to Budge ready on disc. The next issue, December 1997, will be the last one in which he will be actively involved but he has promised his help in the future in an advisory capacity, for which I am sure I will be immensely grateful.

THE EDITOR

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JEREMY COPE, Chairman

CYCLE ROUTES

In April I reported on our ideas to promote cycle routes and about our contacts with Dover District Council.

Since then we have plotted a possible cycle route from River to the sea, a spine to which offshoots can be added to provide a network for the Town. Tim Ingleton came a second time and discussed our ideas and made it clear that DDC welcomed the interest and pressure for cycling. However this is not a route for town travel. We will now develop our ideas for submission to DDC but have you, our members, any contributions you will like added? We are always reminded in this matter how difficult it is to reconcile the conflicting demands of the car and the cycle on our congested roads. The problem is further compounded by a lack of money to implement any changes. Kim told us there is no Kent Transport Strategy. Without a strategy DDC can only react to existing problems; it does not have the authority to plan for changes, however desirable.

With each passing day there is news of the increasingly urgent need for a new approach to transport if we are to avoid seizing up our roads with traffic jamb and are to hand on to our children a world that is not irreparably damaged with car fumes, a major element of global warming. Our interest is therefore very opportune and with the new government appearing keen to find alternatives with better public transport and a more extensive use of cycles we have lobbied our new MP, Gwyn Prosser, on the need for a Kent Transport Strategy. His response is awaited.

BENCH STREET

The Society is very concerned about the derelict and neglected state of that part of Bench Street adjacent to Townwall Street. It is an area that, because of its location, advertises Dover to a visitor in a not very creditable way. Retail business must find it a difficult area within which to operate successfully. Jack Woolford represented us at a recent meeting attended, amongst others, by DDC, Town Centre Management, property owners and shopkeepers. It is difficult to feel other than pessimistic about a resolution. DDC appears to have neither the funds nor the legal powers to either bring about a co-operative redevelopment, or, as a final resort, to take over properties to enforce a solution. The Town deserves better and your Society will lobby for change,

GENERAL PLANNING MATTERS

Kent County Council asked for our comments on the substantial extension proposed to the Police Station in Ladywell. Alterations include a change of the neighbouring SEEBOARD site to an enlarged police parking area. We could find nothing to criticise and indeed, welcome the development in Dover. The only point made was the need for a proper regard for the residents with possible 24-hour car use.

The old Castlemount School site is proposed for housing development and, with one exception, welcomed by the committee SUBJECT ONLY TO THE LOOK OF THE SITE From the Town. The site is heavily wooded at present and proper regard must be paid to those trees to be retained and those taken down.

Members may be familiar with the old St. James Hotel. Failure to rebuild after the fire some years back has left a semi-derelict and rather sad site. Concern was expressed to DDC that a risk now existed, particularly to children, with the lack of proper boarding-up.

FINALLY

Have members seen, in recent issues of the *Dover Express* and *KM Extra* the reminder of ideas of a cable car from the St.

James Street area to the Castle/ It seems good sense to try a guide people into the Castle via the Town and in the process galvanise tourism. English Heritage are right to be sensitive about the impact on the Castle and the cliffs but provided their integrity is maintained, is it right to pickle in aspic? The events laid on at the Castle are artificial re-creations but no-one thinks they are out of place. A time for a rethink on a direct link from Town to Castle? Have you any ideas, please?

PROJECTS : Update

JOHN OWEN, Chairman, Projects sub-Committee

"OPERATION CONSERVATION 97" at ARCHCLIFFE FORT

The eighth annual Dover Cadets Voluntary Community Project took place on Sunday 9th March when the cadets turned out to lend a hand at the fort where ST. MARTIN EMMAUS TRUST have been restoring the living accommodation and the storage buildings.

A christian organisation, EMMAUS provides accommodation and work for its 'companions' who have fallen on hard times and need help to get back on their feet. They re-cycle household goods for sale at the fort and in their High Street shop.

ARCHCLIFFE FORT is an important local ancient monument on the A20 overlooking the sea. As yet little or no restoration of the basic Henry VIII fabric has been attempted and the site until now has remained closed to the public

[cont



The working party – and supporters – at the entrance to the Fort

6 **OPERATION CONSERVATION 97** was devised by the Dover Society as an opportunity for some minor conservation work, once again using volunteers from Dover's cadet units. The plan was to remove unsightly litter and to plant a ten metre beech hedge to enhance the environment.

On the day it was decided to start with the hedge, which was fortunate as owing to the nature of the ground much hard work was necessary before it was sufficiently well prepared to receive the bare-root saplings. Fed, staked and watered they have been given as good a start as most. Growth will be slow initially but the second year should see them 'take off' and then the shelters may be removed.

Overheard whilst hard at it: "What's this we are planting?" asked Emma Markham.

"A beech" was the reply. "We already have a beach down there" says Emma, pointing seaward. Such was the good humour of the cadets in spite of the difficult going.

Of interest during a respite were the goats Bertie (Billie) Dandelion (White) and Burdock (no Horns) and Hamish (a soay ram) and of the five cats, Wilbur is perhaps the most friendly.

EMMAUS provided excellent refreshment in the form of hot soup and delicious baked potatoes, all of which was well received.

354 Squadron ATC were clear winners and were presented with a silver trophy by Terry Sutton, EMMAUS trustee and a Dover Society vice-president and with a framed certificate by Kendall Beasley, resident co-ordinator of EMMAUS at Archcliffe Fort



The 1997 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

REPORTED BY TERRY SUTTON

THERE WAS an excellent attendance at the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Dover Society on 28 April at St. Mary's Parish Centre, when the guest speaker was Keith Parfitt, the "home-grown" Dover archæologist.

No one found fault with the minutes of the previous AGM and there were no matters arising.

Chairman Jack Woolford welcomed increasing membership, up by 15 on last year to 440 - thanks largely to the efforts of membership secretary, Sheila Cope. Jack recalled the successful launch of John Peverley's book, *Dover's Hidden Fortress*, and said the Society might order a reprint - about 800 of the first print of 1,000 copies already having been sold.

The chairman spoke highly of the links forged with the new Dover Town council, thanked Budge Adams for providing information about Dover boundary stones, and referred to the input by Society members in assisting Dover Town Centre Management with shopping surveys. Financial help had been given to the conservation of Dover Archives, to Crabble Corn Mill Trust and to the East Kent Hospice.

Looking to the near future the chairman reported the society's initiative in installing a memorial on the Prince of Wales Pier to the late Sir Clifford Jarrett and also to placing a plaque at the cruise liner terminal to mark the landing of the spot where the Unknown Warrior was landed in 1920.

The chairman said that the possibility of going on the world-wide Internet was being discussed.

Thanks were expressed for various projects to John Owen, John Gerrard and Joan Liggett, and especially to Budge Adams without whose help the society would be unable to produce the Newsletter so economically.

Presentations were made by Mrs Wendi Atherton, on behalf of the Society, to Lawrence Gage for all his hard but abortive

work on the Millennium project for Dover, and to Ken Wraight (in his absence) for his long service as a committee member.

Officers reelected were: Jack Woolford (chairman), John Gerrard and Jeremy Cope (vice-chairmen), Leo Wright (secretary), Jennifer Gerrard (treasurer), Sheila Cope (membership), Merril Lilley (Newsletter editor), Joan Liggett (social secretary), Jeremy Cope (chairman-planning), John Owen (chairman-projects), Terry Sutton (media secretary), Sybil Standing (archivist) and committee members, Budge Adams, Adrian Galley, Mike McFarnell, Margaret Robson, and new member, Captain Michael Weston.

Paul Bennett, Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) was to have given the talk but he was engaged in a dig in France so Keith Parfitt admirably took on the duty. The subject was the Townwall Street Dig. Keith explained that the excavations were at the BP petrol filling station at Townwall street and that BP contracted CAT to carry out the archaeological work. It cost BP about £250,000. The task proved to be the biggest archaeological dig in Dover for 20 years - the biggest since the York Street task.

It was not long before they found, just one foot below the tarmac, thirteenth century remains. They discovered multi-layers of chalk, floors covered with occupational levels which proved rather mystifying. They eventually came to the conclusion that these were the floors of successive wooden-framed houses, built between 1150 and 1250, with each generation constructing the floor on top of the previous one.

8 Mr. Parfitt suggested it was possible these were the hovels occupied by the army of workers who, about that time, were building the keep of Dover Castle on the hill above. There was also evidence that fisher folk lived in this waterfront area of Dover.

CAT was now busy researching 40,000 pieces of excavated pottery (including imported pottery) and 4,500 samples taken from the site. And Mr. Parfitt revealed

what may have been a dark Mediæval scandal – the finding of two skeletons of young babies (possibly premature) concealed beneath the chalk floors. This was particularly strange because there was a Christian burial ground only a hundred or so yards away.

The meeting ended just before ten o'clock with thanks to the chairman for the way he had conducted the meeting and to Mr. Parfitt for a most interesting talk.

The audited Financial Statement is printed at pages 34 and 35

MARCH MEETING DISCUSSION GROUPS

After the interval members divided into four groups, The four main subjects for discussion were as follows.

1. The Future of Dover Castle
2. The Proposed " Art Trail"
3. Dover's Empty Shops
4. Suggestions for Future Meetings.

1. The Future of Dover Castle

The discussion of Dover Castle followed Ken Scott's talk in the first half of the evening. Members thought there should be improved links between town and castle. Regular bus services between Priory Station, Pencester Road and Dover Castle should be provided. "Park and ride" facilities were suggested and also shuttle buses from car parks.

One group put forward the idea of an Information Centre about Dover within the castle. Another group thought there should be advertising in the Pas de Calais area. Another suggested improvements in the castle, such as the restoration of armour and furnishing of parts of the Keep, would be very popular with the public.

2. The Art Trail

Members in three groups voiced their rejection of this idea, saying they liked the cliffs as they were and that any attempt to install statues would be unwelcome and subject to problems of vandalism. One group supported the idea, providing the trail harmonised with the surroundings and was made as resistant as possible to vandals.

3. Dover's Empty Shops

The following ideas were mooted :- tidy up first; encourage shopkeepers to take pride in their shop fronts; colourful murals; reduction of rents; reversion to housing; more factory shops in town centre; encourage "living over the shop"; provide more cheap parking; discourage further charity shops; use empty shops for other purposes, eg. information centre, teenager centre, art gallery.

4. Suggestions for meetings.

Talks on Scottish Power, AVO, WCCP and its French equivalent, Dover Parish Council, Churches of Dover, French Chamber of Commerce, Cruising from Dover, future plans for railway, port and town.

Editor

PLAQUE TO UNKNOWN WARRIOR UNVEILED AT CRUISE LINER TERMINAL

TERY SUTTON

The Dover Society was praised for its initiative in providing the plaque that now marks the spot where, in 1920, the body of World War One's Unknown Warrior was landed in his homeland.

The praise came from the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Charles Guthrie (the man in charge of the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force), when he unveiled the plaque in a pleasant ceremony at the old Marine Station in May.

Other senior Army officers joined with the Mayor, Councillor Lyn Young, representatives of Dover Harbour Board and of the Dover Society, to watch the unveiling ceremony in the reception centre of the new cruise liner terminal.

The plaque will be seen by thousands of people boarding the growing number of cruise liners calling at the port.

Our vice-chairman, John Gerrard, opening the proceedings, introduced Alistair Lawton of Deal, the deputy chairman of Dover Harbour Board. Mr. Lawton welcomed guests and pointed out that two members of the Society present that day were alive in Dover when the Unknown Warrior was landed at Dover in November 1920 - Miss Lilian Kay and "Budge Adams".

Our chairman, Jack Woolford, explained to the visitors that the Dover Society aimed to be a constructive organisation and, among other duties, commemorated historic events. Mr. Woolford said it was David Atwood, a Society member, who came forward with the idea of the plaque for the Unknown Warrior and the executive committee gladly took it up. Mr. Woolford thanked Dover Harbour Board for its assistance and generosity in carrying through the project to its fruition.

The plaque recorded a unique occasion in Dover's history, said Mr. Woolford.

Sir Charles Guthrie recalled that 908,000 servicemen from the British Empire were killed in World War One. Wars continued, he said, with 31 major conflicts in progress in the world at the present time. Memories of those who died in war should make men redouble their efforts to bring about world wide peace.

10 Sir Charles also thanked the town of Dover for its continuing links with the military, links that went back hundreds of years before the Crusaders, and thanked the Dover Society for its great efforts.

The Reverend Graham Batten, vicar of St. Mary's and honorary chaplain to Dover Harbour Board, led prayers at the ceremony and a representative of the Royal British Legion laid a wreath before the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille by a member of the Parachute Regiment stationed at Dover.

It is understood that a plaque is to be unveiled at Victoria Station, London, to mark the anniversary of the arrival there of the Unknown Warrior, by special train from Dover, en route to Westminster Abbey.

Revels in Ramsgate

32nd K.F.A.S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RECALLED BY JACK WOOLFORD

On Saturday 10 May 1997 the RAMSGATE SOCIETY handsomely hosted more than 100 participants at the 32nd AGM of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies. The DOVER SOCIETY was well represented, supplying as it does the KFAS Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary and sending, in addition, three of its Committee and two of its members.

After welcome from the Mayor of Ramsgate, the meeting stood in tribute to former President Professor Bryan Keith-Lucas and former Membership Secretary Mrs Joan Harvey. The Chairman gave examples of the Federation's assistance to its member societies including the DOVER SOCIETY in connection with the proposed Public Art Trail along the White Cliffs. He also outlined the Federation's work on the Survey of the resuscitated Kent County Council's Services, on the Petitions to Commons and Lords Select Committees on the Channel High Speed Rail Link, on the proposed Lyminge Theme Park and on the threat of 87,000 new houses in Kent...etc...etc.

K.F.A.S. SPRING CONFERENCE

“PRIDE OF PLACE”

The Place of Heritage in Regeneration

The DIRECTOR the CIVIC TRUST, MICHAEL GWILLIAM, welcomed the return of civic pride, instancing examples from Piccadilly Circus, Windsor Castle, the Manchester Ship Canal, Birmingham and Leeds. What was essential, he said, was the involvement of local people in “community management” of the urban environment. Regeneration must be sustainable, involving better use of resources, less travel, more recycling and less pollution. The car and the lorry must be used more sensibly and sensitively. There must be investment in alternatives that felt and looked good.

Quality of design must be improved as in the Lowry Centre in Salford, the urban village of Saltaire and Richard Rogers' Channel 4 Headquarters. Resources might be supplemented by a levy on greenfield sites to be recycled into urban areas. The CIVIC TRUST had been deeply involved in IMPACT's urban renewal of Ramsgate (and Dover, with the help of the RAMSGATE and DOVER SOCIETIES). Ashford International Passenger Station had won a Civic Trust award. Thus was its fortieth anniversary celebrated. In the next ten years Britain could set new standards for civilised living in Europe as a whole.

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the NATIONAL TRUST, JULIAN PRIDEAUX, impressively enumerated the NT's interests in Kent in Knole and Sissinghurst, Heritage Coast (including the White Cliffs), villages (like Chiddingstone), countryside like Tobs Hill, industrial archæological (like South Foreland Lighthouse) and commemoration (like Chartwell). The key was the Trust's power to declare properties inalienable, although the Lamberhurst Bypass, the A20 route through Dover and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link through Cobham Park and Ashenbank Wood had, at most, "made the best of a bad job". Nevertheless Exmoor ponies on the Langdon Cliffs had re-established rare plants and species.

In the last thirty years tranquillity had been shattered and at current rates would disappear unless development were concentrated in urban areas. Yet promoting public access to its properties was the Trust's function. Park-and-ride facilities and access by walking, cycling or bus must be encouraged and inclusive green transport tickets by train (e.g. to Knole from Charing Cross) were coming. KCC's COMFORT (Countryside Management for Rural Traffic) and the 6,500 mile National Cycle Network would help. There was a Schools Programme linked to the National Curriculum. In partnership with business, local government and environmental agencies, including amenity societies, the National Trust could succeed.

The PRESIDENT of the RAMSGATE SOCIETY, PROFESSOR BRIAN MAY described the RAMSGATE SOCIETY'S RÔLE IN PROTECTING THE LOCAL HERITAGE modelled on the practices of THE SID VALE ASSOCIATION in Sidmouth, the oldest (1846!) amenity society in England, which owned and converted buildings, managed areas of common land and guided visitors around with a "Blue Plaque" scheme. Dating from 1964, the RAMSGATE SOCIETY resolved to halt a sequence of demolition of good buildings by the Town Council. The SOCIETY was now working on Heritage Awareness, Monitoring and Access and a Vision and Image Campaign, combining and reconciling the interests of residents, visitors, businesses, local government officers and councillors and external agencies, all stakeholders in Ramsgate's future. Five projects were planned: EAST KENT HERITAGE, PUGIN CENTRE, PEGWELL BAY NATURE RESERVE AND HERITAGE CENTRE, EAST KENT SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND RAMSGATE TUNNELS.

The RAMSGATE SOCIETY was inspired to undertake organising this Spring Conference by the DOVER SOCIETY's successful Spring Conference on "The Future of East Kent" in 1996. Their friendly rivalry was successful in terms of accommodation, attendance, refreshment, programme and speakers, although we provided better weather for the tours. Perhaps we, in turn, might profit from their analysis of stakeholders in our heritage and the tactics they follow.

J. WOOLFORD

FESTIVAL OF DOVER

Launch _____ Introduction by TERRY SUTTON

Thousands of pounds of sponsorship from public and private sources enabled the organisers to stage more than 100 special activities in this year's Festival of Dover, entitled New Horizons.

The Festival was launched in April at the newly-opened, £400,000, Dover Angling Club's Bluebirds banqueting suite in Snargate Street. More than a hundred invited guests - including representatives of the Dover Society - attended the launch, when they heard that a three-year partnership between Dover District Council and the Festival resulted in an award from the Association of Business Sponsorship of the Arts. It was reported that the award provided a total investment of £30,000 to the Festival of Dover over the next three years.

It was further revealed that, as the result of the enthusiastic involvement of the business community, both financially and in kind, more than £20,000 had been raised towards this year's New Horizons festivities.

Principal sponsor this year was De Bradlei Wharf, the Dover factory shopping outlet, and the 31 others included local businesses, industries, ferry operators and Dover Town Centre Management.



Hooked!

An event also launched at the same time as New Horizons was the World Shore Angling Championships to be held in and around Dover between October 11 and October 19, 1997. Competitors are expected from twenty-two countries from as far away as Brazil and South Africa.

The championships are being hosted by the National Federation of Sea Angling and Dover Sea Angling Association.

At the launch the national federation revealed special steps are to be taken to help conserve stocks in the Channel.

Anglers fishing from the shore will haul in their catches and place them in buckets of sea water until the fish has been measured by judges and then returned to the sea alive.

The championships will bring hundreds of visitors to White Cliffs Country this autumn. Competitors will be accommodated at Kingsdown.

One Member Reports

SHEILA COPE GIVES HER VIEW OF FESTIVAL WEEK

This event now forms such an important part of Dover's year that we avoid arranging a holiday around the end of May. Why go away when so much is happening here? This time a different part of the world was celebrated each day under an overall theme- New Horizons.

Monday 19 May was Italian Renaissance and Dover Youth Theatre gave a *Commedia Dell'Arte* performance at London Road Methodist Hall. Dating from around 1550, and originating in Italian piazza, this dramatic form involves actors wearing Venetian-type masks stylised so that the character personified is immediately recognisable to the audience. Thus a long nose coloured gold symbolises lechery and avarice of very high status. Likewise each character has a mannered walk which looks stiff and awkward both to watch and to maintain. The play, improvised on a preselected theme of fortune-seeking and intrigue, was excellently performed and amused and fascinated its audience. Congratulations to the players for their courage in tackling an unfamiliar art form so well.

During the second half of the evening the Festival Trio, with pianist John Hurd, gave a concert which ranged from G & S (a nod to Italian theme in the *Gondoliers*) through opera (Mimi's aria from *La Boheme* sung in Italian) to *Flanders and Swann* and *West Side Story*. I doubt whether this particular concert attracted many outside visitors as most of the audience, including the Mayor and other civic dignitaries, were known to each other. It was an informal local occasion with Peter Booth, June Armond and Marie Kelly-Thomas apparently relaxed and enjoying themselves. The ability of the pianist overcame the shortcomings of the piano and the songs, popular for the best reasons, were performed equally well. A stage was superfluous and so were the microphones, yet one could hear every word. Thank you to all those who gave their skills to create such an enjoyable evening.

From midday to 2pm daily in the Market Square there was an open air concert featuring different parts of the world, together with appropriate food tasting -

14 almost a free lunch. The food was provided by Tesco's. On Wednesday nearly replete with peppered sausage, I listened for a time to the Peelsburgers, members of Kent Police Band who performed traditional German Oompah music, involving large wind instruments and percussion. This would have been a static performance but for the attempts of the leader to persuade those watching to get up and dance. Some children accepted his challenge but the weather was cool and overcast and people were in a workaday mood.

Dance had been promised on Thursday afternoon but in De Bradley galeria Africa was celebrated by two colourfully-dressed singers accompanying themselves on cone-shaped drums which they beat with their hands. Perhaps these men were just representative of the group Zuriya and such a performance is better suited to outdoors; one would need to be

an expert in this type of music to comment on its quality.

By Friday Tesco's staff had sensibly moved their stall next to the stage facing the fountain and their cheese and wine attracted a steady stream of recipients who provided a captive audience for a French accordionist and a pierrot-style mime artiste. This was not Marcel Marceau nor did she have his advantages but she engaged and amused small groups at a time.

Our well-known street cleaner went away smiling after she pinned a tricolour to his barrow. Warm weather is crucial to such open-air events and they were brave attempts to introduce life and colour to the Market Square.

I hope that neither the organisers nor partakers felt discouraged as they undoubtedly provided entertainment for visitors with children and others who had time to linger.

Organiser's Review

DONNA SOWERBY, ARTS AND EVENTS MANAGER

Every year I approach the opening day of the Festival of Dover with the same trepidation. Even after six years the feelings and questions are no different - Will the programme be well received and will people support it?

1997 brought its own challenges, firstly with the introduction of a new colleague in the team to learn the general running of the annual celebration and, secondly, the everyday problem of tighter budgets and tougher sponsorship! Lisa Webb took over from Sarah Pascoe as the Council's Arts Development Officer in July 1996 and introduced her own new elements into the programme.

The theme, "New Horizons", encompassed world cultures, travel and partnerships across the seas, the programme including artistes representing many corners of the globe, from the opening Caribbean Mardi Gras Day (with appropriate sunny weather) to European countries - an armchair traveller's delight and almost all free!

We reduced the number of days of the event and many people questioned this decision and also asked why the festival was not staged in half term. The main reason was that the festival has always provided a very strong educational pack-

age for local schools, giving them the opportunity to be a part of the festivities and experience new art forms in the classroom. This continued in 1997 with keen enthusiasm from teachers to host the events. However, with the key emphasis on the Town Centre Management initiative, it has already been proposed to move the 1998 Festival of Dover to the half-term holiday period, providing more time for families and holiday makers to join in the fun.

I had a number of favourites for 1997. I'm sure that anyone who popped into the Market Square during the lunchtimes would agree that the Tesco's food and wine tasting was a welcome addition to the programme. The evening performance by the Italian Festival Ensemble provided a platform for the area's talent to shine. The new White Cliffs theatre was the setting for a passionate performance by "Flamenco Express", an outstanding Spanish theatre and dance company.

On British Day the Page-Mason Company, based in Broadstairs, created and performed a beautiful programme of dance, drama and song from around the British Isles in a show entitled "Interweave". The same afternoon the Deal-based Footlights Youth Theatre presented an upbeat and contemporary version of Macbeth, under the direction of the talented Michael Corbridge.

However, my first choice for 1997 can only be the open air street theatre production of "Paperboat Journey", created, written and performed by students from Astor Secondary School, together with younger pupils from Astor and Temple Ewell Primary Schools. The Council's Schools Art Project was for this year incorporated into the Festival, providing a finale to the festivities in the town. A local professional theatre company - Strange Cargo - in association with jazz musician, Peter Cook, staged a two week residency on combined arts,



PAPER BOAT JOURNEY, Pencester Gardens

PHOTO: *by courtesy of* PETER SOWERBY

16 including craft, music, dance, drama and theatre skills training. Over 100 children were involved, working closely with staff, with the support of parents and friends.

There was something special in the atmosphere on the evening before the big day, when participants, busy making final preparations to costumes and sets, decided spontaneously to break out into song and performance in one of the Harbour Board's warehouse sheds. It was obvious that these young people had really gained from the project, learned to work together, discovered talents previously unknown, shown dedication to and passion for the project and still had fun!

On the night the heavy winds dropped and temperatures nudged a little higher as we assembled in the Market square with a flotilla of flickering paper boat lanterns. The procession led us to Pencester Gardens, transformed for a couple of hours into a magical kingdom

of light, sound and movement, as we were taken on a journey of discovery with magical creatures, mighty machines, shipwrecks and a tree glazed shadow puppet show. The spell binding performance was then topped by a magnificent Fireworks Spectacular to keep everyone awake a little longer! My philosophy has always been that unless young people are introduced to the Arts at a young age they will never truly understand the richness they can bring to our lives. It was a fitting finale to the Festival. It had opened and closed on a high, with excellent support from residents and visitors.

Tomorrow we will begin all over again with plans for 1998. The theme will be "Coastal Landscapes", looking at and addressing environmental issues through the arts and events programme. It is planned to run the Festival of Dover from Bank Holiday Saturday 23rd May until Saturday 30th May -- so make a note in your diary!

Membership News – Summer 1997

THANKS TO MEMBERS – the majority – who have now paid their subscriptions. To save postage, cheques and/or cash put through our door will not normally be acknowledged, though I am happy to provide new membership cards at the AGM or on receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope. Also, for economy reasons, we try to limit bank transactions and cheques may take some weeks to show up on a statement. Please do not hesitate to telephone me if there are any queries.

We are becoming more and more international and have members in the USA, New Zealand, Norway, Belgium and Australia, one recruited as a result of our advertisement in the Dover Town Centre Shopping Guide, which I hope will continue to be published. Nevertheless, word of mouth is the most effective means of gaining new members, so please mention our activities to your friends,

The Committee is trying to show that *all members* are welcome at our meetings and we intend to provide a positive greeting to anyone coming along for the first time. Since 'Society' includes companionship we hope to live up to our name and at our October meeting we especially welcome all new members who are able to attend that first meeting of the winter season. One of the committee members will be standing at the door and we would ask new members to identify themselves as they arrive.

Since the last issue of the *Newsletter* we have welcomed: Mr A, Brooks, Mr R. Kennett, Mr & Mrs L. Wood, Mr & Mrs R. Evans, Mr P. Waelput, Mrs T. Hirst, Mr M. Igglesden, Mr & Mrs H. Gordon and Mrs P. Mayes.

SHEILA R. COPE, *Membership Secretary*

A Castle, a Railway and a Garden 17

Report and photographs by HUGH BAX

"Drifting banners tell their progress to the counties".

We start with the train. The morning was sunny and bright, with a cool south-east wind blowing across the sky, as has been the climatic pattern of recent weeks.

The coach bore us first to Tenterden and dropped us at the New Town station, where we were to take the East Kent and Sussex Railway to Northiam. We had an hour to stroll around and look at the sights. Some penetrated Tenterden as far as St. Michael's Church. Others explored the delightfully preserved and romantic station and railway yard.

We examined the booking hall and ticket office, walked along the platform, visited the "usual offices" (only two authentic) and admired the tank engines and the red coaches. There was a Pullman and an L.M.S. and an energetic plate-layer doing his stuff. We found our way to the refreshment room, where we sat on hard wooden chairs at little wooden tables, taking tea and biscuits. We enjoyed the old advertisements, which the older members of the group remembered so well; Coal Tar

Soap, Lyon's Tea and one that must have mystified our younger members, a handsome head of a zebra, inscribed with the words "Zebra Blacking". I was sorry not to see "Virol - Growing Girls Need It". We found everyone's favourite seaside poster; "Skegness is so bracing".

The short journey across Romney Marsh to Northiam was cheering. The coaches (I was in was an ancient L.M.S. one), although worn and battered-looking were spacious and felt comfortable. The marsh, green and glowing, was lovely in the late May sun. Streams of smoke from our handsome engine blew gently away across the meadows, bright with spring flowers. The little stations were clean and tidy, except for Tenterden. Rolvenden seemed to be the Swindon of this engineering enterprise, exhibiting bits of locomotives, broken boilers and bogies

ONE OF THE WELL-PRESERVED ENGINES



18 lying upside down with their wheels in the air. Then too soon the journey came to an end just as we were enjoying ourselves in the little train on a remarkably smooth line gliding between the villages.

*"I do love these ancient ruins
We never tread upon them but we set
Our feet upon some ancient history"*

We rejoined our coach, which took us to Bodiam Castle. This castellated, fortified mansion is set on a green hill overlooking the river delta. The castle is a jewel and its setting enchanting. Green hillocks and meadows studded with trees surround it

A STRIKING VIEW OF ONE OF THE TOWERS OF BODIAM CASTLE



and, seeing its picturesqueness, one is in danger of forgetting that its original purpose was not primarily aesthetic but fiercely defensive. It was built as a defence against the French by Sir Edward Dalyngrigge between 1385 and 1392. It has four similar towers, one at each corner, three rectangular and the magnificent twin towers of the gatehouse. We walk up to the National Trust office and museum, which contains interesting artifacts of farm, kitchen and armoury, recovered from the grounds at various times.

Turning to look back at the castle, we see an architectural wonder set in a

beautiful moat, approached by a long, wooden bridge. When we enter the castle we enter a ruin, open to the sky. The domestic buildings which once ranged around the great courtyard have nearly all been dismantled. Only doorways, windows and fireplaces on the curtain wall give any indication of the original arrangements. But it has been possible for scholars to plot the ordering of the Great Hall, chapel, kitchen, refectory and other offices and it is comparatively easy to let the imagination work and people the castle's interior and to become aware that, as much as it was a place of formidable defence, Bodiam Castle was also a comfortable manor house. Sir Edward Dalyngrigge had prospered from his activities during the French wars. After the War of the Roses the castle seems to have fallen into a long slumber. After the Civil War it was partially dismantled and during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries fell into picturesque, ivy-clad ruin. It was saved by Lord Curzon who,



above: DIXTER HOUSE

below: BODIAM CASTLE





THE FLOWER GARDEN, DIXTER HOUSE

who, on his return from the vice-royalty of India in 1905, saw it, fell in love with it, bought it and restored it. We owe him much.

*How could such sweet and
winsome hours
Be reckoned but with heaven's
flowers?*

It was time to move on to Great Dixter, from mediaeval defensive manor to Tudor half-timbered house, brilliantly restored by Lutyens in 1910. What a pleasure it was to hear again the romantic story of the discovery and restoration of the house by the Lloyd family, to admire the wonderful wood-work of the Great Hall and the easy comfort of the salon. Many of our members will know that Mr. Christopher Lloyd writes a weekly letter on his garden for "Country Life".

We were shown the room where this work is carried out and a complete bound set of "Country Life", the only one in existence, as the magazine's own copy was destroyed by bombs during the war.

It was to the garden that we eagerly turned after viewing the house. Our

appetites had been whetted by the delightful meadow in front of the house, where grasses and wild flowers are allowed to grow naturally, presenting to the view a colourful tableau. Nowadays all around the beds and borders of the garden the wild flowers are allowed to grow and the effect is very pleasing. There are many flowering shrubs and climbers which I cannot name and the sunken garden is a kaleidoscope of colour, as much from foliage as flowers, grey, red and green. The famous long border is filled with plants developing their strength for their high summer glory, with the last of the tulips and bands of many striking lupins, blue, white and purple, and along the great border forget-me-nots, allowed almost complete freedom, so that the whole is seen through a blue haze.

After surveying the garden, we had the pleasurable task of resisting the temptation to buy some of the many delights on offer in the nursery, where Mr. Lloyd himself appeared, accompanied by the largest dachshund I have ever seen.

Another excellent Dover Society outing, splendidly organised and arranged by Joan Liggett.



THE CASTLE, drawn c1792 for Hasted's "History and Typographical Survey of the County of Kent"

DOVER CASTLE

WHEN MR. KEN SCOTT, the General Manager of Dover Castle, gave a talk to the Society in March, he gave us the good news that, in 1998, English Heritage, which has had the running of the castle since 1984, is to spend a large proportion of its allocation of funds in improving Dover Castle.

The money will be used to provide a new car park and to improve the Keep and the Wartime Tunnels. The Keep will have extensive repairs (already under way in 1997). It was suggested that some of the money will be spent in furnishing some of the halls of the keep in the styles of different periods of history of the castle and acquiring armour and other suitable accoutrements to help to set the scene and give visitors a taste of past centuries when the castle was occupied. On occasions actors would be engaged to add to the credibility of the settings. As in the summer of 1997, there will be special events and exhibitions on every weekend in 1998.

With a promise of improved links between town and castle, this is good news indeed for Dover. The castle is always our foremost attraction, dominating the skyline by day and providing a spectacular background, illuminated at night.

To remind us of the importance of the castle to Dover, Ivan Green kindly agreed to write a "Pocket Book Story" of the castle, especially for this edition of the *Newsletter*.

This is followed by Audrey Kirk's report of Ken Scott's talk and by a wartime anecdote, submitted by Terry Sutton.

[EDITOR

A Pocket-book Story of Dover Castle

by IVAN GREEN

Many volumes have been written about the long story of Dover castle and even more words have been spoken. This is an endeavour to put not a quart but many galleons into a pint pot.

Our story must start with the early Iron Age fort on the hill now occupied by the massive stone fortress. Like many other Iron Age forts in Kent, it would have been built of earthen banks reinforced with wood, in about 100 BC, as an unsuccessful defence against the threat of invasion by continental Belgic tribes and strengthened by them against an equally fruitless Roman invasion.

Besides their great forts and harbour in the valley, the Romans erected two great beacon towers at Dover, one on each side of the harbour entrance, as they did at all their important harbours. A few remains of the westward one, the Bredenstone, survives on the Western Heights, but the Pharos, said to be the most complete Roman building in England, survives almost complete within the present castle area. Here the Romans must have established a community additional to that in the valley but little of it now survives.

In Saxon times there was certainly an important community in the valley, largely based on the remains of the old Roman forts, harbour and occupational area. This community, which became a fortified burgh, grew up around the old Pharos. Of this community, little evidence, except the fine Saxon church, survives but it must have been quite considerable in size and prosperity to have built the church there, probably in

the first two decades of the eleventh century. The church survives as one of the finest Saxon churches in the country.

When William of Normandy defeated Harold at Battle in 1066 he marched his men straight to Dover, pausing only to wreak vengeance on the folk of Romney. At Dover his undisciplined hoard burnt the town and robbed and murdered many of the inhabitants before attacking the burgh established round the Roman Pharos. He overran it in a few days and evicted the inhabitants, pausing only to repair the damage his attack had caused before he continued his march towards Canterbury.

Odo, William's half brother, was so rapacious that he provoked a rebellion of the people of Kent and they invited the Earl of Boulogne to support them. They attacked the castle in 1067 but failed to take it.

With Odo disgraced, William introduced the system of Castle Guard tenure, granting manors all over the country to his most trusted followers in exchange for regular periods of guard at the castle. This produced 171 Knights fees which provided a guard of 5 knights with their men at all times throughout the year.

Little was done to the defences until the reign of Henry the Second, the great castle builder. His work at Dover started with preliminary works between 1168

and 1174. In these years work took place on the great keep, the last of the great square keeps built in England, and on the walls of the inner bailey, under the control of Maurice the Engineer, the King's master mason. Much major building was done between 1183 and 1185 and work continued on the building of the outer walls. These works are now recognised by the rectangular mural towers. All these works were completed in about 1190.

When King John lost Normandy in 1204 he was forced to improve his coastal defences and Dover Castle was in special danger. He built the curtain wall round its west and north sides, together with their mural towers, which are principally D shaped in plan.

And none too soon, since in 1216 the son of the French king, Louis, invaded Kent and attacked Dover Castle, concentrating on the North Gate, taking its defensive barbican. Unable to either defeat the tiny garrison by arms or by starving them out, the French mined the great North Gate, bringing down its eastern tower, but still the defenders held out. King John died, the French withdrew and the great castle defender, Hubert de Burgh, set to work to repair the damage and eliminate shortcomings. Until 1256 the then enormous sum of £7,000 was spent in permanently closing the damaged North Gate, building St. John's Tower and the outworks there, building the FitzWilliam Towers, extending the curtain wall to the edge of the cliff and building the Constable's Tower to form the new entrance gate, which was completed in 1227.

King Edward the Fourth modernised the great keep at a cost of more than £10,000, which included much detail work. Henry the Fifth used the castle as his base for his operations against France. Henry the Eighth used the castle to assemble his party for the great Field of

Cloth of Gold meeting and he also built the Tudor Bulwark and Moat's Bulwark in the cliff below.

The Stuart kings were remarkably careless of the castle's defensive importance, so much so that in 1642, during the civil war, a handful of Dover civilians were able to capture and hold it until Parliamentary troops took it over and held it for the Parliamentary cause in spite of abortive Royalist attacks in 1642 and 1648.

In Charles the Second's reign the castle, its armaments and its garrison troops became run down and useless, the king spending his money on personal pleasures and his court favourites.

From the middle of the eighteenth century onwards, much damage was done to the castle to make it suitable for modern warfare against the French, principally to provide gun platforms, for which many of the old towers were modified, particularly to provide clear fields of fire for the guns. In addition, walls were banked up with earth to absorb the impact of ball ammunition then in use. During this and the Napoleonic periods enormous alterations, both to the castle itself and to its outworks, destroyed so very much of the older work, much of which we regret today. But, of course, the castle was primarily an important defensive work and it had to be altered to suit newer methods of warfare.

The castle survived almost unscathed through two great world wars in the hands of the military, but after 1945 it was largely under the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, whose highly skilled and professional work force brought it up to its present fine condition. Now in the hands of English Heritage, it has finally passed from its time of military importance and is a leading attraction for visitors both from home and abroad.

The Future of Dover Castle

A large and superb colour print of Dover Castle enhanced the stage of St. Mary's Hall at our March Meeting. This was a useful backdrop to the evening's address by Ken Scott, the General Manager of Dover Castle for English Heritage. This fast-talking, enthusiastic Yorkshire man, now resident in the castle, has promised to bring Dover Castle into the first line of tourist attractions with the improvements planned for the castle by English Heritage in 1998.

Statistically Stonehenge has been the best revenue earner for English Heritage, said Mr. Scott, with Dover Castle a close second. In 1998 Dover Castle will be in the forefront of their planning.

-Mr Scott outlined many of the proposed improvements, some of which are already in progress.

THE KING HENRY II KEEP

This centrepiece of the castle is already getting priority with extensive repairs to the roof and stone work. It is expected that the work will be finished in 1998. The Keep will be used for exhibitions and special events every weekend.

CAR PARKING AND ACCESS

The future plan is most ingenious to provide car parking on the newly-purchased land at Broadlees Bottom, with access to the castle via FitzWilliam Gate. It was also planned to run a 72ft land train, consisting of a Land Rover pulling two trailers, to provide a shuttle service within the castle grounds.

SECRET WARTIME TUNNELS

This is the new marketing name for "Hellfire Corner". The tunnels and castle together are an important package marketed by English Heritage and has become their second

biggest attraction. Already there are over 300,000 visitors a year

The tunnels have already had a great deal of money spent on them. Last year the hospital level was made available to visitors.

QUESTION TIME

There was some discussion of links between town and castle, with taxi services or shuttle buses.

Mr. Scott said that **THE OFFICERS' MESS** has had £1,000,000 spent on repair and that it is hoped it will be a hotel and conference centre.

The audience were pleased to learn that **QUEEN ELIZABETH I's POCKET PISTOL** is back at the castle and on view in the N.A.F.F.I. block.

At the end of the talk we felt that the prospects for our castle, our heritage, are most encouraging for the future.

ARMED

TERRY SUTTON

RAIDERS at the Castle

*The Story
of the day
when a
young Wren
helped in
the capture
of heavily
defended
Dover Castle
at the end
of the
1939-45 war.
As told by
an old soldier,
Ken Fleet,
of Deal, who
was working
in the
underground
complex
at the time.*

IT WAS DECEMBER 1943 and Ken was on duty that night He had been driven, with others, through the cordon of sentries to get into the network of grey-green, rough-hewn, chalk underground tunnels leading to Combined Headquarters beneath the Castle.

Ken recalls: "Off the main tunnels were the Signals Centre offices with trim Wrens in navy blue skirts and white blouses and ATS and WAAF in their smart uniforms. All were busy as bees carrying messages, recording signals and typing on teleprinter keyboards. The ringing of telephones and the background of printer keys gave the impression of business-like efficiency. Wireless receivers were lined up on either side of the tunnel. All communication with distant stations - usually at Portsmouth - was by five-letter cipher in morse code. Small wonder then that when a door was flung open in the middle of the night, and a couple of men stepped quickly inside and ordered us to get away from our keyboards, that we took some time to react. The intruders were armed with sub-machine guns, had darkened faces and had the conventional woollen caps of raiders."

Who were they? And what were they doing in such a heavily defended communications centre? They were Royal Marines from Deal staging an exercise to test the castle's security.

Ken says it took some time before the raiders could persuade the operators to line up in a group. By then, he says, they had realised the intruders were 'on our side'. Perhaps they would have moved with more alacrity if their uniforms had been German army grey!

But how did they get in? Ken says it is only recently he discovered what happened. He says a former Leading Wren, Sheila Jennings, née Leuty, was the key to the success of this amazing infiltration.

She had been instructed to carry out an unobtrusive 'recce' of the castle, well in advance, and she discovered a gap below a well-secured door that led into the castle. The gap had, apparently, been worn away by generations of booted feet and the passage on the other side was a sally port built so that defending troops could get out of their defensive positions to surprise besiegers.

She informed the leader of the Royal Marines at Deal and convinced him that, stripped of their packs and equipment, slim Marines would be able to squeeze under the secure door. And that's just what they did and how they came to surprise Combined Headquarters at Dover Castle.

Ivan Green's Colour Guide to Dover

A welcome addition to the growing number of books about Dover is Ivan Green's *Colour Guide*, published at the end of 1996. Pocket-sized, priced at £2.95, it is excellent value, containing six guided tours around the Dover area, with route maps included and 102 colour plates all from Ivan's own transparencies. These are of very high quality with excellent reproduction and must be one of the best collections of photographs of Dover in one compact booklet.

Ivan Green, with his wife Margaret, began his collection of photographs and data when he arrived home to Dover from military service in 1945. He now has 45,000 colour slides and over 50,000 black and white negatives and volumes of information on every part of Kent, used extensively over the years in his talks and articles. Also the material on Kent has been used in the

last ten of the books they have produced, perhaps the best known being their "Book of the Cinque Ports."

This latest publication is a must for a Doverian. It is worth buying just for the pictures, quite apart from the useful information on guided walks. It is also to be recommended for gifts for friends and visitors.

The Cover Picture: FROM IVAN GREEN'S COLLECTION

Ivan has kindly provided us with these explanatory notes.

This old print shows the Castle as it was before the anti-Napoleon alterations. These brutal modifications, made to convert the ancient building into an 18th century strong point housing many guns, were part of the extensive campaign to repel threatened invasions by Napoleon's French armies.

Ancient crenellations were dismantled to permit guns to be mounted on the tops of the towers, the old roof of the Keep was pulled down and the present brick ceiling installed in its place, both to safeguard the interior from stray shots and to permit the top of the Keep to be used by the defenders. Elaborate defences were added to the exterior, especially in, near and under St. John's Tower and the old North Gate. Extensive earthworks were dug around the exterior of the castle walls and great earthen banks were piled up against the stone walls. It had been proved that the ball ammunition fired from the guns of the time splintered stone, making it fly off on all directions in the form of sharpened flakes, thus providing a lethal form of stone shrapnel. Instead the earthen banks absorbed the ball ammunition, progressively destroying its velocity and bringing it harmlessly to rest, buried deep inside them.



THE DOVER TOUR BUS at Mount Pleasant, Durham Hill

photo courtesy of Dover Express

Guide Friday

The EDITOR

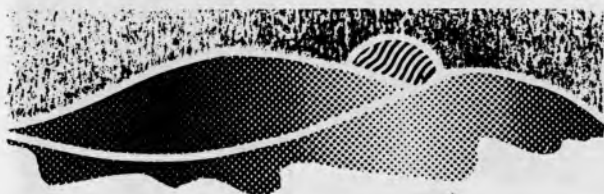
GUIDE FRIDAY'S green and cream buses started operating on May 24th on a route starting at the Market Square and including Western Heights, Eastern Docks, Langdon Heights, Dover Castle, the waterfront, parts of the town and the cruise terminal, when a ship is in port. The tour takes one hour, slightly longer when the cruise terminal is included. There is a taped commentary to give information to passengers.

A spokesman for Guide Friday says, "Our tours are specially designed to help visitors find their way round the historic sites of Dover". This is a good way to introduce friends and visitors to the delights of Dover. It eliminates parking problems and minimises the amount of explanation you need give as you visit the various sites. Also you and your party can nip on and off the bus as you choose, for instance getting

off at the castle and catching the bus two hours later to return to the town, or alighting at Western Heights for an hour to admire the view and walk around the gun batteries and the Drop Redoubt, then boarding the bus again.

EDITOR

The operation runs from 24th May-31st August. Tickets cost £5.50. Concessions £4.00. Children under 12, £2.00. Family ticket from £11.00.



WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT



PAUL HOLT
Assistant Project Officer,
W.C.C.P.

MEMBERS MAY HAVE NOTICED in the local press and a brief mention in last December's *Newsletter* that the White Cliffs Countryside Project has a new person on the team. Paul Holt joined the team in September 1996. He went to the University of Hertfordshire and completed a B.Sc Hons in Environmental Studies. This included a work placement year where Paul worked for the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Parc National Des Cevennes in France. After finishing University in Hertfordshire he went to work as a Warden of a National Nature Reserve in Ireland. At the same time doing a research Masters Degree with University College Cork on hedgerow birds. Before coming to Dover he worked for the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust as an educational officer at Gibraltar point. The main area that Paul is working on is the Western Heights and Whinless Down in Dover.

With a new addition to the team it has been possible to start a monitoring programme for the butterflies on the Western Heights. This involves walking a route once a week counting the number of butterflies within a set distance. This will help show how successful the management is. Certain species of butterfly need specific plants, for example the rare Adonis Blue and Chalk Hill Blue need Horseshoe vetch for the caterpillars to feed on. This plant only occurs in short grass so the grazing has to match the plants needs.

The Spring and early Summer on the Western Heights has been impressive for the flowers. The cowslips on a number of the fields have increased in recent years thanks to the grazing. This year with no summer grazing on Rope Walk field near Ayecliff it is a riot of colour, with Kidney vetch Pyramidal orchids Milkwort and many others.

Whinless Down is the only site in Kent where the Scarce Forester Moth occurs it is a shiny metallic green and can be seen flying on warm sunny days in the middle of June. It is closely related to the spectacular red and black six spot Burnet moth which is familiar day flying moth.

The new Western Heights leaflet is going like hot cakes and has been a great success. The Summer Guided Walks programme is out now. It has more than three hundred walks to suit all ages and interests, and can be found in Tourist Information Centres, libraries and directly from us.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

CROSS CHANNEL WALKERS



A clue to the following comprehension test ...

A request came from a French ramblers group to the Dover and Thanet Rights of Way Society (President: John Gerrard, Publicity Secretary: Keith Gawn) to organise a Kent Countryside walk for about fifty randonneurs. The event received publicity in a local Pas de Calais newspaper and, as a result, on 13th April, three of us met 200 French walkers. Luckily John and Keith had looked out a choice of routes.

Now read on ...

“Deux cents randonneurs français dans le Kent.”

Le dimanche 13 Avril deux cents marcheurs se sont rassemblés vers 7 hu du matin près de la salle polyvalents de Moule pour participer à une direction au lycée Ribot de Saint-Omer.

Après avoir reçu une collation et quelques directives sur l'organisation de la journée, le groupe s'est rendu en voiture personnelle au terminal maritime de Calais pour la traversée en ferry jusque Douvres.

Là, trois randonneurs anglais, Keith, Léo et Val, les attendaient pour les guider sur les sentiers et chemins du Kent. Les marcheurs se séparèrent en deux groupes: un de 60 personnes environ pour un parcours plus sportif de 20km, et un second pour une randonnée plus familiale de 13km, le long des falaises en direction de St. Margaret's at Cliffe.

Le soleil étant au rendezvous, le groupe s'installa au cœur de ce charmant village anglais pour un pique-nique bien mérité. L'après-midi, après avoir fait le tour de St Margaret, la longue file de randonneurs prit le chemin du retour vers Douvres pour reprendre le ferry qui débarqua le groupe (au grand complet!) vers 20 h au port de Calais, chacun conservant un excellent souvenir de cette journée passée dans cette magnifique campagne anglaise. Plusieurs personnes se promirent même de renouveler prochainement cette excursion. ”

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The last date for receipt of copy for issue No. 30 will be **Monday, 3rd November.**

The Editor welcomes contributions and interesting drawings or photographs. Accurate "copy" on computer discs is most welcome. "Paper copy" should be typed at double spacing - **if it must be handwritten please write very clearly and at wide line spacing.**

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Wartime Dover

Perhaps prompted by reading some of the wartime memories of Budge Adams, printed in issues 27 and 28 of the Newsletter, two members, Mr Maurice Wilson and Mr S.S.G. Hale, have sent contributions relating some of their experiences in Dover during World War II. They make interesting reading. *EDITOR*

Maurice Wilson

who lives in Weaving Street, Maidstone, writes:-

I was born in Dover in 1927 at a nursing home near the corner of Maison Dieu Road and Taswell Street, and lived in Heathfield Avenue until I was evacuated with the Dover Boys' County School to Ebbw Vale in 1940. Even then I returned home for the school holidays until I left school in 1943, returning to Dover to join my parents (Dad was the Manager of the Maypole Dairy Co. at 48 Biggin Street, next to the King's Hall, a cinema) at their new address in Markland Road.

My first school was Miss Lindsey's, from age five until eight, when I joined Miss Rookwood's class at the County School. In those days it was normal to walk to school if there wasn't a convenient bus route, and my normal route, which it was accepted you did on your own, was down to Barton Path, along to Beaconsfield Road, across the London Road to the raised part (Buckland Terrace) then up past the Chapel to the allotments that ran above Union Road (Coombe Valley Road) and behind the Isolation Hospital in Noah's Ark Road to the top entrance of the school - I believe this walk will be remembered by at least one of our Vice-Presidents! But from the age of ten I graduated to a bike, which was very much easier.

Dover was always a garrison town and we became very used to the Navy and the Army - and each regiment in those days had its own band so there was always an opportunity to listen to them, either playing for the hymns at the Morning Service

in the Castle Church or, on any Sunday, on the parade ground at the Grand Shaft Barracks, apart from the special treats, like "Beating the Retreat" on the Sea Front or marching through the town in ceremonial style on their arrival or departure. That's how I saw my first Mounted Band and may explain why to this day I am still very fond of brass bands.

Also there were many then unexplained happenings around us at that time - for example, the erection of the massive steel towers behind the Castle. Not until much later did we learn they were for Radio-Location (Radar).

After the War started and the Germans neared the Channel Coast we children quickly learnt about war - in truth, we quite enjoyed it, particularly when the Messerschmitts shot down the barrage balloons that then adorned our town, keeping a score and rushing to pick up the shrapnel, although we soon learnt it would be very hot if we were too quick! Youngsters have no real sense of danger.

One of my most vivid memories of that time was standing on the Admiralty Pier watching all the destroyers and other ships, three or four deep, unloading our troops from Dunkirk to be taken away by train after train. The following week all the local schools joined that railway line as well, and at many stations as we passed through Kent there were volunteers, W.V.S., Mothers' Union, etc., waiting to give buns and cups of tea to the weary troops as the trains pulled up to wait for a

free line ahead. It must have been a nightmare for the railway authorities to organise, although we didn't think of it as such at the time.

After that, from 1941 onwards, when I returned home for the holidays I travelled by bus and always had to show my Registration details at the public house outside Swanley, for non-residents were not allowed into the area.

I left Wales for good in 1943, aged sixteen, and first joined the Borough Treasurer's office for about three months until I started in the Westminster Bank. This was in the long building on the corner of the Market Square and King Street, a single storey some sixteen feet wide at the beginning, leading to a two-storey office block above the Manager's Room. This design resulted in a very long underground area, partly a safe where customers' boxes were stored and three other areas for storage, etc. Normally all staff worked in the Banking Hall but during shelling (to which Dover was subjected from 12th August 1940 until the 26th September 1944) we left the front door open and went down to the main safe where we had set up a counter so that work could still carry on for customers to attend to their business and then wait, if they wished, during long shelling sessions. When this happened, they shared our lunch of sandwiches (the new 'Spam' was very popular) prepared by the ledger keeper. Our typist and adding machine operator shared another cellar, shored up by baulks of timber, while another storage room was occupied outside business hours by fire-watchers, whom I had to join from time to time. Another of my duties at that time was to visit the two upper storeys to check the sand and water buckets, this part of the building being unoccupied and derelict, due to war damage. The bank building was damaged at least sixteen times during the War and it was the bank itself that persevered to keep a service going.

In order to help in this, the main windows, some ten feet high and five feet wide, had been removed and replaced

by a double brick reinforced wall, except for a very small window high up. The Westminster was not the only bank that stayed open during raids and shelling, for while Lloyds and the National Provincial, also in the Market Square, closed, Barclays in Cannon Street and the Midland in Pencester Road, kept open. It may seem surprising that so many businesses kept going, but there wasn't a lot of choice, for until 1944, at least, shelling and raids were quite sporadic, with sometimes days or even weeks between attacks. And you still had to get home for lunch or after work - all you did was to cycle a little faster through the likely shelling areas! Shells tended to land in Dover in more or less set lines, and it was widely thought that this was because many of the guns were on curving railway tracks and they tended to stop in the same place before firing. This 'straight line of explosions' can be seen by a close check of a map published by the *Dover Express* many years ago, and the line I always sped through was the one running from the western side of the Market Square, on behind the Post Office, on to De Burgh Street and on further. It is not correct to think that all Dover inhabitants of that time rushed to the caves at every incident - there were many, including all the people I knew, who never saw the inside of any of them!

Altogether 2226 shells, 464 bombs and three parachute mines fell in Dover during the War and in the four years between 1940 and 1944, German guns opened fire, either on convoys in the Straits or on the town itself, sometimes in retaliation to our own guns on top of the cliffs towards St. Margaret's Bay opening fire or more often on suspected troop movements or just plain 'bloody-mindedness'. The alert (the normal air raid warning sounded twice) was sounded and the alert continued until usually one hour after the last shell had fallen. Sometimes the Germans fired another soon after the hour was up, and everybody was very annoyed! At the end,

32 however, as our troops (Canadians, I seem to remember) neared the Calais area shelling became almost continuous, in the last day starting at two a.m. with seven in the first hour. More shells were fired in the sea around ten o'clock and at midday the all clear sounded. Before long another shell heralded the beginning of three hours continuous bombardment, the very last shell falling on the opposite side of the Market Square (on Hubbard's Umbrella Shop, where the TSB is now) at quarter past seven in the evening of Tuesday, 26th September 1944. And when it was announced by the Mayor, through the loudspeakers that had been put on lampposts throughout the main street, that all the gun sites had been captured music was played for the rest of the day. One certain tune - 'Once aboard the lugger, and the girl is mine' - seemed most popular, being played many times throughout the day!

Before then, however, the doodlebug

raids had started and while not many fell in Dover, some hitting the cliffs as they came in flying too low to clear, others were shot down by RAF fighters or by the ack-ack guns that had been set up around the coast, some even on our Sea Front. I can still remember being woken one night by a loud harsh vibrating noise and looking through my bedroom window in Markland Road seeing this strange light crossing the sky just above Plum Pudding Hill. When daylight came and we could see these little pilotless planes heading inland we realised what was going on but it was some time before early one morning we saw many other planes heading in the opposite direction above the same hill, plane after plane, mostly Dakotas and other planes pulling gliders, on their way, we learned later, for Arnhem and Nijmegen.

© M. Wilson, *Rose House, Weaving Street, Weaving, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5JR*

Dover Boyhood Blitz

A contribution from S.S.G. Hale, who lives in Temple Ewell

I was eight years of age on the 15th of August 1940 and my only birthday gift was a wrist watch. The overwound watch was returned within a week to the Biggin Street watchmaker and I was not to see that watch again for many years.

At the beginning of June the WVS made mountains of sandwiches and brewed gallons of tea which was distributed in huge brown teapots by Cubs and Scouts to the carpet of soldiers lying on the Marine Station platforms. Tea was poured into helmets, mess tins, tobacco tins, any container because the Cubs were too small to carry cups and the soldiers seemed to have left everything at Dunkirk. Southern Railway cleared all the soldiers and the following Sunday all the school children too. But there were still plenty of people to watch the skies.

In July the Stuka dive-bombers concentrated on the harbour but they were vulnerable and even the anti-aircraft gunners managed to down a few and the RAF fighters sorted out the rest. But then the Navy scarpers to Portsmouth leaving only a few MTBs and air-sea rescue launches with Dutch and Norwegian crews which sheltered in the East Cliff submarine pens.

In August a BBC commentator was criticised for reporting the dog-fights in the style of a sports engagement - but that is exactly what it was like. Every downed plane was one of theirs and every victor was one of ours. The after-match scores in 1945 indicated a draw rather than the home win originally claimed. But a Jerry away win was necessary for a successful invasion because the home team still had

the Royal Navy in the pavilion at Portsmouth and Scapa Flow. There were playing cards with black silhouettes of friend and foe aircraft and even smaller cigarette cards with coloured pictures to turn everyone into plane recognition experts. If it was diving and had bent wings with its wheels down it was probably a Stuka and if it had two engines it was a Heinkel. At 20,000 feet you could see the contrails, hear the chatter of machine guns, the crump of the anti-aircraft shell explosions (at night the ack-ack shells cracked evilly rather than the day-time crump - something to do with atmospheric). But recognize planes - never! When the Hurricane mistakenly shot down all the barrage balloons along the Folkestone Road it was generally agreed that it was probably a Messerschmitt 109 after all, since it had black crosses all over it. We soon learned to wait for the ack-ack shrapnel which clattered off the roofs to cool before adding it to WWII collection.

The Royal Navy presence was minimal but I suspect the sailors never got past Snargate Street, which provided all the necessary comforts to war-weary seamen. HMS Lynx, staffed by WRENS was located at Dover College but wisely moved to the Dover County (now Grammar) School for Boys. The hillside behind the school is still honeycombed with their air-raid shelters. There were lots of RAF and WAAF personnel who ran the radar station at Swingate. There were surprisingly few soldiers who were scattered in penny packets around the perimeter of Dover.

Canadian troops were living in the eight unfinished semi-detached houses at the end of Markland Road. Field kitchens in the gardens provided food. Later the Elms Vale Recreation Ground's changing rooms were the soldiers' dining room. The sloping floor indicated that previously the shed had been a milking shed. The soldiers converted the dairy into a kitchen and dilapidated buildings were repaired and converted into storerooms. The catering staff and service corps personnel remained more or less permanent. The

infantry living in civilian homes changed constantly. The *Green Howards* were here. At the end of Bluebell Wood was a company position overlooking the Hougham road. Anti-tank dragon teeth covered by gun positions on both sides of the road were located at the end of the recreation ground (then the municipal dump).

Halfway up Whinless Down behind the Old Barn were two anti-aircraft gun emplacements - but whether there were guns in place depended on what army unit was in residence. The concrete and steel girder air-raid shelter behind the Old Barn is still in place. Behind Plum Pudding Hill was an emergency air strip complete with a tiny brick control tower and camouflaged parking spaces for aircraft. Councillor Law's double garage in Queens Avenue was an AFS fire station but since the firemen were not allowed to use the Law's telephone, communications to HQ were via the Elms Vale public telephone. Occasionally I passed vital messages like "We're running out of sugar" or "When are the spare parts arriving?" But with such communications the station soon closed.

On the 22nd August 1940 everything changed - the first cross-Channel shell arrived. Dover emptied - but fast. The pre-war population was 41,281. The mid-war official guesstimate was 14,000. In Bull's description he suggests 7,000. Another suggested figure for late 1940 was 2,000 which is probably too low but I find it believable. I walked street after street of vacant houses seeing nobody. In Queens Avenue only three families remained, headed by Mr Pelham, power station electrician, Royal Navy Seaman Fidler and coal miner Richard Hale. Everyone with any sense and not vital for defence went. Shops closed, streets were vacated, and schools became Rest Shelters. The Battle of Britain was almost over - the Bombardment of Dover had just begun. I didn't see my watch until 1945 when the watch repairer opened again!

THE DOVER SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997

NOTE 1-PROJECT FUND

The Fund arises from grants and awards made in respect of the Society's projects less costs incurred thereon. The principal projects involving these funds have been the planting of Lousyberry Wood , restoring Lydden Pond and amenity improvement work.

Fund Movements for the year:

Balance at 1st April 1996	416.43
Transfer from General Fund	700.00
 Sundry expenses	 131.93
 Balance at 31st March 1997	 <u><u>£984.50</u></u>

NOTE 2-PEVERLEY PUBLICATION

The Society will be publishing John Peverley's account of the Western Heights fortifications. Grants have been received from Eurotunnel, Pfizer, National Westminster Bank, Hammonds, Dover Harbour Board and David Shaw MP.

Grants in hand at 1st April 1996	1,354.00
Grants received during the year	<u>700.00</u>
Total grants received	<u><u>£2,054.00</u></u>
 Costs of production, launching and distribution.	 2012.97
Proceeds of sales to date	<u>1,203.78</u>
Unrecovered costs	<u><u>£809.19</u></u>
 Grants less unrecovered costs	 <u><u>£1,244.81</u></u>

The unsold stock of books in hand with Doug Welby, our distributor, is 369, valued at £729.

THE DOVER SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 1997

	1997	1996
CURRENT ASSETS		
Society badges	102.76	112.76
Prepayments (Social Outings)	50.00	
Building Society Account	8084.29	6198.04
Bank Current Account	69.83	737.34
Cash in hand	<u>63.71</u>	<u>65.02</u>
	8,370.59	7,113.16
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions in advance	50.00	114.00
Other Creditors	<u>150.00</u>	
	£8,170.59	£6,999.16
Represented by:-		
General Fund before transfer to Projects Fund	6,091.28	5,228.73
Transfer to Projects Fund	<u>(700.00)</u>	
General Fund at 31st March 1997	5391.28	
Rolls Memorial Maintenance Fund	50.00	
Sir Clifford Jarrett Memorial Fund	500.00	
Projects Fund	Note 1' 984.50	416.43
Peverley Publication	Note 2 1,244.81	1,354.00
	<u>£8,170.59</u>	<u>£6,999.16</u>

Jennifer N. Gerrard

Jennifer Gerrard, Treasurer

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account and certify that they are in accordance with the books and records supplied to us.

Westgate House,
 87, St. Dunstan's Street,
 Canterbury,
 Kent.

SPAIN BROTHERS & CO
 Chartered Accountants

THE DOVER SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997

	1997	1996
SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS		
Subscriptions	2,376.00	1,412.00
Donations Received	<u>103.00</u>	<u>72.50</u>
	2,479.00	1,484.50
SOCIAL EVENTS		
Christmas Gathering	(22.89)	0.05
Wine & Wisdom	13.58	77.88
Goodwin Sands		15.86
Rochester		65.00
Greenwich		117.30
French Outing	265.15	40.86
Museum Evening	(5.71)	71.42
Port Control	(17.00)	
Vardon Organ Recital	(67.04)	
Chatham	30.20	
Kew	105.60	
Townhall	15.00	
KFAS Conference	63.26	
Guided Walks in Dover	<u>380.15</u>	<u>10.00</u>
	398.37	
MEMBERS AND MEETINGS		
AGM and Members meetings	(168.91)	(170.38)
External Meetings	<u>(55.00)</u>	<u>(55.00)</u>
	(223.91)	(225.38)
NEWSLETTER		
Net Surplus (deficit)	<u>(43.89)</u>	<u>44.39</u>
44.39	(43.89)	44.39
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS		
Photocopying	(248.02)	(298.47)
Millennium Project		(62.35)
Postage, Telephone and Advertising	(191.67)	(132.52)
Affiliation fees and Insurance	(182.50)	(215.00)
Committee Room Hire	<u>(110.00)</u>	<u>(110.00)</u>
	(732.19)	(818.34)
OTHER ITEMS		
Dover Archive Rescue	(250.00)	
Bronze Age Boat Trust	(250.00)	
Cruise Line Brochure	(250.00)	
Plaque to Unknown Warrior	(368.25)	
Special Presentation	(63.24)	(30.00)
Building Society and other interest received	289.88	257.31
Donations Made	<u>(105.00)</u>	<u>(70.00)</u>
	(996.61)	157.31
SURPLUS for the year	862.55	1,040.85
SURPLUS brought forward	<u>5,228.73</u>	<u>4,187.88</u>
SURPLUS carried forward	<u>£6,091.28</u>	<u>£5,228.73</u>

NOTE: On the Income and Expenditure account only, bracketed () items are debits or net costs, unbracketed items are credits or net income

36 *Cruise Welcome Group*

MERRIL LILLEY

Two meetings of the Cruise Welcome Group have been held since the last *Newsletter*, one on 18th April at the Churchill Hotel and another at Dover College on 27th June. Both meetings were chaired by James Overton. In future they will be chaired by the new Town Centre Management Co-ordinator.

Keith Southey from Dover Harbour Board said there were 132 cruise ships calling into Dover this year and he highlighted particular ships that may be of interest. One of these was the Airtours vessel *Sundream*, in Dover for the first time on 21-22 April when she was entertaining a number of tour operators, T.V. and national and local press representatives. On 16th May there was to be a launch of the *Saga Rose* and on 4th July Barbara Sturgeon of Radio Kent made a live broadcast from the *Crystal Harmony*, the largest cruise ship yet to be accommodated at Dover.

A rota of cruise welcomers has been drawn up.

It was decided to progress with the initial information board at the cruise terminal and this will be in place by the

end of June. For next season it is hoped that a video of Dover will be available to offer to the cruise ships to show to passengers before they arrive at the port.

Colin Sawyer's publication, a "New Guide to Dover", was discussed. The guide is free, is distributed over a wide area and is updated each month.

It was agreed that coach operators should be made aware of pick-up points. As well as at the Market Square there will be an opportunity to drop passengers at Pencester Road, possibly a more suitable site.

After the meeting on 27th June members had an opportunity to take a trip on the "Guide Friday" bus to observe the route and listen to the taped commentary.

WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

On 21st May, 1997, the U3A held its sixth Annual General Meeting at St. George's Hall, Deal.

This local group had 215 members in 1996-97 but membership is increasing all the time. There are six groups in Kent, the others being Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Dartford and Maidstone.

The White Cliffs group has run 23 courses in 1996-97 and will be adding to these in September 1997. In addition there are monthly talks and social events.

At the AGM, after the reports from the Chairman and Treasurer, there were reports from many of the group leaders present, including Shakespeare, Scrabble,

Viking Trail, Music Appreciation, Writing Workshop, Astronomy, Art Appreciation, Drawing, Bridge, Fun with French, French - Intermediate and Advanced and German, Elementary and Intermediate, which gave some idea of the range of courses available.

Note: If you are interested in joining the *White Cliffs U3A* for courses starting in *September 1997*, write to the *Membership Secretary, Olive Littlejohn, 26 Cross Road, Walmer, Kent CT14 9LB* for programme and enrolment form.



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NB The **Bridge That Gap** class gives parents an insight into secondary school topics covering Computing, Maths, French, English & Science over 25 weeks.

Workers' Educational Association

Dover Branch



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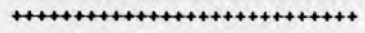
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44 THIS AND THAT

- DOVER CHAT

You may have noticed, with each successive report in Newsletters from our Membership Secretary, that the number of our members increases gradually year by year. The number never falls below 400 and stays at around about 440.

With this number of members it becomes increasingly more difficult to keep in touch and remember everyone. In her report this time, Sheila Cope expresses the hope that we can do more to introduce new members to each other at meetings and all do a bit more chatting!

In every issue of the Newsletter I invite members to get in touch if they can offer help with our various projects, subcommittees and, of course, contributions to the Newsletter. The response is a little disappointing. However, for those who, in the future, find they have more time do consider helping in some way.

I often meet members around and about the town. Recently I've encountered several members on the Prince of Wales Pier where, like us, they have repaired to watch the cruise ship of the day leave the Western Docks. There is always a small crowd at the end of the pier to watch the tugs, bedecked, manoeuvre the great ship from its berth and send her on her way, often with a display from their fire hoses as she sounds her horn three times and departs for the Baltic, Scandinavia or the Mediterranean, passengers crowded on deck to say farewell to the White Cliffs of Dover. Does it make you want to sail with her?

Were you listening to Radio Kent on the morning of July 4th? The programme was broadcast from the Crystal Harmony, the longest cruise ship to put into Dover this summer. Barbara Sturgeon conducted a wide range of interviews, with the cruise director, captain, restaurant manager, chef de cuisine, chief engineer, bar staff, entertainers, members of the crew and with John Turgoose of Dover Harbour Board saying how much the terminal was benefiting the town. One interview was with a local piano tuner, working on a Steinway worth £54,000. He said he had work on six ships, tuning the pianos!

Two members of the Dover Society were among those interviewed by Barbara Sturgeon. Terry Sutton and Daphne Davis, both members of the Cruise Welcome Group, managed to get on board. Daphne had ordered 450 rosebuds, with money donated by local groups and she distributed these to lady VIPs in the morning and to embarking passengers in the afternoon. Well done, Daphne!

What changes in the town since our last issue? Have you visited the new health food shop or the "Eight Bells" in Cannon Street? Have you noticed that work has started on the second phase of the factory shops at Wellington Dock, due to open before Christmas? Have you seen the town guide produced by Colin Sawyer of "What, Where, When"? It should be very useful for visitors to the town with a good map and lots of adverts. by local shops and eating places. The guide is available from the tourist centre, the museum and many businesses in the town have a supply.

The Museum launched its new data base on 4th July and this is available for the public to use. More about this in the next issue.

One of our members, Snezana Lawrence, has started up an Internet Service called Dodeca Images and I am hoping she will write an article about the Internet for the next copy of the Newsletter and give us her ideas - so more of that in Newsletter 30.

EDITOR

PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 20

Saturday

SWALE BARGE TRIP: £35

SEPTEMBER 27

Saturday

LONDON/BUCKINGHAM PALACE: £19 inclusive

OCTOBER 11

Saturday

SPABS - VISIT TO FORDWICH £3.50

*10 places only - first come first served
Contact Joan Liggett*

OCTOBER 15

Wednesday

TOUR OF BUCKLAND PAPER MILL

Contact Joan Liggett

OCTOBER 20

Monday 7.30

Members and Guests

MEMBERS' MEETING

Speaker: ROBERT BAILEY, Town Clerk
St. Mary's Parish Centre
Parking at Stembrook

NOVEMBER 17

Monday 7.30

Members and Guests

Speakers: DOROTHY and DICK BOLTON
"CHURCHES ON THE MARSH"
NOEL TATT (to be confirmed)
St. Mary's Parish Centre
Parking at Stembrook

DECEMBER 13

Saturday 7.30

Members and Guests

CHRISTMAS FEAST

In the Refectory at Dover College
Application forms in Autumn *Newsletter*

DATES for 1998

MORE DETAILS IN DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

All meetings in St. Mary's Parish Centre

JANUARY 19

Monday

MEMBERS' MEETING

Speaker: CHRISTOPHER WADE on "SAXON WAY"

FEBRUARY 16

Monday

WINE AND WISDOM with CLIVE TAYLOR

MARCH 16

Monday

MEMBERS' MEETING

APRIL 27

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OCTOBER 19

MEMBERS' MEETING

NOVEMBER 16

MEMBERS' MEETING



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

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to early September
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A0 PLANS/DRAWINGS

DAYGLO POSTERS TO DOUBLE CROWN

LAMINATING UP TO A1