

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

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Old view of the Maison Dieu

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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The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

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

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

All members receive three Newsletters 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

The next meeting is the fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Society on Monday, 22nd April, at St. Mary's Parish Centre. The speaker is Dr. Fred Lansberry on 'Henry VIII and Dover'. We hope for the usual good attendance.

This will be the last indoor meeting until October. From May members can join any or all of the six summer outings organised by our Social Secretary, Joan Liggett. Joan never ceases to amaze me! Every summer she comes up with yet another fantastic choice of trips. What have we this year? There are two theatre trips, one to the Marlowe in Canterbury to see 'Sunset Boulevard' and one to the Globe Theatre to see 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. There are two country trips - always popular - one to Higham House and Gardens and one to Herstmonceux Castle and Science Centre. The French trip is to Agincourt in September (details not available yet) and August brings a totally new venture! Eight days on the Isle of Wight! Who suggested that in the last brainstorming session?

Please check the details of all these outings on the inside cover of the back page of this issue. Remember that we no longer enclose application forms for outings with the Newsletter. These will be available at the indoor meetings in March and April and from Joan at any time (telephone: 214886). Joan also has forms available on the coach at any outing so you can get forms for future trips when you see her. Having said that, it is safer to book well ahead for the popular events like theatre visits. Please help Joan by making sure you know the time of departure of the coach and let her know your chosen pick-up point, when there is a choice.

In this issue there are two reviews of books to be published shortly. One is *The Central Estate and the Hartlepoons* by Vice-President, Jack Woolford. The other is a new local book *Greetings, Dover* by Jack Hewitt, the fourth of

its kind to be launched by Riverdale Publications. As S.S.G. Hale points out, in his article *Local Heroes*, our Vice-Chairman, Derek Leach, is becoming well-known for his presentations of the lives of local personalities and is making a valuable contribution to preserving Dover's past.

There are reports of all the indoor meetings from November to February, which include four talks and the Christmas Feast and the Wine and Wisdom. All have been successful and well attended and we thank members for their support and Jack, Derek, Glyn, Ken and Shirley for their reports.

Paul Hadaway of the White Cliffs Countryside Project gives us a foretaste of their summer programme, F.G. Thomas has sent a report of the weather in 2001 and Ivan Green writes about Medieval Guilds. I had three other

contributions on diverse topics which I have grouped together in a section called 'Glimpses of the Past'. They all have a connection with Dover, however tenuous.

Mike McFarnell continues to bring the Website page up to date and invites us to attend this year's Dover Pageant on 5th and 6th May. We hope vast numbers will support it and visit the Society stand.

Hugh and Lesley Gordon report on the success of the Cowgate Project and members who attended the March Meeting will have heard more details of that. Both teams of workers have done wonders at Cowgate and deserve our praise.

Many thanks to all our regular contributors and to our advertisers for their continued support.

Editor

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 44 will be Monday 10th June 2002. The Editor welcomes contributions and interesting drawings or photographs. "Paper copy" should be typed at double spacing. Handwritten copy should be clear with wide line spacing. Accurate fully proof-read copy on computer discs is acceptable; please ring 01304 205254 to discuss details.

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The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

In a Green Paper the DTLR (Dept of Transport, Local Govt & Regions) proposes fundamental changes in planning to speed up development, especially for business, by abolishing County Structure Plans and Local Plans, increasing the powers of the Secretary of State and planning inspectors and reducing those of statutory consultees including environmental and water authorities. Planning power goes to the new English Regions (eg the South East Region) whose assemblies are nominated and composed of members whose officers in Regional Development Agencies (SEEDA and GOSE) are government appointees. Below these will be Local Development Frameworks (including 'real community participation') with annual statements and 3-year Reviews of Core Policies. The DTLR also proposes to speed up and cheapen planning for 'major infrastructure projects' by restricting local inquiries to matters of detail only. The Secretary of State will designate them for debate in both Houses of Parliament, after which the inquiry will be time-tabled. The existing system can admittedly be faulted. After six years of preparation the Dover Local Plan, already outdated, is still not adopted. However, obstruction is no less likely in Parliament, and Local Planning Frameworks, which are to include action plans for town centres, neighbourhoods and villages, may be

slowed down by staff shortages and financial deficits, not to mention barristers and extra-legal protesters on site. 'Swampy' is not dead.

Meanwhile we wonder how many more amusement centres the local market will bear and if the Western Heights Residents' Association will defeat revived housing proposals at Breeden. We wonder if the Heathfield Home Zone, which has KCC

backing, will succeed in closing the rat-run but force existing residents to park elsewhere. Dover Town Council and the Dover Society support the opponents of the scheme. We also support the Town Council's determination to maintain a Dover Town Guide and not merge it into a District Guide. The proposed improvement to Oswald Passage is admirable.

We welcome the District Council's decision to transform the White Cliffs Experience into a discovery centre because it will primarily benefit the local community (and strengthen the case for the return of bus services to the Market Square) as will also the extension of the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme. We are also involved in the Community Strategy Regeneration Scheme, applauding its objectives but somewhat sceptical about the achievement of its targets given the District's financial straits, not to mention possible clashes with the forthcoming Local Development Framework.

We note the availability of SEEDA resources for a combined housing and industrial redevelopment of the (non-listed) Buckland Paper Mill and await results, as we do also from the new proposals to reduce congestion in Townwall Street and the promised five developers' schemes for St. James and York Street.

COWGATE CEMETERY

Clearance Project

Report from Hugh & Lesley Gordon

Both teams have achieved a great deal since we began this project in March 2001.

Initially the work was extremely hard, as most of the grass and shrubs were cut by hand, resulting in a few backaches among the mainly 'senior' volunteers, and the prospects of even clearing our allocated plots looked dim. However, the WCCP were prevailed upon to allow the use of power strimmers and the difference has already proved amazing. Those who have not already viewed the site since we began should do so. One can actually see the gravestones!

Thursday's 'Wonder Workers' (whom Jeremy pampers with tea and biscuits) have carried out most of the clearance, but Saturday's 'Slogging Slaves', who are fewer in number, have also done extremely well. The combined result is quite remarkable and we have managed to clear parts of the neighbouring plots, plus the overgrown strip between the lower path and the boundary wall.

Jeremy Cope, Barry Late and Michael Jukes, with their strimmers, have done sterling work, as has Martyn Burton, who with his fire-raising skills, trusty axe and strong arm has disposed of much of the resultant debris.

There are still some self-seeded trees and shrubs to be cut back, so any new volunteers will be very welcome to come and assist. (Dates and times are posted on our Website). After this year's spring cut (the grass will be allowed to grow for hay during the summer) it should only be necessary to carry out maintenance, to keep the plots free of ivy and other undesirable growths.

We envisage that once we have our own plots under control, we will move



on to those neighbouring plots which have not yet been dealt with. So the prospects are that this project will continue as long as we have volunteers willing to keep it up. For anyone who may care to join us, the following is a list of proposed dates, some of which clash with Dover Society outings, but that is not a problem, as we are very flexible, (the dates, not the toilers, that is) and the times are from about 09.30 until 12.30, on each of those days.

COWGATE CEMETERY Dates for 2002

Month	Thursday Wonder Workers	Saturday Slogging Slaves
January	10th	19th
February	14th	16th
March	14th	16th
April	11th	20th
May	9th	18th
June	13th	15th
July	11th	20th
August	8th	17th
September	12th	21st
October	10th	19th
November	14th	16th
December	12th	21st

(Please retain the above dates for your own information)

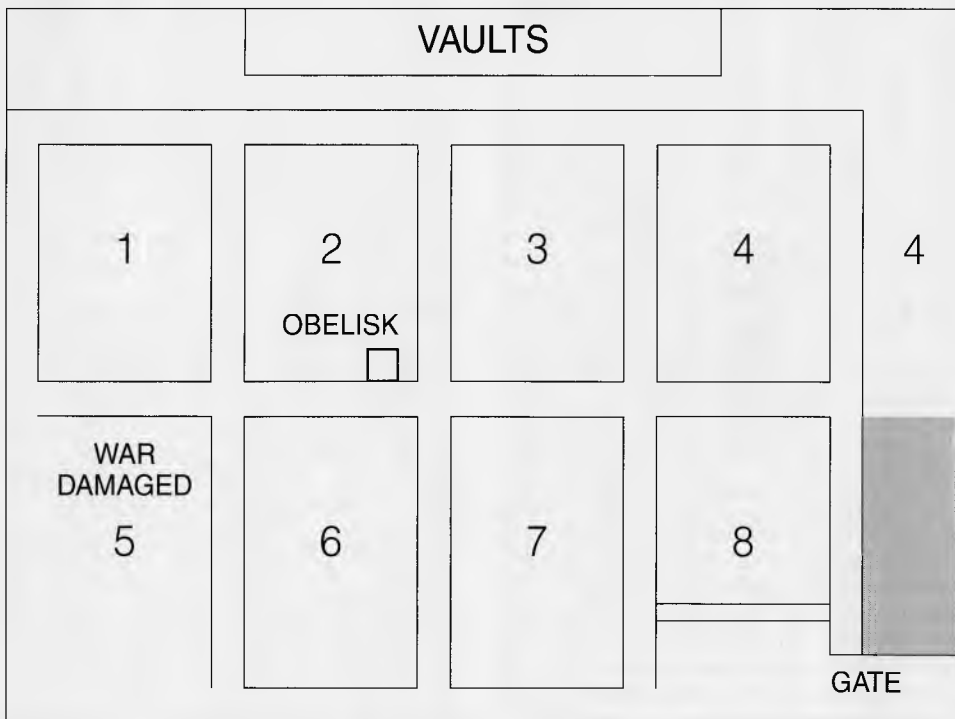
6 **Recording of Gravestones**

The concerted efforts of a small band of helpers ensured that plot 2 gravestones were fully recorded and typed up early in the New Year.

Further research by Ian Murton in the Library history section, reveals that in the 1980's Mrs De Bourbel largely recorded plots 3, 4, 7 and 8, together with some vaults and other graves, mysteriously labelled 'a' and 'b', in the council's records. Ian has himself recorded plot 6 for typing up, together with a number of stones in other plots, which seem to have escaped previous attention. Plots 1 and 5, at the seaward end of the cemetery, were badly damaged during the war, although it is hoped to retrieve some of the inscriptions.

It now remains to type up, and collate, all the outstanding inscriptions and plot them on maps using both council records and alphabetical plot lists, prepared by Joe Harman, who has taken a great interest in the cemetery over many years. It may even be possible, with help promised by the council, to lift some of the fallen headstones (of which there are many) so records may be taken. In this way it is hoped to complete the museum's records and provide Dover District Council with a plan of the layout of the graves, which they currently lack, and which will be most useful to visitors researching their roots.

All in all, this combined project is turning out to be a very worthwhile undertaking of historic value.



CEMETERY WALKS

for this summer

Conducted by Martyn Webster

Advance Notice

COWGATE CEMETERY - SATURDAY 6th JULY
Meet 2pm outside St. Mary's Church, Cannon Street.

COPT HILL CEMETERIES - SATURDAY 10th AUGUST
Meet 2pm Charlton Cemetery Entrance, Old Guston Road,

MEMBERSHIP NEWS **SPRING 2002**

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AGAIN

Our treasurer, Mike Weston, is currently working on Gift Aid tax reclamation for subscriptions and donations for 2000-2001. We hope thereby to gain approximately £370 for the Society. We are immensely grateful to about half our members who have taken the trouble to sign special Gift Aid or revised membership application forms, thus enabling us to retrieve 28% of their subscriptions. We urge other members to follow suit if they are in a position to do so. Please do this as soon as possible as 2000-2001 subscriptions will still be eligible for tax refunds. What an opportunity to obtain cash back from the taxman and to benefit the Society at no extra cost! We shall soon move on to deal with the current membership year which is about to end.

For those members who do not already pay their subs. by standing order I now look forward to receiving payments of £6 for single members or £10 joint for year 2002-2003, either sent by cheque, posted through the door, given to me when you see me or handed over at the AGM. Acknowledgement only on receipt of SAE.

We mourn the passing of Mrs P Smith, Miss E M Swain, Miss B Wimsett, Mr S Thomsett, Mr F Betts and Mrs J Young.

Welcome new members are:- Mr L & Mrs J Southwood, Mr B & Mrs P Simpson, Mr K Wells, Mr S Grimes, Mr F Woodbridge MBE, Ms C Craske and Mrs P & Mr J Johnson.

Sheila R Cope

Society Meetings

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The two speakers at the meeting on 19th November were John Moir, Chief Executive for Dover District Council and Dr. J. Coleman, who gave an 'Update on the Civil War'.

JOHN MOIR

By Jack Woolford

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL'S Chief Executive began by saying that he was now used to being the 'warm-up act' at our meetings, having addressed us 'two or three' times. We now know that it was, in fact, his "swan-song", because of the impending reorganisation of local government, after 18 years. Consequently (I conjecture) his address was, like Gaul, divided into three parts: retrospect, the current situation and the prospects.

John Moir briefly instanced the East Kent Investment framework, which justified the use of public money, but detailed the July 2001 Benchmark Investigation which had shown that four of Dover's wards, including Buckland and St. Radigunds, were far below both national and regional standards in educational deprivation, health and child poverty, skill base and aspirations. Nevertheless, in the background was the Discovery Centre (ex White Cliffs' Experience), Kent's first showcase for Further and Higher Education. The mixed development in the Town Investment Zone (St. James/York Street) envisaged a major store in the town centre and an hotel on the York St corner. He congratulated Jonathan Sloggett, retiring Manager of the Harbour Board, on the prospective establishment of Westport. The White Cliffs Business Park was successful and

the acquisition of Buckland Paper Mill by SEEDA for mixed housing and industrial development. A Lottery application for the refurbishment of Kearsney Abbey's tea room was being made.

Mr Moir answered questions on the future of Maison Dieu House and on Dover's prospects in the South East Region and on the possible disappearance of Kent County Council. He detailed possible transfers of power from the District to Parish Councils (including Dover Town Council), which were very much welcomed by Vice-Chairman Derek Leach - also Chairman of River Parish Council - in his speech of thanks.

I take the liberty of adding the Dover Society's thanks to John Moir for his part at the centre of so many positive Dover developments since 1984, with a special emphasis on conservation. I am also pleased to be able to add that the Moirs do not propose to leave East Kent.

THE EMERGENCY OF 1628

Reported by Derek Leach

FOLLOWING THE WARM-UP by John Moir (his words not mine), Reg Colman, the retired Head of Dover Boys' Grammar School and a student of history, treated his audience to an excellent example of how to make history interesting and why it is important to have an understanding of

history in order to tackle the problems of life today, because the ways people think and act never change. This was achieved without a single note or visual aid.

Reg began by recounting the outcome of Aristotle's analysis of Greek city governments: three ways to govern, each with its own corrupt form. First, there is government by a single person as in a monarchy, which can become a tyranny as in a dictatorship; secondly, there is rule by the 'best' such as the aristocracy, depending upon birth, or the most clever or the richest, which can become an oligarchy serving self interests only; finally, there is government by the people (democracy), which can descend into anarchy with mob rule or no rule at all. Our present government was said to combine all three with a strong prime minister, the interests of big business producing wealth and the involvement of the people.

Other important factors are: who takes the initiative, makes policy and takes decisions and how are decisions enforced - by violence or threats, by argument and persuasion or through respect.

Every age has its own emergencies such as the threat of foreign invasion, civil commotion or, as now, terrorism. In such times governments are expected to act quickly and decisively. The year 1628 brought Britain such an emergency for a number of reasons; the major powers in Europe were hostile - Spain, France and Holland, not to mention the Scots and Irish - and the incompetence of James I and Charles I in foreign policy did not help; in home affairs the rise of the middle classes and their desire for political power was coming to a head; there were social problems caused partially by the cost of food - the age of the sturdy beggar; and there was the religious problem.

From about 1485 to 1660 post-

reformation religion played a major role in the affairs of state until superseded by the age of reason. James and Charles had inherited Henry VIII's mantle as Head of the Church in England and both believed in the Divine Right of Kings (God's representative on earth). To criticise was blasphemy! This stance was being increasingly challenged by the Puritans who believed they had a God-given task and also believed in the rights of man being superior to those of the king.

In 1628 Charles I called his third parliament because he needed parliament to grant money to meet the foreign threat and domestic unrest. In return for money parliament presented the Petition of Rights in which the King was asked to acknowledge certain basic rights of his subjects, which were, perhaps, as important as Magna Carta to the development of modern government, since they invalidated the feudal authority of 'by special order of the king'. The four clauses were: no (direct) tax or forced loan to be collected without the authority of parliament; any prisoner had the right to be given cause for his imprisonment (Habeas Corpus), always threatened in times of emergency even now; no martial law (suspending the due process of law) in peacetime and no billeting of soldiers and sailors in private homes. Charles resisted but had to accept.

Following this success, more resolutions followed, including: anybody who paid import dues without the consent of parliament was a traitor; anybody who made changes to religion without consent of parliament was a traitor.

After this humiliation, Charles suspended parliament for the next eleven years until he needed more money! He became a virtual dictator and, to be fair, achieved much, which often happens with dictators who

10 tolerate no opposition! Parliament was recalled in 1640, but only for three weeks, to deal with the Scottish threat. It was all down hill for Charles after this with the Civil War and his execution in 1649.

The Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 enshrined the achievements of the interregnum and curtailed government by royal prerogative. Following the

Glorious Revolution of 1688, parliament offered the crown to William and Mary and set Britain well on the road to the constitutional monarchy that we know today.

In conclusion, Reg returned to his opening theme that human nature and the problems that have to be faced are very much the same in every age: only the solutions differ.

THE CHRISTMAS FEAST 2001

Reported by Shirley Dowle

IN TRUE DOVER SOCIETY tradition we met for the now 'much-looked-forward-to' feast of 2001. It was held on Saturday, 15th December, at Dover College Refectory.

There were eleven long tables, filled by 79 members and their guests. We were greeted by a charming group of ladies who offered us sherry or juice. Everyone seemed in good spirits and the atmosphere felt very festive. As always the food was excellent, especially the salmon, and was enjoyed by all. I am sure we all gained a few pounds that evening. Even the strong-minded could not resist the tempting, delicious desserts. Many had second helpings.

After we had all partaken to the full the fun began in earnest. Lillian Kay had organised the entertainment which she led and she had recruited some others to help her. We listened to a story or two from Lillian, a poem from Derek Leach and some solo pieces from a brilliant, visiting flautist, Sarah Gooda, who played enchantingly and performed a piece in each half of the programme, accompanied on a keyboard by Mrs. Dunne, a former Music teacher from Dover Grammar School for Girls.

We sang a lot of carols and tried to sing in parts. I could not decide whether the ladies or gentlemen were the better singers. Some were not sure which part they were singing! We had great difficulty with the rounds. Where did all the high notes go? We did very well with a rendering of 'Three Blind Mice', with actions.

In the interval we had time to catch our breath as the Christmas raffle took place. As usual there was a large and varied selection of prizes.

Back to the main entertainment again, with Miss Kay leading us in a poem called 'My Hat'. We all tried hard with this action poem but - Oh dear! - I think we left Miss Kay doing most of it as a solo! The carol singing was much enjoyed by all. Miss Kay was, as always, very entertaining and enterprising in her choice of programme and we thank her for giving us such an enjoyable and amusing time. The evening ended with a hearty rendition by all of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'.

Everyone left, I am sure, having thoroughly enjoyed the whole evening. I am looking forward to coming again next year. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps in any way to make our events so enjoyable.

On 14th January our two speakers were Councillor Frank Woodbridge, giving his recollections of Dover during the Second World War and Jack Woolford telling us about his home town, Hartlepool, which he has described in his new book.

Our Chairman, Terry Sutton, received from Jack a copy of his book 'A History of the Central Estate, Hartlepool', on which he had worked for thirty years.

Glyn Hale has written a short account of the first talk and Jack Woolford has provided the details of his own address.

A COUNCILLOR'S BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Report from S.S.G. Hale

Councillor Frank Woodbridge, OBE and former DDC Chairman, was born at Stembrook (a very tough area) and his family moved to Pioneer Road when he was eleven years old - a wise move

because Stembrook suffered heavy damage in the Second World War.

The councillor worked as a blacksmith's striker at Kearsney, but his 70 year old boss, Taffy Creef, closed the smithy (now the Renault repair shop) at the commencement of the Battle of Britain. Frank then, in the same area, helped to build concrete dragon teeth, intended to block German tanks



Hell Fire Corner. Painting by local artist, Brian Petch.

12 (which were expected to arrive circa 22 September, via Hawkinge!!) Then, aged 17½ years, Frank joined the Home Guard and stood sentry at the Harbour Clock Tower. He enjoyed the excitement of the battle between aircraft at 30,000ft and rejoiced when an enemy machine was shot down. He also viewed the low level destruction of barrage balloons, and Stukas diving on the harbour.

The family along with three-quarters of the population were evacuated. Frank said he remembered the faces of the children awaiting evacuation, clutching their little gasmasks, but, more than that he remembered the faces of their mothers, trying not to cry. Some evacuees were treated well, he said, and some were treated badly and many of them came back to Dover before the war ended.

The Woodbridge family went to South Wales. Frank wanted to volunteer

for the army but was dissuaded from doing so by his father who had experienced the carnage of the World War I. Eventually from there he was conscripted into the South Wales Borderers.

He was taken prisoner and spent the later part of the war in Eastern Europe where he saw the devastation of the Allies' bombing and the treatment meted out to the Jewish and Russian prisoners. He realised that war was not just a competition between machines but involved human suffering. 'On the whole,' he said, 'I think we did very well. I think the British are a nation to be proud of.... as far as fighting was concerned I always felt there wasn't a better soldier in the world!'

He concluded that in war everyone was a loser and so one had to work to win the peace. In the post-war period he worked with NALCO for the betterment of the workers' lot.

WHO HUNG THE MONKEY?

*Jack Woolford's address,
reported by himself*

What later became Hartlepool had been occupied from c.3000BC by a sequence of asylum seekers, Neolithic if not Paeolithic, Bronze and Iron Agers, Celts, Romans, Picts, Scots, Angles and Saxons, Jutes, Danes and Normans (etc, etc). By 500AD it was part of the kingdom of Northumbria and the king's daughter Hilda established a monastery there in 639. Transferred as Abbess to Whitby, she chaired the Synod of 664 which settled the dispute between Celtic and Roman Catholics. St Hilda's Gothic Church, which splendidly survives, dates from c.1240.

The place was named Herterpol because it was the harbour for the

manor of Hart which by the time of the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 was owned by the Brus family. It had received a municipal Charter from King John in 1201 (now 801 years ago) and the seal portrayed a hart at bay to a hound (not a monkey) on its back in a pool. It acted as port for the Bishopric of Durham, the county Palatine then on the border with hostile Scotland. Consequently it had to be fortified against raids with a thirteenth century wall, parts of which also splendidly survive.

At the time of the Spanish Armada (1588) it was one of a chain of warning beacons. A message to the Mayor was misread as "No more frying of the bacon", whereupon frying pans were collected and buried. It was later re-read as "No more firing of the beacon". Presumably the frying pans were



recovered. Like the later monkey-hanging it is a good story, reminiscent of gibes against the Irish, etc, etc, which although funny are obviously invented.

With the Act of Union of 1707, Scotland was no longer an enemy and Hartlepool declined into a fishing port and in the eighteenth century became a spa/resort because there was a chalybeate spring on the Fish Sands. Consequently natives failed to notice the Industrial Revolution of Coal, Steam, Steel and Rail and it was outsiders who spotted that new collieries could export coal if the harbour were improved and if a railway was built. This was in direct competition with the Stockton and Darlington Railway of 1825 which, however had only the shallow mouth of the Tees for ships. By 1835 Hartlepool was exporting coal and shortly

afterwards building ships. Teesside entrepreneurs therefore built a railway to Hartlepool but could not compete because they could not buy land adjacent to the docks because Hartlepool had pre-empted them and had to have their wagons hauled up a slope to tip coal into the holds of boats in Hartlepool docks. Another outsider, Ralph Ward Jackson, resented this and, determined to create 'the Liverpool of the North-East', succeeded in 1847 in getting an Act of Parliament to create the West Hartlepool Improvement Commissioners who immediately built new docks and fashioned Christ's Church from the limestone blasted from the new harbour. Unrestricted by old boundaries, West Hartlepool successfully expanded, becoming a Borough in 1887 and a County Borough (over 60,000 population) in 1902, with

14 wider streets and bigger shops, churches, hotels and a park to match.

It was only in the early 1850s, precisely at the time when the two Hartlepoons were at each others' throats about the docks that the gibe "Who Hung the Monkey?" was first recorded. It was alleged that during the Napoleonic Wars (1802-25) a French ship was wrecked and its only survivor, a monkey, was hanged on the shore by fishermen who thought it was a French spy. Ned Corvan, a local pub entertainer, then wrote and composed a song "The Fishermen Hung the Monkey-o" which was an immediate and persistent success. Postcards of it appeared in the 1890s. There were no contemporary English or French reports of the wreck, and similar tales are told of Boddam in Aberdeenshire and Mevagissey in Cornwall. Like the frying of the bacon, the hanging of the monkey implied that Old but not West Hartlepudlians were slow and stupid:

but only in hindsight.

From 1850 until 1918 both towns prospered, building ships and ships' engines by the thousand, exporting tons of coal by the million, importing pit props for the neighbouring collieries by the million and catching and selling fish by tens of millions. There were, of course, booms and slumps and when unemployment was high, both tried to revive themselves as seaside health resorts (despite gale-blown showers of sand, cement, sawdust and the scents of fish-curing) with promenades, bandstands, bowling greens, bathing pools, etc. to relieve unemployment. Both enjoyed full employment through the two World Wars, although both suffered from naval bombardment and zeppelin raids in the First and from aerial bombardment in the Second.

Although they shared an MP from 1868 and the LNER railways owned all the docks long before 1900, it was only



in 1967 that they were reluctantly united into the Borough of Hartlepool with one council and one mayor, but by that time both had declined. The shipyards and steelworks could compete neither for size nor cost with European and Asiatic builders, then oil and gas discoveries and closure of all the local coal mines killed coal exports and timber imports. Overfishing destroyed yet another staple. Apart from some light industry (and a nuclear power station) only the resort option was left. Hartlepool has virtually been demolished and rebuilt with a marina, a museum, a pub and restaurants, superstore, historic boats moored by historic quays, churches converted into art galleries or indoor swimming pools with a pub and a night club. Even the image of the monkey has been revived. Tourism feeds on publicity.



WINE & WISDOM FEBRUARY 2002

Reported by Ken Wraight

On February 18 some 90 Dover Society members and friends gathered in St. Mary's Parish Centre for the annual Wine and Wisdom evening. Clive Taylor and his team provided the questions and organised the marking and scoring which, as always, was impeccably done.

During the interval, while we pondered over what a Dingbat box with several Es in it could possibly mean, a splendid Ploughman's Lunch was provided with wine or soft drink.

The winning team, with a score of 80%, certainly deserved to win the annual, much-coveted prize of engraved glasses (many thanks again to The Trophy Shop for completing the engraving in record time!) and the three teams which tied for second place with a respectable 72% had to be content with bars of chocolate.

Our thanks to Joan Liggett and all those who helped to make the evening a success.

Local heroes

◆ ◆ ◆ By S.S.G.Hale ◆ ◆ ◆

EVERYONE HAS A BOOK IN THEM. But it is hard work getting it out. What is almost as hard is getting it published. Commercial publishers must make a profit to survive, so are reluctant to publish works of limited interest. Fortunately we seem to have an area that generates small publishers. First we had Doug Welby and Crabwell Publications, then Riverdale Publications created by Derek Leach and Triangle Publications by Merril Lilley.

Derek Leach researches, compiles and edits. Riverdale has produced four books, all about local people. The first was the *Life and Times of Lillian Kay* closely followed by *My Dover* by Joe Harman and, this year two new books, *Bombs Gone* by Dickie Parfitt and *Greetings, Dover* from Jack Hewitt.

These books chronicle changes in Dover's history. Joe Harman, Lillian Kay and Jack Hewitt have memories dating back to the first World War. Dickie Parfitt volunteered for bombing crew in WWII. He recounts how he was trained in Canada and joined UK Bomber Command in 1945 when the war was almost over. But bomber command was still taking heavy casualties: and it took just over a month for Dickie Parfitt's crew to move from being the least experienced crew at the bottom of the squadron to being the most experienced surviving crew.

I meet Dutch, Belgians and French who, with gratitude and respect, remember Britain's contribution in the War. We should remember too. This is why books by Joe Harman, Dickie Parfitt and others remind us how seemingly ordinary people contribute to extraordinary events. Future historians will have books like Joe Harman's and Dickie Parfitt's to help them, thanks to editor, publisher and author Derek Leach - heroes all.

A look back at *The Weather in 2001*

REPORT FROM F.G.THOMAS

The year 2001 made an inauspicious entry, halfway, as it were, through the downpours that lasted from October 2000 to March 2001. Twenty three inches of rain fell in the last three months of 2000 and 15.42 inches followed in the first three months of 2001, making a total of 38.42 inches. This was more than the Dover average for 12 months, which is 34 inches. In April the heavy rain started to peter out but the month still recorded 3.30 inches. In May only 1.09 inches fell and our local winterbourne, the Drellingore, finally ceased its 177 day flow.

Summer made a slow start. 20 degrees C was not achieved until June 12th, but 28°C (reverse the figures and it becomes 82°F) ensured that summer had at last arrived. This was confirmed by a violent thunderstorm! The rest of the season was like the parson's egg, good in parts. June and July had 20% more than their average rainfall, but there were several hot spells. In such weather the forecasters threaten us with sleepless nights due to the high humidity. How do they know how we will sleep!

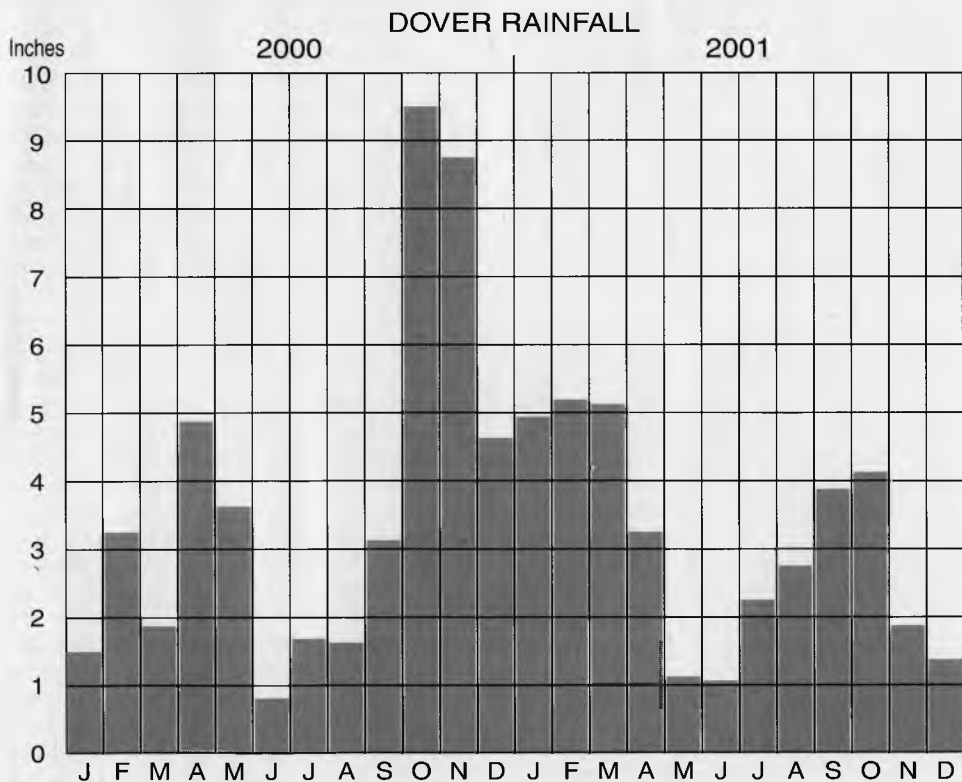
The heat waves culminated on the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday, the 25th, with a

temperature of 30.7°C (87.3°F), the hottest day of the year. Unfortunately, summer heat often generates thunderstorms and in August 2001 we had eight such days, the highest number in that month since 1987.

Only a week later the beginning of September brought a nip in the air and hundreds of martins congregated on our telephone lines. They must have known a thing or two because these migrants would have benefited from September's 22 days of tail winds from the N and NW. On the clear night of the 11th the thermometer plummeted to 3.9°F. I briefly felt apprehensive for the fate of my runner beans but September frosts are almost unknown in these southern parts of the country. The last one was in 1872, when the army doctor at the castle

was making weather observations.

In 2001 we waited until late in November for a general air frost, on the 27th. The seasonal fall in temperature had been delayed by the warmest October on record 70°C was exceeded on four days in mid-month and 73.8°F (23.2°C) was recorded as late as Saturday, 13th October. Sadly, we paid for this Indian summer in a December dominated by cold air, from 6th December until mid-January 2002. There were threats of snow, but meteorologically a day of snow lying occurs when half the ground, or more, is snow covered at the 09.00 GMT morning observation. There were none in 2001! Neither did we have the rarity of a white Christmas. Why should we? There have been but seven in the last 100 years!



18 *Explore the Local Countryside with*



WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT

The White Cliffs Countryside Project (WCCP) will soon be publishing their guided walks and volunteer programmes for this summer. The leaflets will be available from the end of March and you can pick them up from libraries, tourist information centres, shops and cafes or direct from the WCCP on 01304 241806.

To whet your appetite here are details of just a few of the events planned in the Dover area. There are over 250 events in the guided walks programme, taking place across the Dover, Thanet and Shepway areas. *We hope to see you on some!*

Paul Hadaway

Saturday 20th April 2.00pm

A PRIM AND ROSY WOODLAND WALK

A walk through the ancient chalk valley and woodland landscape of the Alkham Valley discovering something of the history and enjoying the wonderful displays of primroses and other woodland plants. Donations appreciated.

LEADER: Paul Hadaway, WCCP (01304 241806). **MEET:** Kearsney Abbey car park Kearsney, near Dover (TR 287 437).

DISTANCE: 5 miles (3 hours).

Sunday 5th May 2.00pm

FORGOTTEN FORTRESS

Anti-clockwise circular walk around Dover's great Citadel taking in some fantastic fortifications and dramatic ditches. Donation appreciated (to the Western Heights Preservation Society).

LEADER: Jeff Howe, author of www.western-heights.com (07775 797170).

MEET: St Martin's Battery car park, South Military Road, Dover (TR 314 407).

DISTANCE: 3 miles (3 hours).

Sunday 9th June 11.00am-4.00pm

WESTERN HEIGHTS OPEN DAY

Carved into the heights above Dover are the powerful Napoleonic fortifications of

the Western Heights, surrounded by the green slopes of the Local Nature Reserve with its amazing carpets of wild flowers. The dramatic landscape of the Heights provides the awe inspiring gateway to the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Beauty and is important for its cultural, military and natural history. Watch the Heights 'come to life' and learn more about the site's rich history and wildlife. All events are based at the Grand Shaft Barracks site, bottom of Drop Redoubt Road, Western Heights, Dover (TR 317 408). Car parking is at St. Martins Battery car park, South Military Road, or you could walk up the Grand Shaft from Snargate Street (reduced admission charge). Further Information from Paul Hadaway, WCCP (01304 241806).

Sunday 23rd June 2.00pm

WESTERN HEIGHTS ORCHID SAFARI

Come for a saunter around this remarkable site just a few hundred yards from Dover town centre and enjoy the wonderful displays of wildflowers, including several species of orchid. Donation appreciated.

LEADER: Paul Hadaway, WCCP (01304 241806). **MEET:** Albany Place car park, off

Durham Hill, off York Street, Dover (this is a Pay and Display car park) (TR 318 413). *DISTANCE*: 3 miles (2 hours).

Sunday 14th July 2.00pm
FORGOTTEN ARCHCLIFFE

A discovery trail around the area of the Western Heights known as Archcliffe. See the derelict rifle galleries and the site of the old military hospital. Donation appreciated (to the Western Heights Preservation Society).

LEADER: Jeff Howe, author of www.western-heights.com (07775 797170).
MEET: St Martin's Battery car park, South Military Road, Dover (TR 314 407).
DISTANCE: 2 miles (2.5 hours).

Saturday 10th August
SAMPHIRE HOE OPEN WEEKEND

Over the weekend there will be displays about Samphire Hoe and its wild life. A chance to meet the Volunteer Rangers. There will be a children's colouring competition with first prize a free return trip with Eurotunnel. Local sea angling experts will be on site to provide free fishing tips. All events take place at Samphire Hoe which is signposted on the A20 when driving out of Dover (TR 294 392).

Thursday 22nd August 7.00pm
COASTAL GUARDIANS

Walk from East Cliff, Folkestone to Capel to watch HM Coastguard Rescue Team in action. Led by a member of the National Coastwatch Institute. Donation appreciated (to NCI).

LEADER: Bev Sheppard (01303 862557).
MEET: East Cliff Pavilion, Wear Bay Road, Folkestone (TR 239354). *DISTANCE*: 3 miles (2 hours).

Monday 26th August 2.00pm
WANDER THROUGH WHITFIELD

A history walk with well known local historian.

CHARGE: Adults £1, children under 14, 50p. *LEADER*: David Collyer (01304

354326). *MEET*: The Archer Public House, Sandwich Road, Whitfield, near Dover. *DISTANCE*: 2 miles (2 hours).

Sunday 15th September 2.00pm
GRAND SHAFT AND ARCHCLIFFE

Discover some of the little known parts of the Western Heights, with a free visit to the unique triple staircase of the Grand Shaft. Donation appreciated (to the Western Heights Preservation Society).

LEADER: Jeff Howe, author of www.western-heights.com (07775 797170).
MEET: St Martin's Battery car park South Military Road, Dover (TR 314 407).
DISTANCE: 1.5 miles (2.5 hours).

Sunday 29th September 2.00pm
'AN ANCIENT, MOST INTERESTING AND BEAUTIFUL PLACE...'

The words of William Cobbett on entering Dover are a reminder of the very mixed written views of the town over the past two thousand years. Come on a gentle stroll across the Western Heights Local Nature Reserve and hear some of the other comments, good and bad, from the many writers who have visited the area, whilst enjoying the panoramic views of the town. Donation appreciated.

LEADER: Paul Hadaway, WCCP (01304 241806). *MEET*: Albany Place car park, off Durham Hill, off York Street, Dover (this is a Pay and Display car park) (TR 318412). *DISTANCE*: 3 miles (2 hours)

The WCCP also organise a programme of volunteer days across Shepway and Dover District, working on many of the sites we manage (including the Western Heights and Cowgate Cemetery). This is a great way to see the local countryside from a different perspective, go out and about and meet new people. For more information on volunteering or if you have any queries about the projects work, guided walks or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Hadaway or Sue Potter at the Dover Office on 01304 241806.

Dover's Medieval Guilds and Craftsmen

..... *By Ivan Green*

Like most old towns, Dover had a number of guilds. Some were craft guilds, of which those connected with leather were prominent in the town which had a great reputation for the product of its two tanneries, and of goods made from it. The tanners, shoemakers and saddlers were all craft guilds, while the drapers and mercers were small shopkeepers. All these operated in Dover.

The old organisation of the Cinque Ports Pilots had a strong base in Dover, and were members of the Court of Lodemanage of the Cinque Ports. Lodemanage, the name of their court, may seem to be an odd title, but in early times it was often written as two separate words, Lode and Manage. When one considers that one of the several meanings of Lode is a water course, the meaning becomes plain, the managers of the water, a fit description of the work of the pilots.

The Court of Lodemanage was more regularly organised for the control of the pilots by 1526, when four pilots from Dover, one from Deal, and two from Margate were licensed. Deal and Margate were of course members of Dover, in the Cinque Ports organisation. An important Dover guild in early times was the Fellowship of the Passage, created to control the sailings of ships between Dover and the continent. The Fellowship was instituted by a royal charter dated the 14th of September, 1312.

Parts of it are well worth quoting: 'Be it known unto all men... that whereas debates, contents and riots have often

been stirred up in the town of Dover... by which many of the said town have been impoverished and like to be ruined, because they could not pass with their ships, nor gain as the powerful and the rich did: it is agreed and assented to by all the Companions of the Company... in the presence of the Mayor and of the whole Commonalty... that from the day of the making of this document henceforward no passenger ship shall cross except by turn, that is to say, each ship three fares as soon as it can well be done, and after the three fares finished and completed, that ship shall not cross with passengers until all the passenger ships that belong to the Company... shall have made three fares in like manner..., and if any of the said Company causes his ship to cross against the form of this ordinance, be it by force or by prerogative... and can be convicted thereof, let him be amerced in 100 shillings sterling. It is also ordained and assented to by all the Companions... that four good and loyal members of the said Company be elected Wardens to protect the said ordinance well and loyally... The word 'fares' in the document means individual crossings

The hackneymen were concerned with land transport to and from the port of Dover. They drove the horses and bullocks which pulled the carriages, wagons and vans which carried passengers to and from the ships, also large quantities of goods to and from the warehouses at the harbour, but they were not concerned with the loading and unloading of the ships. They

travelled extensively, and were often away from their homes for times ranging from days to weeks.

All guilds had certain important functions. Senior members controlled membership of their guilds, limiting them to suitable people, and insisting on certain standards of performance. Many of the craft guilds operated tests by means of which members could advance their status. The word masterpiece comes from the guild 'master's piece' a test piece by means of which a member could achieve a higher position in his guild.

Senior positions in their guilds, gained through long years of training, resulted in many guild members being well qualified to serve their local authorities as important administrators and many Dover guild members did indeed serve the town as community leaders in all grades from mayor downwards.

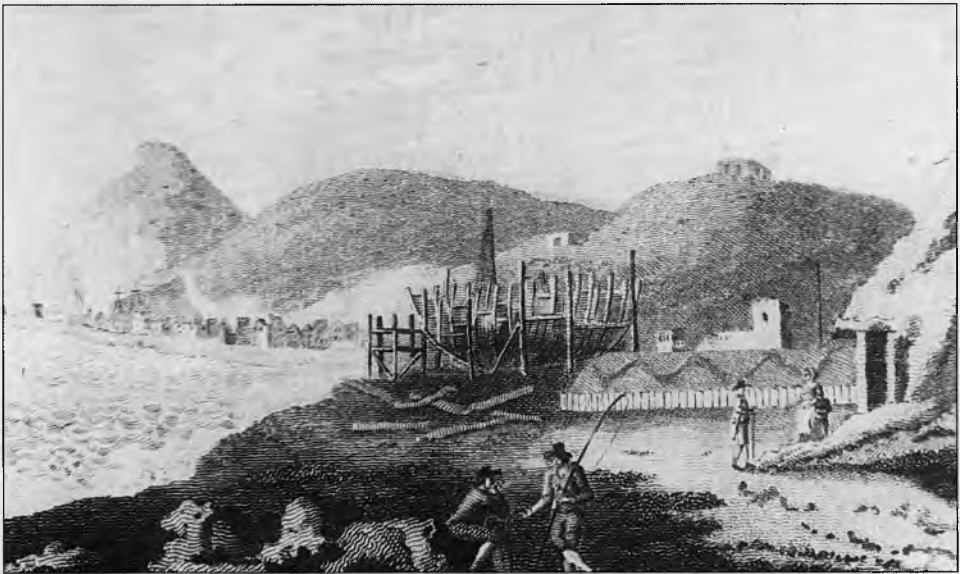
An important function of the guilds was to maintain quality and price so as

to convince the local authority that both these matters were satisfactory. It was important for the guilds to maintain good relations with authority, whether it was the local institution, or on major contracts for the civic or church authorities who granted the contract.

Another essential was the care for, and the maintenance of, sick and old aged members, and of their families, especially when the member was working away from his family and home. In times when travelling was very slow and difficult, perhaps involving walking for days or even weeks, this was very important. Many building workers, like the pilots and hackney men, though based in the town, pursued their calling far away from their home bases.

No details of any guild of early local paper makers seems apparently to survive. It seems probable that the first paper produced locally was done by religious refugees from the continent.

In 1636 the Corporation granted 'the lease of a chamber over Biggin Gate for



An old drawing of ship building on the beach at Dover. Old St James's church is shown on the right.

22 the convenience of the Guild of Glovers, Shoemakers, Saddlers, Collar makers and Cobblers who had their guild house there'. This was long after the great days of the old guilds, so it was probably a 17th century amalgamation of what was left of them for mutual assistance and support.

Dover had many other craftsmen who were not incorporated into guilds. They included those who built the town's ships. Ship building, was a communal activity carried on the open beach, but the oversight of the work, and the exercising of some important skills tended to become family concerns, handed down from parents to their children, in particular the building of wooden ships, the making of ropes and sails, and the caulking of the hulls.

Many men, not incorporated into guilds, worked in the various building

trades, and were responsible for the houses and commercial buildings and, in the 14th and 15th century, the erection and the maintenance of the town's walls and gates.

The great buildings, in particular the castle, the Maison Dieu and Dover Priory, were in the hands of travelling masons who were an elite, with no permanent bases in the town. They moved all over the land, and even over Europe. They travelled from one great stone building project, be it cathedral, castle or mansion, to another wherever their skills were needed. The first known King's Master Mason, Maurice the Engineer, worked as the head of a group of masons of varying degrees of skill for some years in Dover. Having built the new castle at Newcastle for King Henry the Second, he was sent by the king to Dover, where he was in charge of a large group of masons



An old print of Dover. All these buildings, work of local craftsmen, have long since gone.

The old doors of the Museum beneath the Maison Dieu. They were originally the entrance doors to old St James's Church.



building the great keep of Dover castle. Other groups of masons also worked in the town, building the Maison Dieu and Dover Priory, to name the most outstanding, but they had no communal base here. When a particular building was finished, they moved away to another.

Some carpenters, also an elite group of craftsmen, also accompanied the masons, to work on roofs and interior fittings and furnishings of the buildings, though many were employed on more local work, especially the wooden houses and warehouses of the town. In contrast to all these organised groups of craftsmen, blacksmiths were usually

23
completely independent and locally based. There were, it is true, itinerant blacksmiths who were always on the move, setting up temporary forges to work on great estates, some of them producing considerable works, such as great entrance gates, some of which were wonderful examples, both of art and of fine craftsmanship.

However, most blacksmiths were permanently based individuals in the community - separate and a little aloof, but very highly regarded as the workers of metal for the needs of the community, especially for the metal fittings of ships, coaches, wagons, harness and general repairs. They made and repaired the metal tools for all other craftsmen, and even produced quantities of nails for the woodworkers.

They became immensely important in Dover in the 19th century when the first steam powered ships were

used, by producing many replacement parts for the new engines. They were often of brusque manner, but highly regarded for their mastery of metal.

The 19th century saw the growth of the friendly societies, many of them becoming of countrywide importance. These confined themselves to the charitable work of the old Guilds, but local groups of men still joined together for mutual support and assistance in time of need. A fine example was the River 'Papermakers' Friendly Benefit Club, the early years of which form the basis for another article.

All illustrations, including the cover picture, are from Ivan Green's collection.

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

Some snippets of Dover history

Lt James Hart, Dover's Waterloo Man

- recorded on a gravestone!

Contributed by Phil Wybourn-Brown

ON A COLD, wet and overcast morning in mid June a 23 year old Dover man stood with his regiment on a windswept ridge a few miles from Brussels. Although he did not know it, the young man was about to witness and participate in one of the most significant events of modern history. He also did not know that he had just seven hours to live. The young man was Lt James Hart from Dover, his regiment was the 33rd of Foot, and the windy ridge was close by a village named Waterloo. It was Sunday morning the 18th June, 1815.

The 33rd Foot (1st West Riding, later the Duke of Wellingtons own) formed part of Halkett's Brigade, along with the 2nd Battalion, 30th of Foot (Cambridgeshire), 2nd Battalion, 69th of Foot (South Lincolnshire) and the 73rd of Foot (Highland) Regiments. Standing there upon the ridge James would have witnessed the 'Great Parade' performed by the French Army, and, at around 11.15 that morning he would have seen the first great grey clouds of gun smoke issue from the French line as the Emperor's 'Beautiful Daughters', his guns, opened fire.

The cannonade was directed against the right of Wellington's line and against his gun line. One battery of Royal Artillery was stationed to the front of the 33rds position, and so, as a result of 'counter battery fire', the 33rd and the rest of the Brigade began to suffer heavy losses.

Later as the main thrust of the battle moved to the centre, and then the left of the line, the Brigade was ordered to retire a few paces and to lie down to let the French

shot pass overhead. The tide of French attacks ebbed and flowed over midday and into early afternoon, when, at about 3 o'clock the French infantry withdrew and the French cavalry took to the field. What followed was the greatest massed attack by cavalry in history. The bloodied and thinned line on the ridge rose to its feet as one and formed squares as the French horsemen attacked, withdrew, reformed and came on again, and again and again.

James would have been standing in the ever shrinking square of the 33rd as the riders rode around the square, hacking and stabbing at the heads of the stubborn infantrymen who hung on to the bloody ridge. As the French horsemen retreated the artillerymen would run from the squares to man their guns which the French had left unspiked to pour grapeshot over shell into their backs. Despite this terrible carnage, the French rallied and kept on coming. Finally, towards 5 o'clock the battered and bloody, but unbowed cavalry quit the field so the 'Beautiful Daughters' could speak again.

Once again the 33rd came under fire and James would have seen the bloody holes being torn in the their ranks until, once again, the Brigade was ordered to lie down to allow the shot to pass overhead. At around this time Halkett ordered the Brigade's colours sent to the rear. Such had been the losses that it was felt that there were too few left to defend them. It would be about 6 o'clock, that a French gunner did for Lt James Hart. James was lying down with Lt Pagen and Capt Trevor when a shell exploded overhead, a large fragment from it smashed down on to James' right shoulder, neck and face. He was killed instantly. The fragment bounced over Capt Trevor but it removed Lt Pagen's right ear.

Had James lived he would have

witnessed the attack and the defeat of the 'Old Guard', the end of the battle and the end of an era of history. As it is he lies with the men of his regiment in a mass grave on the field of Waterloo.

At home in Dover his family erected a headstone in their local churchyard in the town centre. It stands in the shade of a small tree to the right of the front doors to St. Mary's Church, opposite the 'Eight Bells', where I sat to write this short account.

Also on the stone are other members of this military family, Lt Charles Hart, late of the 5th Royal Veterans, died 1836. Lt Samuel Hart, 9th of Foot, died 1810, and Christianna Hart, died 29th December...? Theirs would be other stories to write.

The next time you pass St. Mary's, give a thought to 23-year-old Lt James Hart and the events he witnessed on that ridge at Waterloo 187 years ago.



James Hart's gravestone.

The story of

Liege Hulett

FOUNDER OF KEARSNEY COLLEGE SOUTH AFRICA

He answered a Dover Mail advert!

Contributed by Mike McFarnell

KEARSNEY COLLEGE was founded up the North Coast in August 1921 by the joint efforts of Sir J. Liege Hulett and the Methodist Church of South Africa. But in examining the birth of Kearsney College one really has to go back over sixty years before that. After all, what was Liege Hulett doing in South Africa? Had he not decided to emigrate from England in 1857 there would be no Kearsney College today and the name Hulett would be unknown in South Africa.

There is nothing in my research to indicate that Liege Hulett had itchy feet. His family was well established in Gillingham, Kent, though he himself was born in Sheffield. His grandfather was a devotee of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church and all the family, including Liege, were God fearing men. In fact Liege preached his first sermon at the age of 18. By 1856 England was suffering from the aftermath of the Crimean War, and there is no doubt that, looking across the world, there were many young men in England at that time who felt that the grass was greener on the other side.

The critical factor appears to have been a small advertisement in the local paper, the Dover Mail, put in by a Mr Burgess who was a Durban chemist and had property in Verulam. He sought an assistant. Had this advertisement appeared in any other paper rather than the Dover Mail, there would be no Kearsney College today. This looks suspiciously like the 'Hand of Fate'. Not only this, but the position appealed to

26 Liege, and he decided to apply. The situation was compounded by the fact that his application was accepted. He had no experience in the work of a chemist, nor in farming, but he took a chance and sailed forth early in February 1857 in the Lady Shelbourne, arriving in Durban some three months later, with the promise of a salary of £30 a year. Durban was, of course, a minor settlement surrounded by bush and wild animals, including lions, with one or two small boarding houses and a large market place.

Suffice it to say that Liege did not stay long with Mr. Burgess. He embarked into farming and the buying and selling of property. He bought land at Mount Moreland and tried a number of crops with no great success. Now a married man, he decided to buy 600 acres inland from Stanger, in the Nonoti area, which he called Kearsney Estates. The name 'Kearsney' was no more than a nostalgic tribute to the ruined Kearsney Manor in Dover, England, where, no doubt as a child he had spent many happy days. He could have given it any other name - possibly Gillingham College! But this choice of name was the third factor which determined the existence of Kearsney College!

Here again he grew crops with no outstanding success until, about the year 1880, when he was over 40 years of age, he decided to try growing tea, and ordered a large number of cases of seed from India. This was an immediate success, and on the vast tea plantations of the Kearsney Estates there was laid the foundation of the Hulett Sugar Empire. The sugar was to come later. With tea there came relative wealth. With his sons, six in number (and he had two daughters) he set about building the stately Kearsney House (later to become Kearsney College). This imposing building had 22 bedrooms, some very large, and an open balcony upstairs where two dozen beds

could be laid for those who preferred to sleep outside. For his lovely grounds he gathered in trees and shrubs from all parts of the world, so that it became a fairyland of beauty. Much of this flora still stands there today. Here Liege settled with his family and directed the operations on his tea estates. Time passed. His family married and had families of their own, and moved away to build their own homes elsewhere.

Liege, who had taken an active part in the politics and administration of the province, including being a Magistrate, Local Preacher, and Speaker of the Natal House of Assembly, was knighted by King Edward VII early in the 1900's when he was 65 years of age and it was at this point that he decided to retire from his active farming and live in Durban, in the magnificent Manor House which he had built for himself on Mentone Road, and which is still fully in use. His eldest son Albert remained in Kearsney House to manage the estates (and was ultimately succeeded by his eldest son Guy, as Chairman of Hulett's). Albert lived in Kearsney House until the latter days of World War I and then decided to build another home for himself further down the coast. Thus Kearsney House became empty, and its lovely grounds neglected.

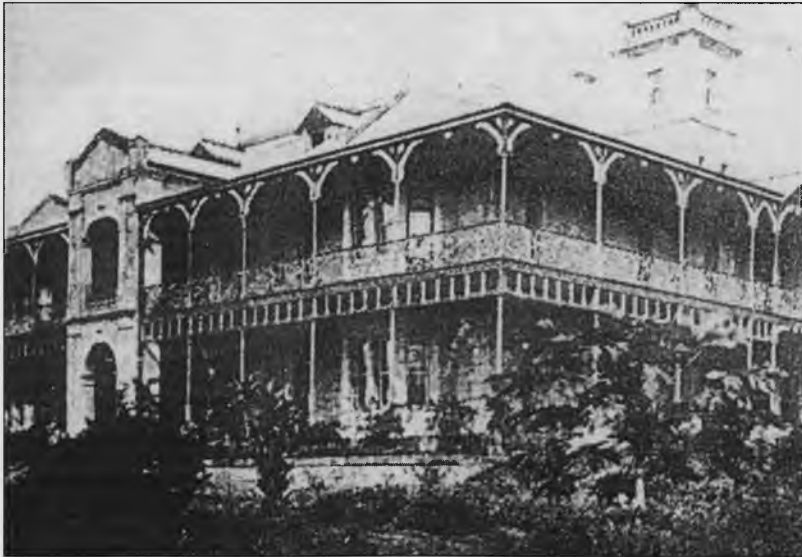
By this time Sir Liege Hulett was 85 years of age, still showing much of the mental and physical fitness which had characterised all his days. He must have wondered many a time what was to become of the lovely home he had built for himself 40 years earlier. Inspiration, or again the Hand of Fate, gave him the answer. He would offer his home and grounds to the Methodist Church to be used as a boarding school for boys, with the provision that its government and influences should be based upon the Christian ethic of his mother church.

Looking back, it seems rather an extraordinary decision. Kearsney was far away in the wilds, over 50 miles up

the North Coast, with the railhead at Stanger (known as the City of Sinners). The North Coast Road was narrow, winding, corrugated and dusty. Nevertheless Sir Liege made the offer. You can well imagine the discussions that went on in the hierarchy of the Methodist Church as they tried to decide whether they were justified in saddling themselves with the incubus of a school in so unlikely a spot. They no doubt sought Divine Guidance, and got it. They decided to accept. The mind boggles at the expense involved in converting a home into a school, no matter how small, and with no money to call upon except that of the Church and of Sir Liege himself. A proper water supply had to be laid on (and Kearsney was set on the highest point of the Kearsney Estates); a home produced electricity supply installed (often liable to breakdown, to the boys' delight, when they were doing their homework); there were class-room desks and benches; cutlery and crockery and tables, blankets and linen for the dormitories, and the beds to lay them on; books and

stationery for the classrooms; African and Indian staff to cope with the grounds, upkeep of the school and the feeding of the boys; and a nucleus of teachers, plus a housekeeper and a sister. All this had to be attended to, before so much as one boy could be enrolled. I have no doubt that much of the expense was met from the pocket of Sir Liege himself who, in his old age gave his close patronage to the school which was now to be known as Kearsney College.

The activities of the first few years remain rather vague, enshrouded in the memories of the handful of boys who were educated there. Even the school timetable was vague, and it is stated that in the early days the staff used to meet at the end of each lesson and decide what they would teach next! It was very much a family existence. Motor cars were few and far between, and the main contact with Stanger was via an eighteen-inch gauge railway line, installed in 1901 for the transport of tea. Boys returning to school would catch the train from Durban to Stanger, then squash themselves into the tiny



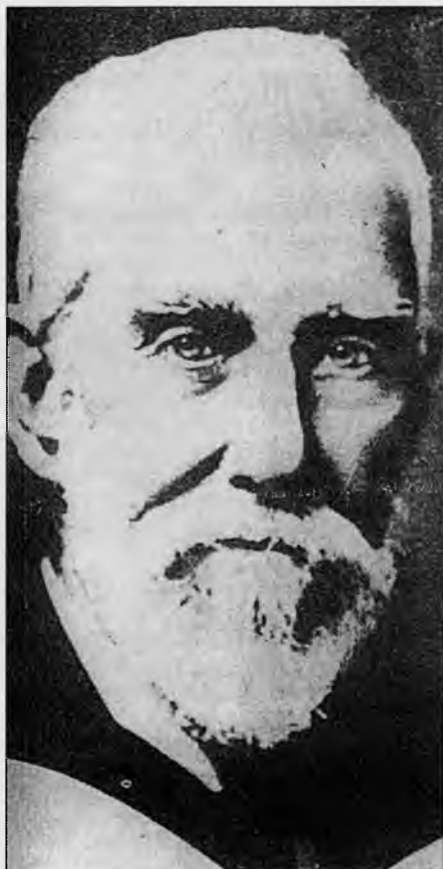
Kearsney House, later Kearsney College. Note the sleeping balcony.

28 carriages of the tea train. Its arrival at the beginning of each term was a 'Great Moment'. It was almost the only physical link with the outside world. There was, however, a telephone line, and in due course a daily newspaper would put in an appearance, but even Robinson Crusoe could hardly have been more isolated. How very fortunate that the spirit of the school and staff was so good and closely knit.

The physical life had to be attended to, and tennis courts were levelled in the immediate proximity of the main building. To level a sports-field, in the pre-bulldozer days, was no mean feat, for the whole terrain sloped steeply from the school's focal point. However, this was accomplished, and, gradually, as the school increased in numbers, sporting contacts were established with local men's clubs and Durban schools.

The purchase of a school bus meant a link with civilisation, and these occasional excursions into the life of Durban were far more exciting occasions than they are today. It took anything up to two hours to reach the city, on the corrugated and dusty North Coast Road, and generally cool drinks and sandwiches awaited the boys at Umhlali, so that the trip took on something of the appearance of a picnic. For the return journey the boys would stock up with pies etc. at whatever Durban tea-room happened to be convenient.

Thus it was that in August 1921, Kearsney College opened with eleven boys, mainly Huletts or sons of local people. Little could Sir Liege have foreseen what an oak tree was to develop from his acorn. His college has 530 pupils today, the largest boys' private school in Natal and the fourth largest in South Africa. It seems that his decision to emigrate to South Africa, to buy property up the coast, to invest in tea, and ultimately to hand his home over as a school, was all ordained by a foreseeing Providence.



Sir Liege Hulett.

Information for this article came from Jack Reece, who went to Kearsney College from England in July 1927 and remained with the school for 40 years. Throughout this period he taught Latin and other subjects when required. In his earlier days he coached cricket. On arrival he was a housemaster. He was choirmaster for ten years, editor of the school magazine for 35 years and he initiated and ran the Kearsney Parliament. After his retirement in 1967 he and his wife continued to live in their house, adjacent to the school.

The life history of Liege Hulett can be found in 'Man of Purpose' by R.E.Osborn

Merry Monarch First saw her in Dover

Contributed by Terry Sutton

HE FIRST SET EYES on her on a cold rainy day in Dover in May. His desire for her knew no ends and, over the years, she was to become his mistress, a life-long friend, and possibly a French spy.

Charles II was in Dover in May 1670 to meet his sister Henriette Anne, who had just arrived from the royal court of France. They had not seen each other for years and the brother and sister affection was obvious to both the English and the French, as well as to the humble Dover citizens able to watch the scene. But Charles II, for all the joy of welcoming his sister, espied an attractive, baby-faced, lady-in-waiting among her entourage.

Louise de Keroualle was only about 16 but Charles soon had plans for her. At first Henriette Anne, who knew her brother's appetite for women, warned Charles off. She was responsible to the girl's parents and Louise's honour was a sacred trust.

The meeting between the royals was a smokescreen for the signing of the Secret Treaty of Dover, (about which our vice chairman Derek Leach is an expert). French diplomats were not slow to notice where Charles eyes had strayed and, in time, Louise was enticed back to England. She was told that Charles' marriage was on the rocks and, if she played her cards right, she could become the next Queen of England. Charles liked the encouragement she received. Louise was poor and ambitious. She accepted the challenge to visit England and Charles planned that this beautiful girl should get a post as lady-in-waiting to his wife, Queen Catherine. The court watched fascinated as the infatuated king pursued the girl who would not yield to his charms. Bets were laid on both sides of the Channel on how long it would be before Charles bedded her.

The French were delighted. They

29
believed they had found someone who could betray England's secrets, learnt through pillow talk. The French ambassador, backed by Louis XIV, put pressure on the girl to surrender her honour for the sake of France. It was even suggested to Louise that the alternative was to become a nun. The outcome was not surprising. With plotting the order of the day, a mock rustic play was organised focusing on a wedding with Louise the bride and Charles the groom. The audience withdrew as the mock married couple retired to bed on their "honeymoon" night. Nine months later Louise gave birth to a son who Charles recognised as his own and created Duke of Richmond.

Over the years Louise's regular visits to Charles' bed was made well worth while. She received gifts worth thousands of pounds, even a pension. She was created Duchess of Portsmouth with the added titles of Countess of Fareham and Baroness Petersfield. Charles' other mistresses were annoyed. Nell Gwynn, with all her cockney sting, regularly took the mickey out of her.

Louise was deeply unpopular in England - not surprising considering her cost to the country - and a writ alleging high treason was offered to the House of Commons. "She's a foreign whore," was the view of those submitting the writ.

Whether Louise ever did betray Charles' secrets is debatable but it is known they remained friends for the rest of his life. She is said to have brought him the greatest happiness. She was there in 1685, outside his bedchamber, the day he died while Queen Caroline collapsed with grief by his bedside. On his deathbed Charles converted to Catholicism and begged his brother to look after Louise and 'not let poor Nelly (Gwynn) starve.' It is recorded Charles had seven official mistresses who provided him with 12 illegitimate children. Lady Castlemain was the mother of five of them, Nell Gwynn of two and Louise of one.

*Sources: Royal Survivor (Stephen Coote)
Mistresses of Charles II (Brian Masters)
Evelyn and Pepys' Diaries.*

R.E.V.I.E.W.S

THE CENTRAL ESTATE AND THE HARTLEPOOLS (1800-2000)

by JACK WOOLFORD

Jack has spent thirty-five years researching and collecting material for this detailed history of his birthplace. He was born on the Central Estate in 1917 and grew up there, aware of his environment and of the fact that it was different from adjacent West Hartlepool. In 1935 he went to university and thereafter he spent vacations on the Estate and his leaves during the 1939-45 war.

He writes, 'I learned the dialect and values, learned how and what to play and how and when to fight, and although there came a time when I was glad to get away to earn a living elsewhere, I was drawn back after twenty years of separation by an increasingly strong wish to return to my roots and an even stronger wish to understand and explain them'.

This is precisely what the writer has succeeded in doing in this book. The chapters are divided into 'packages' of time, ending in Chapter 12 with the period 1945-99, and this, perhaps, is the most telling for the non-Hartlepuddian. After following, in nine chapters, the fortunes of the close knit community of the Central Estate in the first half of the twentieth century, with studies of the changes in population and occupations, the reader faces the contrast of the second half of the century.

This is not just the story of the Central Estate, which the author describes as 'the semi-detached suburb of a ship-building industrial town'. It might be the suburb of any large industrial city, with the reality of post-war planning after war damage, of markets lost, of new competition; of out-of-date industry and

the need for modern development. When town planners got to work 'the long term policy for the Central Estate was total clearance'. Jack comments, 'it was a brutal verdict, naturally provoking determined opposition'.

1967 saw the amalgamation of the two Hartlepoons. From then the author charts the wholesale demolition and the new developments in each of them. 'There was a fundamental rethink of the town's orientation from manufacture to tourism... to pre-industrial Hartlepool's role as a seaside resort'.

However, in the last pages he concludes that the Central Estate fared better than other areas for rebuilding and replacement homes and survives rejuvenated. Perhaps it could develop the feeling of neighbourliness which once existed when, as one old resident said, 'The Estate was a Village'.

The book will shortly be published by Printability Wolviston at £10.99. Dover Society members can obtain a copy from Jack Woolford for £10.00 (Tel: 330381).

Merril Lilley

Another new local book:

GREETINGS, DOVER!

from JACK HEWITT

Following the success of his books about Lillian Kay and Joe Harman, Derek Leach has produced a third book about a living Dovorian. Entitled *Greetings, Dover!* it tells the story of Jack Hewitt MBE, a well-known character, now 90 years old, whose memories of Dover go back to the First World War. Jack has given a lifetime of service to the people of Dover, mainly, but not only, through his very many years in the scout movement and in the Order of St John. In both organisations he held and holds

high office locally and was held in high esteem nationally. His 29 years in the County Ambulance Service also enabled Jack to serve through his paid work. Jack has travelled widely all over the world seeking unusual experiences in far flung parts of the world such as celebrating the Millennium in the Antarctic! He is a very cheerful but cheeky chappy who has often 'got away with murder,' particularly during his war service, and his story is packed with amusing

anecdotes including how he got that unique laugh of his. The book is well illustrated with over 100 photographs, many of Dover.

The book should be available mid April, probably priced at £10, and will be available direct from Derek Leach (01304 823926), delivered free in Dover or by post (£1.50 p&p). Cheques should be made payable to D A Leach. It will also be available at WH Smith, Dover, Dover Library and Museum and Tyler's of Deal.

2002 Dover Pageant

5th & 6th May 2002

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The Dover Pageant programme is now on sale at £1.00 plus postage 44p. Tickets are also on sale at £3.00. You can pay £5.00 to secure front row seats.

*For tickets, programmes and
further details contact:*

**The Pageant Master
4 Harold Street
Dover, Kent CT16 1SF
Tel: 01304 242990**

Email: doverpageant@binternet.com

PART 1

- Episode 1 - King Arthur
- Episode 2 - Bronze Age Boat
- Episode 3 - Romans
- Episode 4 - Anglo Saxons
- Episode 5 - Dover Market and Fair
- Episode 6 - Eustace of Boulogne
- Episode 7 - William I
- Episode 8 - Stephen and Matilda
- Episode 9 - Henry I
- Episode 10 - Richard I
- Episode 11 - King John and Padulf
- Episode 12 - Edward I
- Episode 13 - Henry V
- Episode 14 - The Black Death
- Episode 15 - Henry VII

Interval

PART 2

- Episode 1 - Henry VIII
- Episode 2 - Elizabeth I
- Episode 3 - Charles II
- Episode 4 - Smugglers
- Episode 5 - French Revolution
- Episode 6 - Nelson
- Episode 7 - W H Smith
- Episode 8 - Queen Victoria
- Episode 9 - Edward VII
- Episode 10 - Zeebrugge Raid
- Episode 11 - Hop Pickers
- Episode 12 - General Montgomery
- Episode 13 - Elizabeth II
- Episode 14 - Finale

WEBSITES

The Dover Society website:
www.doversociety.homestead.com

*Please visit the site
 Your comments and observation would be appreciated.*

Dover websites:

- Dover weather: www.doverweather.co.uk
- The Dover Town Council: www.dovertown.com/
www.dovertown.homestead.com
- Dover Town Centre Management: www.dovertcm.homestead.com
- Dover Bells 2000: www.chisnell.demon.co.uk
- Dover Castle: www.dover-castle-friends.org
- Dover Operatic Society: www.dods.org.uk
- Dover Lock & Key: [http://members.tripod.co.uk/dover kent/](http://members.tripod.co.uk/dover_kent/)
- Crabble Corn Mill Trust: www.invmed.demon.co.uk/mill/
- Dover District Council: www.dover.gov.uk
- 2002 Dover Pageant: www.doverpageant.co.uk
- Dover Topsy: www.topsy.demon.co.uk/dover/
- Dover Rotary Club of Dover: www.rotary1120.org/dover
- Dover Rugby Club: www.doverrfc.co.uk
- Dover Rowing Club: www.doverrowing.co.uk
- Dover Web: www.doverweb.co.uk
- Gateway Hospital Radio: www.ghbs.org.uk/
- C J Dance School: www.cjsdance.homestead.com
- Dover Hospital Fete: www.doverhospitalfete.homestead.com

Venturing outside Dover:

- Kent County Council: www.kenttourism.co.uk
- Kent Federation Civic Amenity Society: www.kfas.org.uk/

To add more websites to this list contact the editor or
 Mike McFarnell, 4 Harold Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1SF
 Tel: 01304 242990 / Email: mmcfarnell@hotmail.com

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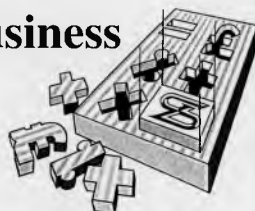
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Please make cheques payable to the Dover Society and forward the cheque or cash to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Sheila Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD

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

Social events Writing for newsletter

Projects e.g. clearance, surveys, photography

Any other interests or expertise

PROGRAMME 2002

Members and guests are welcome at all meetings except the Annual General Meeting which is for members only.

APRIL 22 Monday 7.30pm	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Dr Fred Lansberry 'Henry VIII and Dover'
MAY 22* Wednesday Pencester 10.30am Pickwick 10.15am Frith Road 10.20am	HIGHAM PARK HOUSE AND GARDENS. Light lunch before a guided tour with one of the family. Six centuries of history, 25 acres, sunken Italian water garden and rose garden. £10.00 inc. lunch
MAY 24*	VISIT TO THE MARLOWE THEATRE. To see 'Sunset Boulevard' - organised by Cardinal Coaches. £22.50. Only one pick-up at Pencester. Time to be arranged
JUNE 19*	GLOBE THEATRE. Visit to Exhibition, time to explore before afternoon matinee 2.00pm. 'Midsummer Night's Dream'. £35 to include theatre seats
JULY 20* Saturday 8.00am	GROUNDS AND GARDENS OF HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE AND SCIENCE CENTRE. Price to be confirmed
AUGUST 24-31*	8 DAYS IN ISLE OF WIGHT. £299 includes half-board. Door to door pick-up
SEPTEMBER 21	AGINCOURT. Details in next Newsletter
OCTOBER 14 Monday 7.30pm	SPEAKER: Nadeem Iziz, Dover Planning Survey Brainstorming session
NOVEMBER 18 Monday 7.30pm	SPEAKERS: Derek Leach 'Dover in WWI' Mike Webb, Dover Town Centre Management
DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS FEAST

* APPLICATION FORMS FOR ALL OUTINGS AVAILABLE AT INDOOR MEETINGS
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