

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 47

August 2003



*The Wellington Pavilion 1839
Water colour by William Burgess
Courtesy of Dover Museum*

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, 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 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

by *Merril Lilley*

THE LAST INDOOR MEETING, UNTIL OCTOBER, WAS THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Monday 14th April at St. Mary's Parish Centre, when the speaker was Bob Goldfield of Dover Harbour Board. Details of the meeting are reported here, together with the treasurer's financial report and Jack Woolford's account of the talk.

Three members have resigned from the committee, Hugh Gordon, Ken Wraight and Anthony Lane. We thank them for their contributions

Sadly the first of the summer outings for this year had to be cancelled due to lack of support from members. We were disappointed at this outcome as we had thought a May Day at Hever Castle would appeal. In the meantime the date of the river trip on MS Pocahontas was changed from June 19 to June 18 with sufficient support to make this viable. Details of the August and September outings are given on the last page of this Newsletter. In August there is a trip to the House of Commons and in September a visit to La Coupole in France. Contact Joan Liggett to book your place or if you need further information.

This newsletter includes many of its usual features, a report from Chris Taft, an article by Ivan Green, accounts of Society meetings, reports from planning and three more snippets of Dover history in 'Glimpses of the Past'. Also included is my report on the last (for the time being at least) temporary exhibition at Dover Museum on the Victorians, which led me to an investigation into the celebrations at the Wellington Pavilion in 1839.

In addition there is an interesting article from member Marion Short on Staffordshire porcelain. Marion, of Serendipity in Deal,

specialises in porcelain and has written several articles on the subject for various publications and has recently been spotted on the television programme Bargain Hunt. If you have never visited Serendipity, do pop in next time you are in Deal and see Marion's collection.

The most important announcement in this issue is the news that we have a new sub-editor. In response to my advertisement, new member Steve Franks has agreed to join me in producing the Newsletter. He will be doing the bulk of the computer work, including the page-setting and will thus prove a valuable asset to the Society. In future, mem-

bers submitting copy can send it to me or direct to Steve by E-mail (stevefranks@btclick.com). We are all very grateful to him for taking on the job.

The deadline for copy for the next issue is Monday, 13th October, but, as usual, I would appeal to all contributors to send in copy earlier than this date if they have it ready.

Thanks are due, as ever, to all our contributors, proofreaders and to our advertisers. Please continue to support them. Our grateful thanks to all distributors who continue to get the newsletters to your doors.

Editor

Deadline for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 48 will be Monday 13th October 2003.

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 proofread copy on computer discs is acceptable; please ring 01304 205254 to discuss details.

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Planning

sub-committee

reported by Jack Woolford Chairman

We are delighted by the refurbishment of the Pencerster Rd. building which houses Town Centre Management. Can it be that our 'Praise and Shame' campaign is working? Our fingers are crossed.

We congratulate our Mayor George Allt on the ceremonial opening of 'Dover In Bloom', and the Town Council for the new planters which will soon house plants as well as cigarette ends. We hope that shopkeepers will do likewise.

We are involved in the controversy over Buckland Flour Mill and spoke for the proposed conversion into flats at the Planning Committee, because it would open the millpond to the public and contribute to the Riverside Walk. The application was rejected for lack of adequate parking, premature alterations to a Listed Building, and inadequate flood and contamination surveys. The atmosphere was acrimonious, but compromise should be possible.

We are impressed by the DDC/SEEDA Plan-

ning Brief for the future of Buckland Paper Mill. Justification for the addition of housing to employment is convincing, and the revelation of the river with its millpond, caused by the demolitions, is breathtaking.

The certainty of public access virtually guarantees a major addition to the Riverside Walk and the restored intervisibility of the listed house and St. Andrew's Church will offer a splendid vista. On the other hand, the intended conversion to housing of the unlisted main building, seems unrealistic.

We noted at the Annual Port meeting that the demise of Westport is not as certain as forecast by Bob Goldfield at our AGM. We look forward to the report of the consultants in September on the 30 Year Plan for the port. Bearing in mind the formidable multiplicity of uncertainties involved - climatic, social and economic, national and international - extraordinary foresight and luck will be needed. Fortunately the precedents are encouraging.

Membership News - Summer 2003

Sheila Cope

The Dover Society was founded 15 years ago and we have reached the stage where the present number of members, 421, balances those we have lost over the years. The latest membership number is 853, issued to the person who has kindly volunteered to be responsible for the technological side of editorship.

New members are recruited through publicity in the press about our views and activities, our website, and even more effectively by word of mouth. We welcome all those who support our objectives. Some of our members cannot take an active role

because of distance, infirmity or other demands on their time. We are still very glad to have them. The more fee-paying members we have, the more weight our views carry. Even if you can never attend a meeting you are helping immensely by remaining a member yourself and by recruiting new ones.

And the welcome new ones are :- Miss I Skegg, Mr T Kent, Mr E & Mrs B Spicer, Miss M Mee, Mr D & Mrs C Shrubbs, Mr M & Mrs I Morecroft, Mr C Taft & Miss T Edwards, Mrs M Mellanby, Mr J Eyers & Ms M Job and Mr S Franks. Well done!

The Annual General Meeting

14th APRIL 2003

reported by Merrill Lilley

The fifteenth Annual General Meeting was held on 14th April at St. Mary's Parish Centre and was well attended.

The Chairman, Terry Sutton, began by listing apologies for absence and regretting the loss of members who had died during the past year. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and there were no matters arising.

The Chairman said that the executive committee had been very busy throughout the year. The committee took an active role in objecting to the initial cost-cutting proposals of Dover District Council, chiefly relating to the planned closure of Dover Museum and the removal of the fountain from the Market Square.

The last of the Society's blue plaques was put in place on the wall of The Eagle public house and our chairman welcomed the Honorary Recorder who unveiled it. On the same day Terry and Derek Leach represented the Society at the Cinque Ports' Speakers' ceremonies in Dover, which included walking in procession through the town.

He said that members of the committee, on behalf of the Society, had attended civic and other functions, including several exhibitions. Members were on duty at the Unitarian Church open day and we had been asked to spearhead this year's heritage open days. He added that we were considering town walks and had asked Dover District Council to open the Grand Shaft free of charge during the three days from September 12th to the 15th.

There had been talks with Dover Town Council about the future of Christmas lights and it was possible that the Town Council would take over the organisation of this task.

At our regular meetings throughout the year there had been interesting speakers on subjects ranging from Dover Castle garrisons to

caves in the White Cliffs and from local government to the age of chivalry; a varied programme organised by our stalwart Jack Woolford.

In conclusion the Chairman paid tribute to the hard work of the committee and their excellent attendance at monthly meetings, Jack Woolford who chaired the planning committee, Bill Naylor the secretary, Joan Liggett who always seemed to make a profit on outings and functions, Newsletter editor, Merrill Lilley, treasurer, Mike Weston, membership secretary, Sheila Cope, and ex-chairman, Jeremy Cope, who had helped steer him through troubled waters.

The treasurer then presented the end-of-year accounts. He said we had had a year of consolidation. He talked of the support for Society outings and social events, thanked Joan Liggett for her organisation and urged members to help her by booking early for trips. He reported that raffles were held at meetings and said that often the proceeds from these made a difference to an event running at a loss, or making a profit.

Speaking of the Newsletter, for which we should be justly proud, he said that production costs averaged between £750 and £800 per issue and therefore the cost of production outstripped income from subscriptions. However, this was helped by sponsorship and advertising. This year we received £500 from Pfizers and advertising brought in £504. He thanked Merrill Lilley, editor, and her husband, Bruce, advertising manager, for their dedication and commitment.

He spoke of administration costs such as photocopying, postage and telephone bills, saying that these were down significantly on last year. Much of this was due to members of the committee finding ways of minimising costs. Some members of the Society claim no expenses, thereby subsidising it. Costs

which showed a marked increase from the previous year included hire of a room for committee meetings and affiliation fees, registration with the Civic Trust and insurance taken out through the Trust.

He mentioned donations made by the Society to various organisations and ended, on an optimistic note, with details of interest received on accounts and money gained from the Inland Revenue in the form of Gift Aid, which already amounted to £381.83 for the financial year 2000/2001. He urged members who had not completed 'Gift Aid' forms to do so and thus benefit the Society.

Next the Chairman called upon other mem-

bers of the committee for their reports. Jack Woolford spoke for the planning committee, focusing on all the positive results of the year, Jeremy Cope and Lesley Gordon for the project team working at Cowgate Cemetery on clearance work and deciphering grave-stones, Merril Lilley on the newsletter and Derek Leach on the Budge Adams collection and memorial.

The elections were rapidly dealt with, as there were no objections and all the officers were re-elected *en bloc*.

After the interval the speaker was Bob Goldfield from Dover Harbour Board. His talk is reported by Jack Woolford.

The Annual Accounts

Mike Weston

An extract from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st. March 2003

The following extract from our accounts represents the statement of financial activities and the balance sheet. The supporting notes to the accounts are not reproduced due to lack of space. However, the complete accounts are available for inspection upon request to our Treasurer, Capt. Mike Weston [telephone 01304 202059].

CURRENT ASSETS	2003	2002
Society Badges	£63	£69
Debtors and Prepayments	£212	£1,525
Cash at bank and in Hand	£13,782	£11,838
Sub-Total	£14,057	£13,432
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year + subs in advance	(£1,146)	(£1,008)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>£12,911</u>	<u>£12,424</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>£12,911</u>	<u>£12,424</u>
FUNDS	<u>£12,911</u>	<u>£12,424</u>

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year Ended 31st. March 2003

	General Fund 2003 £	General Fund 2002 £
INCOME		
Subscriptions	2,284	2,290
Donations	64	157
Social Events	357	918
TOTAL INCOME	<u>2,705</u>	<u>3,365</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Members and Meeting expenses	4	-31
Administrative Expenses	553	544
Newsletter Expenses	1,439	1,895
Other Items	-347	-384
Gift Aid Reclaimed	-382	0
Millennium Projects [Plaques]	0	4
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>1,267</u>	<u>2,028</u>
 NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES	 1,107	 1,336
Total Funds Brought Forward	<u>7,254</u>	<u>5,918</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward	8,361	7,254

Capt. M. H. Weston

Bob Goldfield's Address to 2003 AGM

Jack Woolford

Bob Goldfield, new Chief Executive to the Port of Dover (former Dover Harbour Board), began with a brief personal history from education and military service to airport management in Inverness, Hong Kong, Teesside and Shannon. Consequently he brought management rigour, high pressured experience and a strong, customer-focused business ethic to Dover, together with regional and national economic, social and environmental awareness.

As he found it, the port was operationally efficient, safe, above average in service and historically sensitive but lacking in strategic vision, operationally rather than commercially centred and oversensitive as to status. Consequently it had been re-structured, emphasising commercial and marketing priorities and longer-term master planning to ensure sustainability.

Physical expansion to Samphire Hoe (Westport) was financially and environmentally infeasible. The efficient use of the present harbour was affordable and must be maximised, immediately at the Eastern and subsequently at the Western Docks. Customers' needs must be understood and engagement with the international community be more positive. Improved public relations, local, national and international, were essential. In corporate affairs the influencers themselves must be influenced more strongly than in the past: the needs of the port and of Dover must be heard. Above all, the port must take the community with it, witness the Port Consultative and Port Users Committees. Finally, in 2006 the 400th anniversary of the Charter must be suitably celebrated.

The March Meeting

Reported by Merril Lilley

The meeting on 17th March at St. Mary's Parish Centre was well attended. In the first half members were treated to a talk by Wendi Atherton on Dover Castle garrisons, illustrated with many slides of the castle through the ages. The story of how the research started in 1976 is an interesting one. Wendi has written a book with all her findings and we hope to see it published in the future.

In the second half we had a new departure in the form of a picture quiz devised by Jack Woolford, where he showed pictures taken in Dover and asked the audience to fill in the answers on their question sheets. These mostly asked, 'Where is this? What is this? Where was this picture taken? What famous man lived here?

- and so on. There were 25 questions and the member with the best score was Terry Sutton, who gained 141/2 marks. Not surprising with Terry's knowledge of Dover! The top eight scorers all won prizes. It was good fun but many of us felt we were at a disadvantage as the questions were heavily slanted towards the names of pubs and to the area north of Dover where Jack lives, e.g. Temple Ewell, River and Buckland. Members with the lowest scores could manage only 2 or 3 correct answers.

Thank you, Jack, for a diverting second half of the evening. Perhaps another member might take up the idea next year and produce a similar quiz.

Dover Castle Garrisons

by Wendi Atherton - Reported by Merril Lilley

Our President, Brigadier Atherton was posted to Dover in Spring 1976. At the time the architect then in charge of the castle, Michael Kormanic, had plans to convert the nineteenth century Salvin building, the old Officer's Mess, into an 'Interpretative Centre'. He envisaged three different types of restaurant, a cinema, an education area and a lecture hall. He wanted the theme of the decor in the entrance hall to be militaria, including lists of the regiments which had been stationed at the castle painted on the panelled walls. He suggested to Mrs. Atherton that she might try to compile the list. She

through this work, I confess to being unashamedly dotty about the castle!

Mrs. Atherton started by finding a few regiments named in Bavington-Jones' *Annals of Dover and Statham's History of Dover*. Next she obtained a list from the historical branch of the Ministry of Defence, which was on Dover only and started in 1800. On visiting the MOD library in Whitehall, she met someone who pronounced the job impossible and, while this initially dismayed her, it subsequently acted like the proverbial red rag. She was determined to give it a try.

The first problem encountered was that as



The Officer's Mess

told us, 'I don't think he had any idea what he was asking me to do and, as a complete novice, I certainly had no idea what I was taking on!'

As she went on to say, the proposed conversion was abandoned but by that time she was hooked. She said, 'I've been at it on and off ever since, about 25 years (rather more off than on!) and, having lived at the castle for five years and kept my interest since then

well as the castle Dover had a number of barracks, the Citadel, South Front, Drop Redoubt, Archcliffe Fort and Fort Burgoyne (or Castle Hill Fort), and that many of the records just stated 'Dover', so that no list could ever be completely accurate and complete.

She was steered, by Gregory Blaxland, to the Public Records office at Kew and advised to look for Marching Orders and Monthly Re-

turns. This unearthed some valuable results. For instance one might find, 'A Marching Order from Plymouth to Dover Castle. 12th April to 14th May, 1764, taking 4½ weeks.' Or an order from 1781.

'It is His majesty's Pleasure that you

than originally intended. Gradually a picture of a pattern of occupancy began to emerge. The castle was designed in the twelfth century for up to 1000 men and 100 horse in time of war or siege, but often housed only 100 men in times of peace. In



The 77th DC

cause the companies of Col. Rich's Regiment of Foot under your command at Dover or in Dover Castle to march from their places three days before the election of a Member of Parliament begins there, to the next adjacent Place or Places, beyond the distance of two miles and that they do not return to Dover until two days after the election.' 1752.

Apparently this happened for every election. Our researcher wondered where to start and considered beginning with the start of the Standing Army in 1660, but then kept finding earlier references to the Civil War period and earlier medieval times and so the research, which was rapidly assuming the form of a book, began at a much earlier date

Stuart times the castle was in a state of disrepair and was very sparsely garrisoned. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries one could easily chart the periods when the country was at war, the militia being in occupation and the regular troops abroad. By then the castle could accommodate 2000 troops. In peacetime the regular army used the castle as winter quarters.

Earlier records might be in Latin, or Norman French, and in pretty indecipherable writing. Often help was needed to read and translate them, but some interesting facts emerged.

One of these, from King Richard in 1377, showed how the governor of the castle was severely admonished. He had undertaken to

keep 30 men-at-arms and 30 archers to guard the Castle and was paid accordingly. When it was found that he was using only 10 men-at-arms and 15 archers he was told to deliver the balance of the money he had received to the Constable of the Castle and in

ble ranks, a captain 12 pence or 16 pence, porters 6 pence, gunners 6 pence, gunner's mates 3 pence.

There were many references to provisions. A document from the late twelfth century gives figures for a garrison of 1000 men for 40



Lambert Winstan (Dorer), 4 Tanswell Street.
Guard of Honour drawn up before the Inspector.

future to retain an appropriate number of men to guard the castle. The report reads, 'Know then that we are greatly amazed how you are willing and dared to serve us in this manner, and regard it as a great fault, and are very unhappy because of the peril and mischief that might come to our said castle as to our kingdom through your fault.'

(Richard II was only 10 at his accession in 1377 so this was probably written for him by John Of Gaunt).

Wages accounts needed a great deal of deciphering. Our researcher was amazed to discover that rates of pay did not change much from 1339 to 1540, when she compared documents from these years. In 1339 a knight had 2 shillings a day, 20 men-at-arms at 12 pence a day, 40 at 6 pence a day and 40 archers at 3 pence each. In 1540, for almost compara-

days.

'Meal for 1000 loaves a day; 600 gallons of wine (2½ quarts per man); beef, pork or mutton on 18 days; 100 casks of beef, 270 hogs, 162 casks of mutton; fish on 22 days; 44,000 herrings (5 herrings per man), 1320 cods, 6000 stock fish or middle cods; cheese, oatmeal, salt, almonds, rice, vinegar, pepper and spices, kidney beans. Wax, cotton and beef suet for candles; sea coal; hay for 100 horses, 100 cart loads, 50 cart loads of litter, 600 horse shoes, 6000 nails; mutton and suet tow for wounded horses.'

There are entries relating to the 1216 siege, to the thirteenth century civil war and the 1267 'Statutes of the Castle', which decreed there should be 20 warders on the castle walls.

From the seventeenth century onwards there was a lot of material to collect and collate. Obviously it would be impossible to mention all her findings in a short talk so our researcher selected some interesting anecdotes for us and some of them are described here. In the first half of the seventeenth century watchmen and soldiers of the ordinary garrison were appointed by the Lord Warden and sworn in individually to the King's allegiance. The jobs were much sought after as they were 'Privileged Exempted and Freed from being Returned Impannelled or put in any Juryes Assizes or any Inquests by the Sheriffe... or do any Service of Personal Attendance in any other place other than the said castle'. Soldiers also made a plea to be exempt from the county musters and other local duties and were excused these. Some gunners lived in but others might be some distance away and did not always answer the castle musters.

Once, in October 1615, there were only 7 gunners to be seen out of 16. The Marshall complained that some of them neglected their duty. William Eldred, who became Master Gunner at the Castle in 1619 wrote a description of his idea of the duties and qualities of a good gunner, who should be sober, honest and god-fearing. Eldred also describes the firing of the 'Basilisco', later known as Queen Elizabeth's pocket Pistol, in 1613, 1617 and 1622.

In 1642, when the castle was taken by surprise for Parliament by eleven Dorsetians, led by Richard Dawkes, there was a garrison of only 20 with a rather elderly Lt. Governor.

In the early eighteenth century a company of invalids (about 60 men) was more or less permanently part of the garrison. They were formed from 'Out Pensioners' from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. In addition there were 1 to 3 companies of infantry. The main duty was guarding French and Spanish prisoners of war. Much graffiti in the keep dates from this period. French prisoners described

it as 'une prison affreuse' (a frightful prison). Over the years there were many references to dishonest practices at the castle. Several times gunpowder barrels were found to be filled with ashes or sand. Arrears of pay was a recurring complaint and cheating the system by not supplying the number of men paid for.

In 1753-54 James Wolfe (of subsequent Quebec fame) commanded his regiment there and wrote, 'I am sure there is not in the King's dominions a more melancholy dreadful winter station... the winds rattle pretty bad and the air is sharp, but I suppose healthy for it causes great keenness of appetite.' He thought Dover socially boring but the advantages were, 'we have no magistrates or inhabitants to quarrel with; the soldiers are under our immediate inspection; we can prevent them in any evil designs. it would be prison to a man of pleasure but an officer may put up with it'...

In 1755-6 soldiers were employed alongside civilian workers on massive building works carried out at this time. In 1756 the weather was atrocious. Broken windows were a frequent complaint and the soldiers were happy to blame these on the weather.

In 1803, when William Pitt was Lord Warden, he raised a regiment of three battalions of Cinque Ports Volunteers and his nephew, Viscount Mahon, commanded the 1st Battalion. The regular army did not think much of them.

At the time of Waterloo there was much traffic through Dover, both going out and back, after which the army was drastically reduced again. In peacetime it was regarded as a nuisance and an unnecessary expense.

There were volunteer movements in 1859, 1867 and 1869. On the last two occasions the men were reviewed at Dover by HRH the Duke of Cambridge. In 1869 over the Easter weekend about 25,000 troops from all over the country crowded into Dover for a mock battle, attacking the castle from the plateau behind.

In 1896-8 when General Sir William Butler was Deputy Constable, living in the Constable's Tower, Lady Butler did her famous painting 'Steady the Drums and Fifes' 1860 to 1925 with small detachments of infantry on guard duty from those regiments stationed on the Western Heights or at Fort



Steady the Drums and Fifes

painting 'Steady the Drums and Fifes'. Writing in her autobiography, she said, 'The Castle was the very ideal, to me, of a residence. Here was History, picturesqueness, a wide view of the silver sea and the line of the French coast to free the mind of insularity... It was a pleasure to give dances at the Constable's Tower, and the dinners were like feasts in feudal times under that vaulted ceiling of the Banqueting Hall... and a winding staircase conducted the unappreciative London servants by a rope to their remote domiciles... My studio had a balcony which overhung the moat and drawbridge. What could be better than that?'

Dover Castle was an artillery station from



Lady Butler

Burgoyne.

Mrs. Atherton told us that she had had great difficulty when she came to the two world wars as reporting of troop movements was forbidden. Many of her sources dried up. War diaries were useful but those for WWI were not kept for home stations after the first few months. Those for WWII were

were some periods when there were no troops at all.

The only military presence in the castle nowadays is for the occasional firing of gun salutes, for instance to commemorate the death of the Queen Mother or to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The Deputy Constable (the senior military officer in the area)



Salute for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

better but quite complicated as there were so many minor units in the castle. Above ground the main unit was a regiment of Coast Artillery. Operational HQ was in the casemates and underground tunnels, which were greatly extended from 1942 to 1943. Admiral Ramsay masterminded the evacuation of Dunkirk from his HQ there and a statue of him was erected on the cliff top in 2000 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Dunkirk.

After the war the castle was a base for several regiments prior to their departure for operations in Korea, Suez or Kenya. There

still resides in the Constable's Tower.

Photographs by permission of the following: Wendi Atherton, Dover Museum, Princess of Wales Royal Regiment Dover Castle and 101 Volunteer Regiment R.A.

Our River Dour - Has its Time come at Last?

by Jeremy Cope

The Society and its predecessor, The New Dover Group, believed in and campaigned for a riverside walk over many years without success. The Society wrote to the Town Council in October 2002 asking if they would be prepared to finance a survey of the river, to identify opportunities and how they might be achieved. We were also concerned about how the river could be best maintained and the resources required. At the November 2002 meeting Mike Webb, Manager of Dover Town Centre described its Riverwatch project. Anyone reading the local press cannot escape the enthusiasm and support for Riverwatch and its cleansing programme. For so many Dovorians the river is special, but we despair of any action to realise its potential.

A survey should look to the long term; any major changes to the river would require substantial resources and positive official support over many years.

The Town Council made a grant for a survey by Dr. Paul Bolas, an expert responsible for the changes to the river at Buckland paper mill site. Paul has local connections; his wife is a local girl from River. Mike Weston and I have accompanied him twice along the river bank and, I hope, provided him with both local information and details of the Society's thinking. It was instructive for us. Weeds are important and should cover about 50% of the river bed; they are the home of the invertebrates upon which the fish live. You might think that old bricks or a lump of concrete in the river bottom is rubbish to be cleared out. Not so, they are a base on which weeds grow and therefore to be valued.

Paul invited us to look at the changes to the Dour at Buckland paper mill. The banks retain the concrete from the industrial past, but the river is now exposed to view. The restoration includes a fish ladder, lake and island, it only requires landscaping. Any development of this site should allow for public access and

be part of any riverside walk.

Paul produced his report in May. He showed the special nature of the Dour as a chalk stream. Although there are many threats to it, it has no wastewater discharges. The variety of plants, aquatic life and wildlife is limited, but there is potential for it to be restored to a richer habitat including migratory fish e.g. sea trout, salmon.

Most Dovorians think that the river only needs to be cleared of rubbish to tidy it up. The report details much richer possibilities, which if realised would make the river a great asset. A restored River Dour could be a tourist attraction with great economic benefits. Although the report only deals with the stretch covered by the Council's area of authority it is clear that the river must be dealt with as a whole. Pollution upstream affects the whole. A riverside walk should cover the whole length of the river.

The report includes ideas of how the river might be developed, for example a path and wildlife rest area between Lorne Road and London Road based upon the old flour mill millpond. The stretch by Barton Path is too wide for the volume of water and a narrowing of the channel with part of the riverbed becoming a wildlife area is proposed. Two fish ladders would assist migratory fish to swim up the river to spawn. The report contains many other ideas.

A walk along the river reveals that properties back onto it; a restored river could persuade residents and developers that properties should face the river. Such a change would be proof indeed of success of our ideas.

We are now lobbying Dover District Council to convene a steering committee whose members would include Dover Town Council, Dover Town Centre Management (Riverwatch), River Parish Council, The Dover Society and Environment Agency. They should, using the Bolas Report, be responsible for preparing an

action plan for approval and subsequent implementation.

I would like to think that we are at the beginning of a serious process for the long term development of the river. The Bolas Report gives

a picture of what is possible. Dover has a history of neglecting the river in particular and its assets generally however, so we shall need great good fortune and determination if there is to be a change for the better.

Come and Join Us

Update on Cowgate Cemetery Clearance

by Lesley Gordon

Great progress on the clearance of Cowgate Cemetery means that the Society, in the hopes of encouraging visits by members, has decided to offer a free guided walk of the area, combining it with a 'Heritage Day' opportunity to view the delightful Unitarian Church nearby.

The guided tour will commence at 11am on Sunday 14th September. Please assemble at the Albany Place car park (no charges on Sundays), which is conveniently situated between the two sites. First we will take a very short walk to the cemetery to view the

work done by the society and learn a little of its history and some of the sad tales that the gravestones and vaults bear witness to. Then it is another short walk back to the Unitarian Church at the bottom of Adrian Street. There will also be the chance to view a very interesting art exhibition by members of the church and tea and cakes will be on offer to finish.

This should be a very pleasant way to pass an hour or two on a Sunday morning, so do book the date in your diaries.

See you all then.

A Miracle of Music

Jack Woolford

The concert of Friday April 25, was unique in my 50 years in Dover. The star, Yuri Tykhonenko, is a world-class pianist of great technical brilliance from Moscow. I chose my seat so that I could see the keyboard and never saw fingers deliver more power, awesome but delicate. Nor did I ever hear more deeply heart-felt music-making. In the first session it was, Albeniz apart, wholly Russian, from Khachaturian to Prokofiev's "Love of the Thee Oranges" and Rachmaninov's "Prelude: in C Sharp Minor". Yuri then partnered Dover's Nicholas Harby in piano duets of Grieg's Norwegian Dances, which again 'brought the house down'.

Next came the startling contrast of Poulenc's Sonata for Flute and Piano, faultlessly played by Elizabeth Luckhurst and Nicholas Harby. Pure classical music then properly had its turn

when Elizabeth played a Handel flute sonata accompanied on the harpsichord by Dr. Linda Keen who went on to play, equally brilliantly, solo Preludes by one of Bach's forerunners.

There was no time for interval. The finale was a dazzling display of virtuosity to match that of the composer, Liszt himself: his Funerailles, the forgotten Waltz in C# Minor and Hungarian Rhapsody No 6 in D Minor. After a storm of applause, curtains opened at the back of the stage to reveal Elizabeth Luckhurst wheeling in a mountain bicycle, a surprise gift for Yuri, which he promptly mounted and rode off the stage.

The Dover Society is proud to have helped to organise this unforgettable occasion. Thanks are due to Dover Town Council and its Deputy Town Clerk James Summerfield for sponsorship, the Dover Mercury for printing and publicity, Astor College for the Arts for a perfect venue and piano and most of all Nicholas Harby and Yuri Tykhonenko.

The Western Heights Preservation Society

Chris Taft, Publicity Secretary chris-taft@excite.com

WHPS opened the Drop Redoubt for this year's Western Heights Open Day. Once again this was organised by the White Cliffs Countryside Project and again visitor numbers increased. WHPS ran a stall selling publications on the Western Heights. The Grand Shaft was again open, free, to visitors, giving them the chance to see the remarkable triple helix spiral staircase. The Society ran two guided walks over the Heights, which proved very popular and provided a wonderful insight into its history. The Open Day was a lot of work for members, but I think it was worth the effort. Its exact success has yet to be determined, but we already know that the weekend was the most productive yet for the WHPS and we look forward to the next.

As an introduction to the Open Day the second WHPS lecture evening was held in Dover Castle. Paul Pattison, Senior Archaeological Investigator for English Heritage delivered this. Paul and his team are currently conducting the most extensive survey of the Heights ever undertaken and Paul's lecture introduced his research and gave us an insight into the forthcoming report.

Other WHPS Projects

Members of the Committee have been busy producing a series of information sheets. The first batch comprising Western Heights, The Drop Redoubt, The Grand Shaft Barracks, The Grand Shaft, St. Martin's Battery, North Entrance and a glossary sheet explaining some of the terms featured in the sheets, went on sale at the Open Day, proving extremely popular. The next batch will include the Citadel and Archcliffe Gate.

Several people have contacted WHPS to share their memories of the Heights, following appeals in the last issue of this newsletter and elsewhere. Any readers who spent time at the Heights can contact Tamsyn Edwards at 8 Astor Avenue, Dover, Kent, CT17 0AR or e-mail tamsyne@excite.com.

Plans are now under way for this year's AGM in July, exact date and venue to be confirmed. If you wish to join the WHPS, or to find out more, please contact the Honorary Secretary at 66 Union Road, Deal, Kent CT14 6AR and please state where you read about the WHPS. The Committee would like to thank all who helped out at this year's Open Day and all our members for the support that made this event possible.



Visitors being shown Soldier's quarters at Drop Redoubt
©T. Edwards
2003

The Victorians in Dover

Report by Merril Lilley

A special exhibition on life, work and play in Victorian Dover

The temporary exhibition at Dover Museum this summer covers every aspect of Victorian life; home, people, dress, jewellery, household effects, kitchenware, china and children's toys and books.

One of the sections on people depicts a Do-

brigade before its embarkation for the Crimean War and also the picture of the 'Steam Packet Quays at Western Docks, 1845.'

Among my favourites are two splendid pictures by William Burgess. One of these is of



ver family called Fox and includes their family tree. Apparently in the eighteen hundreds the average family had six children. Another display focuses on well-known Dover families with a picture of the marriage of Henry Mowll and Gertrude Worsfold in 1889. There are also sections on 'Empire' and 'Industry and Invention'.

There are many interesting old pictures and photographs showing Dover streets and buildings, most of them of the last two decades of the nineteenth century. Many of these give 'then and now' shots under the heading of 'Vanished Victorian Dover', with main streets like Bench Street, Biggin Street and Worthington Lane. Others offer nostalgic shots of places or buildings long since gone; Commercial Quay and the bandstand in Granville Gardens.

There are plenty of paintings of historic interest. I like the one entitled 'Field Day for the Highland Brigade, 1857', showing the

'Wellington Pavilion 1839'. This was built in the summer of 1839, on land owned by Dover Priory, to celebrate the first decade of the Duke of Wellington's time as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. In the picture the Town Hall (Maison Dieu) can be seen on the left of the pavilion.

Two elaborate entertainments were held in the pavilion, a banquet on 30th August and a ball on the 5th September. Burgess produced pictures of both these events. The other lithograph the museum has chosen to exhibit shows the Cinque Ports Ball.

These two pictures conjured up such a vision of the people of Dover flocking to the site that I determined to find out more about the celebrations and, a few days later, set off for Dover library to see what I could uncover. I was lucky. The library had a copy of the 'Dover Telegraph' of 1839 on micro file and there the banquet was described in great detail in the week it occurred and the ball,

of rather lesser interest, in the newspaper of the following week.

The Cinque Ports Banquet and Ball at the Wellington Pavilion

Report by Merrill Lulle from the Dover Telegraph of 1839

In 1839 Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, had held the position of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports for ten years. He continued in the post until his death in 1852. The duke was very popular and the idea of a grandiose celebration to mark his first decade as Lord Warden caught the attention of the public.

The newspaper article describing the banquet covered a complete page of four columns in the 'Dover Telegraph and Cinque Port Advertiser'.

It began, 'On Friday, the 30th August, this most splendid and magnificent entertainment took place at Dover. The Cinque Ports united to celebrate the event of the greatest Commander in the world, being their Lord Warden, and to commemorate it with a splendour and to an extent which will show to future ages how Englishmen in the nineteenth century honoured the man to whom Europe owed its release from the yoke of a tyrant, and to whom his fellow countrymen were indebted for their existence as a free people, and for the security of their national glory and renown.'

The enthusiastic reporter continued in this vein for the rest of the long article. First he described the building of the pavilion opposite the Maison Dieu, which took several weeks and cost nearly £1200, using four hundred loads of timber. It had necessary offices, covered ways and lobbies and the entrance was formed by a covered lobby decorated with flags.

'On entering we beheld a spectacle, which to describe is almost impossible. The rich colours of the banners and flags with the varied and splendid designs of the tapestry, the gold and silver glittering in the rays of light,

the innumerable number of persons present, the beauty and elegance of the ladies' gallery, the long array of nobility, and above all the noble duke himself, created a scene, which to be appreciated as it deserved, must have been witnessed.'

How the reader wishes she could have seen it!

Next all the important personages present were named, long lists of lords and earls. Then the interior of the pavilion is described, detailing all the chandeliers and window lights, all the armaments, coats-of-arms and whole-length figures lining the galleries. Among them all the display of the Duke's arms was resplendent against a suspended drapery of pink and white stripes. In the centre was the Queen's coat-of-arms, surrounded by flags belonging to the Cinque Ports Volunteer Regiment. Above this was a trophy, composed of a cuirass, helmet and other arms taken from the field of Waterloo and the word 'Waterloo' inscribed between two stands of muskets and a scroll supported by eagles.

The plate service was magnificent, the knives having handles of gold, all borrowed from a firm in the City of London. There were four different sources providing the dinner and the wines.

There were twenty-six tables, 25 at each, twenty-six ditto 23 at each, one ditto 124 and the Duke's table 172. 29 quarters of lamb; 56 dishes roast veal; 56 ditto boiled beef; 120 couple chickens; 40 turkey poults; 28 hams; 56 tongues; 120 pigeon pies; 240 venison ditto; 180 fruit ditto; 160 custard puddings; 200 lobsters; 200 salads, cucumbers, pickles, etc.

The article goes on to say that the only cause for complaint seemed to be in the attendance of the waiters, among whom there appeared a want of management rather than a deficiency in numbers!

As the hour for dinner approached all the streets leading to the Priory Meadow were almost impassable. A guard of honour of the

27th (Inniskilling) Regiment marched from the Castle. Finally, at a few minutes to five, the Duke was seen driving from Walmer in his phaeton and pair and drove through the streets to tumultuous cheering. Guns were fired from the Artillery at the Heights and church bells rang. The Duke was received at the Maison Dieu by the Mayor and Recorder of Dover and conducted through a double line of noblemen and gentlemen, including the architect of the pavilion.

As His Grace, dressed in the *cinque ports'* uniform, passed from the portal, under the ladies' gallery along the entire centre of the pavilion, and through a line formed of those assembled to do him honour, the most enthusiastic and rapturous greetings met his

ear. The ladies waved their handkerchiefs and the fine band of the 11th dragoons struck up, 'See the conquering hero comes'. On reaching his chair the Duke was again similarly greeted nor did the cheering cease until the trumpet sounded for silence.

The article reported that 'after the cloth was cleared' the toasts began and gave in some detail all the toasts and speeches which followed. The full account covered half a page of the newspaper.

The celebrations were not over. On the following Thursday, 5th September, a Grand Festival Ball was held in the pavilion before it was dismantled. Once again this event was reported in the *Dover Telegraph*, although in less detail than that given for the ban-



The Cinque Ports Banquet

Lithograph by William Burgess Published 1839

View of the interior of the Wellington Pavilion, from the Ladies Balcony. The gentlemen are at their tables with dignitaries and Wellington on the dais in the background.

The illustration also provides excellent detail in the decoration, also designed by Burgess. Hung above the dais were the Royal Arms, the coat-of-arms of Wellington, the Cinque Ports Volunteers flags and trophies taken at the battle of Waterloo.

Text © Dover Museum.

quet.

The ball was attended by the Duke of Wellington, several of the principal county families and most of the leading inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. The number of tickets sold was 940. All the decorations remained from the banquet, the only alteration being the removal of the tables that occupied the centre, where a floor for dancing was laid down. Mount's band played from the gallery that formed the dais, while, at the other end of the hall were the bands of the 90th and 27th regiments, which played pieces alternately between the dances. Elabo-

rate refreshments were served on massive plates.

The Duke, in his usual dress, arrived at nine and stayed until half past eleven, 'during which time he was moving about among the groups of dancers, conversing affably with many gentlemen, and, we understand, expressed himself highly gratified by the magnificence and splendour of the scene'.

The article went on to list all the most important guests attending the ball.

A footnote to the account reported that, on the following day the Duke entertained the Mayors of the Cinque Ports at dinner at



The Cinque Ports Ball at Dover Castle.

Lithograph by William Burgess Published 1839

View of the interior of the Wellington Pavilion, Dover, where a ball to celebrate the ten years of the Duke of Wellington as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in 1839, was being held.

The guest of honour, the Duke of Wellington, can be seen in the left foreground.

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Collecting Staffordshire figures

By Marion Short

How do you know whether it is old, or a reproduction? This is the question that I am frequently asked by people fascinated by Staffordshire figures and animals and who would like to collect but are frightened of being sold, a reproduction instead of the real thing, by an unscrupulous dealer.

I tell them that it is by continuously handling and by comparing old with new and by noting the differences (and there are

auctions and looking at items for sale. Ask the auctioneer questions, then feel the weight, look at the glaze, the crazing and the modelling. Buy a reproduction piece from a retailer of modern china and compare the differences; eventually your eye will get tuned in. If a piece is rare don't worry too much about the odd chip and hairline crack, but make sure that you take a note of any restoration. Once again ask the auctioneer if, to their knowledge,



Tom King and Dick Turpin

many), that they will eventually be able to tell, as I can now, the genuine from the fake from the other side of the room.

I suggest that skills of this sort can be developed by, for example, going to view at

a piece has been restored. Obviously, the price should be cheaper if these defects are present but it is sometimes necessary to have such pieces in a collection.

Staffordshire collecting is an absorbing

hobby, and figures can be collected according to individual interests and means. For example, there are many theatrical figures and groups, as well as politicians, religious subjects, royalty and, of course, animals. With such potential available it should be possible to develop a thematic collection.



Walton Sheep

Animal subjects are particular favourite and so we have sheep, cow, horse and dog collections (all very popular) and it is possible to have many variations within the chosen subject. The costs vary according to age and rarity and sometimes with the location in which the piece was bought. A Walton sheep with a signature within the cartouche on the back is going to be much more expensive than a more common theatrical piece, for example Garrick as Richard III.

There are many excellent reference books written on this subject which are well illustrated and invaluable to both the beginner and the expert.

The best known of these is the book *Staffordshire Portrait Figures* by PD Gordon-Pugh which covers the Victorian period from 1837-1900.

There were however, a considerable number of potters working very prolifically from around 1750 onwards, for example, the Wood family, Neale and Co, Pratt, and Larkin and Poole. In the early 1800's we have Obadiah Sherrat, Charles Tittensor and John Walton and examples of work by any of these potters will grace any collection of worth. You will find the aforementioned in books such as *English Pottery and Porcelain* by Geoffrey Wills, *Staffordshire Figures* by John Hall and *Staffordshire Pottery The Tribal Art of England* by Anthony Oliver.

Another good source of reference is, of course, museums. The British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London are well worth a visit. There is also the Fitzwilliam in Cambridge, Brighton Museum and, of course, at the centre of the industry, the museum in Stoke-on-Trent. Not so obvious, but affording great pleasure would be a trip to the Theatre Museum at Covent Garden which has a very comprehensive Staffordshire collection of actors and actresses.

And this is, of course, what makes portrait figures such a fascinating subject; it is the social scene of the time in which they were made. No other country has such a comprehensive record in pottery of the interests and attitudes of the period from 1750 to 1900.

I hope that this article has whetted the appetite of both the would-be and present collectors and that when you visit antique shops, antique fairs and even boot fairs you will look out for these colourful objects and appreciate them with new eyes.

Dover's Medieval Walls

By Ivan Green

During the 14th century there was an escalation of the long-drawn-out cross Channel hostilities, which had been for so long fought in England's favour, but reverted at that time to French superiority. The French mariners had built up a large fleet of raiding ships which increasingly harassed the coasts of south-east England, and they even carried out raids on the Cinque Port towns with much success.

Attacks largely ceased during the Black Death of 1348-49. But a generation after Europe had recovered from that terrible plague which had caused a temporary halt to hostilities all over Western Europe the French raids resumed and the whole of south-east England became very alarmed, even fearing a wholesale invasion of the country, so much so that the king permitted some castles to be built as a defensive measure. These were Cooling and Scotney in Kent, and Bodiam just over the border in Sussex. The defences of Canterbury and Rochester were also strengthened.

Work on surrounding the town of Dover with permanent walls started in reality in 1368 and there are many references to it in records until 1384 when all reference to wall building ceased, so it is presumed that in that year the work was completed. Later financial references refer to wall maintenance or wall tax.

In 1368 the building of a wall to completely enclose Dover was obviously in full swing, since town records include an entry of £56. 12s. 4d. 'as well as for enclosing the town with walls as for the necessities of the town' and also a payment of £69. 16s. 8d. 'paid this year for works on the new walls for enclosing the town of Dover'. The Snar Gate seems to have been built in 1370.

The materials were home produced, including stone from decayed buildings in the town itself and also quantities from the

beach, clunch of hard chalk from the lower strata of the cliffs, softer and crumbling chalk for the lime kilns, and timber from the wooded valleys in the district. The lime was apparently produced locally, the town always having had limekilns in Limekiln Lane, later, of course, our present Limekiln Street.

The work must have been a heavy burden on the townsfolk, the money being raised by the usual old method of the *maletote*. The charges were levied and collected first, and then the capital was expended until it was exhausted. Some parts of the western wall and the Snar Gate were built in 1370. The charges for 1371 and the preceding year totalled no less than £72. 16s. 2d. These were large sums in those times, equal to many thousands of pounds today. However, in 1372 the financial burden was only £13. 18s. 0d. In the two years 1372-73 *maletotes* totalled £76. 19s. 8d. A note states that this sum was spent both on materials and labour. At that time there were ten men working on the walls at a cost of 6d per day each, and at that sum they were well paid for that time.

25 quarters of lime carted to the site cost 3 shillings, and 4 cartloads of stones cost 1s 6d. and carting to the sites where they were to be used cost a further 3d. Wood and tiles for roofing the wall gate cost £3. 5s. 0d. This is generally thought to have been the Biggin Gate. The wall charges ceased to be recorded in 1384, so it is presumed that by this time the major work of wall building was completed, but a tax was imposed for the maintenance of the walls in later centuries. These wall costs persisted into the 15th century.

In later years the walls were altered and some of the details of these are complex and not agreed by later recorders. Different generations gave alternative names to some of

the gates. These are too complex to be dealt with in detail here.

In the 1595 map of Dover much of the wall system still survived though in many areas it had disappeared and the town was already expanding well beyond its earlier limits. In some cases, where sections of walls had survived, townsmen had built houses up against their inner sides and in these cases the council imposed a charge.

By the 18th century most of the walls had disappeared, and those gates that survived were a growing nuisance because of their limited width, which impeded trade and commerce.

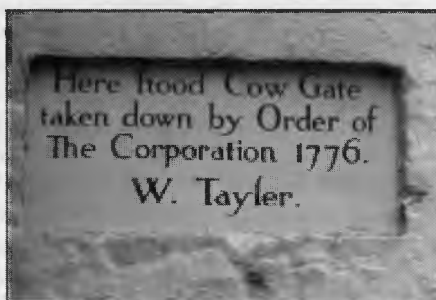
The sites of several of the gates were, however, recorded on stone plaques and in old documents and drawings.

Perhaps the most famous gate was the Biggin Gate which stood near the church of St Mary the Virgin. It stretched across Cannon Street from the present Etam shop to the Abbey National premises on the opposite side of Cannon Street. A slight bend in the street indicates the line of the street outside the gate.

The site of the shop has an interesting history. Many people will remember the inn which once stood there. When this was pulled down, excavations for the foundations for Tesco's first local store unearthed part of the town's old wall. This was covered up by the new foundations and so still survives underground. Tesco soon moved out from their original tiny Dover shop and the present Etam shop arrived.

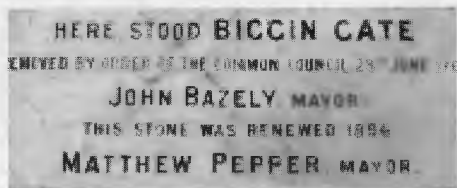
The Abbey National building was the old site of the Rose Inn, and on its front was the plaque shown in the photograph below. When the Abbey National society recon-

ditioned the old building before they moved in this plaque was moved round the corner into New Street, which should never have been allowed. It should be resited on its original position on the front of the building where it properly belongs. The old town wall ran up the side of the present New Street whose original name was New Lane, originally a muddy track just outside the town's wall making a short cut to the end of Queens Gardens. The Cow Gate stood at the top of the old



Queen Street and this plaque was for many years attached to the front of the 'Cause Is Altered' inn which stood only a few yards from the old gate. The Cow Gate was where for centuries the townsfolk had turned out their cattle on the Western Heights, rights which ceased when the Heights were fortified. The inn has long since been demolished.

The Snar Gate stood at the Eastern end of the present Snargate Street, near the Seafarers Hostel. On the brick harbour wall on the opposite side of the street there was for centuries a stone plaque, indicating the gate's original position, but when the wall was rebuilt it was not replaced.



Gl glimpses of the Past

1915. Memories of a six-year-old Dovorian

Editor's Note. This is another extract from the writings of Budge Adams.

In Newsletter 44 there is an account of Budge's birth at 37 Castle Street and in Newsletter 45 an episode in 1914 when a bomb dropped in Dover. Here I have selected some of Budge's memories of 1915, when he was six years old.

My parents allowed me considerable freedom of movement. When we left Millais Road in 1915 I was not yet six years old but I had explored, in the company of my friends in the road, the wide open spaces of 'Cow Pastures', the land on the northern side of the Deal railway beyond Stanhope Road, where Napier Road has now been built, and extending almost to Guston. To us it was an enormous grassy world entirely our own and miles and miles from civilisation.

In this year the civilian population was issued with ration cards, — actually small booklets with pages printed with little squares each representing the unit amount of entitlement of the food concerned and the applicable week. These squares were marked off by the retailer and this was considered sufficient evidence that the ration had been taken up. I still possess some of our ration books which show, among other things that we were each entitled to one ounce of butter every week. Margarine, when available, could be bought in larger quantities and was not rationed. Meat and bread were rationed in the same way and we had sufficient. In our case our father's rabbits and pigeons were very useful and I still have the mental picture of him holding a rabbit suspended by the ears and killing it with a sharp blow with the side of his hand across the back of its neck. The skins were stretched out on frames to cure and, from some of the earliest, my mother made a muff for my sister and fur mittens for us both and, having done that, she made simi-

lar things for other children in Millais Road.

There was an early 'Dig for Victory' project and one could see fruit and vegetables being grown in front gardens or on any little piece of ground that received some light and air. I think clothing was difficult to acquire, but I cannot be sure whether this was generally because of scarcity of goods or scarcity of money. I believe in our case it was the latter.

In the early months of 1915 my father was a very worried man and the shadow of the effect of the war on our family was already becoming apparent. For two reasons: one to save cost and the other to be able to put in the maximum hours of work, father moved the family back to 37 Castle Street and we made a home again in the rooms above the shop.

Our return to Castle Street was important to me as an individual although I am sure I did not realise it at the time. We were once again living in the centre of town and I became more aware of the war that was going on around us. Millais Road was only a mile from the sea front but there one had the feeling of living in the hinterland and as children we often knew nothing of happenings lower down in the town.

Only with hindsight do I know that the whole country was on a 'total war footing' but there was one thing that in my childish unsophisticated way I did know about. The whole country was enjoined to save this or save that, coal, electricity, wood, iron, wa-

ter, anything.

I recall the drive to save water. We were given to understand that it was unpatriotic and very wasteful to use more than four inches of water for a bath. I remember asking my mother if anyone could possibly be more patriotic than the King and Queen. My mother agreed that no one could be. I then asked if they would bath in four inches of water and my mother said that, certainly, they would do the same as everyone else. I remember being horrified at this, that, losing all their dignity, they would be forced to sit or lie in four inches of water because the Prime Minister had said so. Their dignity was further compounded, in my eyes, by the fact that I was bathed in an oval galvanised bath with outwardly sloping sides and about three feet long by two feet wide at the top, set on a table in the scullery. I knew of no other way and I thought the royal family would do the same, but in a bigger bath in a bigger room with a servant to pour in the water. My mother didn't disillusion me - I wonder why?

Our return to Castle Street and the constant naval and military activity in the lower part of the town greatly increased the balance held in my 'memory bank'. With the taking over of the skating rink on the sea front and its conversion to an aircraft hangar, the R.N.A.S. became a centre of attention with its small mahogany flying boats (Shorts, I think) and with a squadron of float seaplanes. They also had two squadrons of aircraft in hangars off Reach Road in Langdon and some small 'Blimps' or semirigid airships for observation purposes at Guston. Boundary Groyne (always known to us as Castle Jetty) generated much interesting activity and even more later on when there was built a launching runway from which two-seater planes were crudely catapulted into the air and sometimes, unfortunately, into the sea!

The launchway consisted of two long shal-

low wooden channels of suitable width and span to fit the floats which were a standard modification to an otherwise normal land-based aircraft. The wooden channels were well greased and because of this it was not possible to use chocks to restrain the aircraft's desire to leap into the air when the throttle was opened. I seem to remember that the aircraft was held back by as many airmen as could find some part of it to hold on to or push against. The engine was opened up and on the order 'Chocks Away' all the airmen dropped to the ground and the aeroplane leapt off the end of the jetty and, quite frequently, into the air. I cannot believe that even in those days the R.N.A.S. would have approved of such a dangerous operation and though I can clearly see it in my mind's eye, I think the picture must have a highly imaginative content triggered by the sight of a crowd of airmen watching what was then, to a youngster of my tender age, something very novel.

In 1915, on the north-eastern side of the jetty, a concrete slipway was built for the launching and beaching of both flying boats and seaplanes. Later on, another hangar was erected on the eastern side of the seaplane shed and this also had its own concrete slipway. There was a winding-motor house at the side of each hangar, and, running over pulleys and crossing the road, a wire to haul the aircraft on a cradle, up to the hard standing.

On the western side of the jetty there was often, especially to us children, the fascinating sight, on some high tides, of one of the little flying boats being hoisted out of the water by crane and deposited on the sea front, where the 'loo' now stands. If they were serviceable and operationally ready, the little flying boats lay at anchor a couple of hundred metres out. For heavier or more intricate maintenance work they were lifted out by crane.

From the Budge Adams' Collection - contributed by Derek Leach

The Good Old Days

(written by Ernest Stokes when the Pier District still existed)

Looking at the Pier District today one would be surprised to see it as it was at the turn of the century (1900) and wonder how so much habitation and business could be sited in such a small area. The housewife had everything she needed without going out of the area from the gates of the Western Docks to the Lord Warden Hotel (Southern House).

The menfolk could get drunk on three shillings having half a pint of beer at each pub without using the same public house twice. We start at the Western Docks entrance and drink half a pint at each stop. In Strond Street we stop at the Prince Imperial, Ship Inn, Royal Mail, Green Dragon, the Swan and Hotel de Paris.

Round the corner was Billie Mutton's where you could buy a packet of fags for a penny or a pennyworth of Shag tobacco. How he could sell it at that price was nobody's business. From there we go to see Mr Minoletti at the Pavilion at Custom House Quay.

We cross the railway line to the Shakespeare in Clarence Street. To save going over the same ground twice, we call at the Fleur de Lys in Council House Street and then back to the Rose and Crown and Cinque Ports in Clarence Street. Round the corner we come to the Silver Dragon in Middle Row and then in Bench Street the Railway Bell, Sceptre, Miners Arms, Deal Cutter, The Pier, Brussels and the Terminus.

Having consumed one gallon, we call on Bert Marbrook, who has the Pier Coffee Stall and who is 85 years old. Bert Marbrook Senior was landlord of the Hope Inn in Council House Street where we have a pennyworth of bread and cheese to soak up the beer before moving on to the Endeavour and Archcliffe in Bulwark Street, Granville Arms, Two Brewers, Exeter Arms and Kent

Arms in Limekiln Street.

Round the corner we use the Lion in Elizabeth Street, The Oak in Oxenden Street, Princess Maude, Neptune, Albion and Railway Inn in Hawkesbury Street, William Albert and Duke of Connaught in Oxenden Street, Scotch House in Limekiln Street and Three Compasses on Finnis Hill.

As all public houses were open twenty four hours a day, or nearly so, it was common to see who could drink a half pint at each house. I do not remember anyone going to the whole 36 pubs, only up to 28. One could get a pennyworth of gin, or two pennyworth of rum or four pennyworth of brandy. Ale was 3d a pint, beer was 2d and porter 1d. Wages were 15 shillings to 18 shillings per week and from the number of pubs in such a small area you will understand how poverty arose and why the area was called 'the Poor Pier'.

Up to the first few years of the twentieth century children could go to the pub to buy liquor, but then a law was passed compelling landlords to seal bottles and jugs became unlawful; landlords just stuck a piece of gummed paper over the cork which came off easily. Children were forbidden to go into bars with their parents and so many pubs provided gardens for children.

The hours of opening were also tightened up and one could only get a drink on Sunday three miles outside the borough. As I lived in the Pier District going through the town to the Plough (in Folkestone Road) was well over the three miles, but over the hills it was much less. So, on Sunday mornings Dad would say, 'Come on, Son, we'll go for a walk over the hills'. When I asked Dad where we were going, he would say, I must see my old friend, Mr Gould, at the Plough. Do you think you can walk it?' Could I? It meant ginger beer, a large biscuit and bro-

ken rock.

It's nice to look back on those days, good for some. Much more could be written of the Poor Pier', but, like everything else, it gets old and in the not too distant future nothing will be left.

Oh, by the way, we did not use all three

shillings. Assuming only 28 half pints of beer were consumed at 2d per pint, that still left 8d. What can we do with that without making gluttons of ourselves? Let's see a show at the Phoenix for 2d. I feel just about too full to walk home, so on the tram for 1d. What about a final half pint at the Swan? For he's a jolly good fellow!

Working for Parker Pens 1948

by June Dyer

I was eighteen. The second world war had not long ended and evacuation was becoming 'history'. It was then I went to work for the Parker Pen company at the Eastern Docks for five years. I remember well the excitement of working in the Export Shipping and Accounts Department of an American company with all the new office equipment and furniture and what was to me a large work force.

The office staff seemed to come and go. There was one woman from Jamaica, another the wife of an army officer stationed in Dover, also a woman living at the East Cliff hotel at the time that all the channel swimming people stayed there. There were three divorcees and a German widow, remarried to an English army officer. One man was American and never as jolly as I thought Americans would be. Another employee was ex-Royal Navy, a teller of amazing tales of his exploits. They just could not have all been true, but I believed everything in those days.

The work was fascinating. As the export markets opened up postwar so did our dealings with countries worldwide. To me it was nearly as good as visiting the places.

Many of us cycled to work and we had to be careful that our wheels did not get caught in the train lines which at that time ran along the sea front and into the Docks. I fell off once and afterwards took

more care.

In the summertime it was a grand place to be. At lunch times we could go on the beach, have a swim and then have our lunch in the splendid canteen. At first the girls from The Quink department would go to the beach in swimsuits with their Quink overalls on top. However, Management asked them not to do this as it was not considered proper. If we did not choose to swim we could always walk on the sea front or up on the cliffs.

We had a thriving social club with various outings to London theatres, Brighton or Southend and to Newhaven for the company's Sports Day. There was a small drama group and we rehearsed 'Blithe Spirit' for some time. I was cast as the doctor's wife but for some reason the play was never put on and the group disbanded.

The first Christmas I was with the Parker Pen Co. we had an amazing party. We had paid in a certain amount throughout the year so that on the day all the refreshments would be free. I had not realised that it was unwise to mix drinks and tried quite a variety with the result that, although my behaviour was reasonably circumspect, I had a hangover for days! The party was held in the old Empress Hall in the Princes Street area and a certain female member of staff who collapsed had

Continued overleaf...

...continued

to be put to bed in the seaman's Club to recover.

The most memorable outing (for me anyway) was one Sunday afternoon when we visited Snowdown colliery. What a revelation! We dropped like a stone in an open cage, while filthy water sprayed over us. Once underground we trudged along with odd bits of coal dropping on us from above, then we crawled (yes - crawled) single file along the coal face, where of course you could not stand. A container of water was passed along and we all drank from it. It was so hot that we were glad to drink out of anything. For the trip

I had worn my usual office clothes and pearl earrings. I arrived home filthy and my mother made me undress in the garden shed before I was allowed into the bathroom!

After five years I left the company to join the Civil service and also to be married. Parker Pen Co. had apparently taken only a short lease on the Eastern Docks premises and at this time were relocating to their Newhaven site.

It had been quite 'something' to be employed by the Parker Pen Co. with its comparatively high wages and annual bonuses and, at the same time, so much fun and laughter as well as hard work.

Book Review - Unlocking Keyes

from Terry Sutton

THE ZEEBRUGGE AND OSTEND RAIDS 1918

By Deborah Lake

Each year representatives of The Dover Society join others at St James' Cemetery to remember the bravery of those who took part in the epic Zeebrugge Raid 85 years ago. Buried there are some of those who died in the firefight on the mole of the Belgian port and with them Sir Roger Keyes who, when he died, was buried with the sailors and Royal Marines he led on the raid. As far as Dover is concerned Sir Roger, commander of the Dover Patrol, is a hero.

But a book, published in April, takes another look at Sir Roger. Author Deborah Lake says Roger John Brownlow Keyes was foolhardy, impetuous, and an indifferent planner. 'Keyes was not an uncaring man but, at heart, he possibly never stopped being a midshipman with a midshipman's values,' she writes. She accepts Keyes was personally brave, a charismatic leader and single-minded. Investigating the pre-

lude of the raid, the raid itself and its consequences, the author argues that the operations against Zeebrugge and Ostend were not military successes. The book, *The Zeebrugge and Ostend Raids 1918*, is well researched and well written, drawing on German as well as British contemporary war records.

Keyes' background, career and personality are probed and the smouldering dislike that Admiral Sir Reginald Bacon, originally in charge of The Dover Patrol, felt for his successor, Keyes is brought to light. Some senior naval officers based at Dover during the 1914-18 war were equally suspicious about Keyes on his appointment to the Patrol, believing he had conspired to get rid of Bacon. But there is no doubt that Keyes, in 1918, was considered a hero among the Dover population and has continued to be so ever since.

Letter to the Editor

I'm sorry to rattle on about Anglo-French history, but I do think that the nearest town to France ought to avoid perpetrating schoolboy blunders. Succeeding generations may claim that they read it in the Newsletter of the Dover Society and that therefore it must be true!

The latest offender is Mrs. Robson (or possibly Mr. Grant) in the glimpse of the past entitled 'Sea Pirates'.

The Hundred Years' War was not started by Edward I because the French king 'annexed some of Edward's castles in Aquitaine'. In fact the Hundred Years' War began in 1340 when Edward III claimed the French throne in the right of his mother, Isabella. The latter was the eldest daughter of the king of France and, when the direct male line died out, would have succeeded according to the English rules of inheritance. The French, however, invoked the 'Salic Law', which gives precedence to the male heir general over all females, and installed the Valois family- a cadet branch of the Capet dynasty.

This is the reason why the French lilies figured on the English royal coats-of-arms down to the time of George III.

Perhaps you should have all references to French history checked by an historian before printing them.

Neil Turns

Editor's Note

Once again our thanks to Mr. Turns for spotting an historical mistake in Newsletter 46. There is no doubt that the king who started the Hundred Years' War was Edward III and not Edward I. The mistake seems to be that of Mr. Grant rather than Mrs. Robson, who accepted the facts in Mr. Grant's article printed in the Daily Telegraph in 1969.

I cannot find verification of the sea battle off Brittany of St. Mahe, referred to in his article, but it seems unlikely that this was connected in any way to the start of the Hundred Years' War. There was a major sea battle in 1340 which assured English supremacy in the Channel. This was the battle of Sluys, in which the French fleet was defeated by 250 English ships led by Edward III.

Perhaps Mr. Turns would be willing to check any doubtful details for us in the future.

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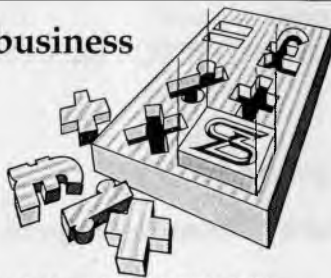


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