

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

50th
EDITION

August 2004



The Old Customs Watchtower, Western Docks

IF
£1
SOLD

THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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

PRESIDENT Brigadier Maurice Atherton CBE

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Peter Marsh, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rees, Jonathan Sloggett,
Terry Sutton, Miss Christine Waterman, Jack Woolford and
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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 last indoor meeting until October was the fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 19th April at St. Mary's Parish Centre. Details of the meeting are given here, together with the Treasurer's annual financial report. After the interval and the raffle the speaker was Martyn Webster on 'Dover's Alien Clerks'.

Having always associated Martyn with the subject of cemeteries we did not know what to expect. We were not disappointed. Anthony Lane reports on Martyn's fascinating talk, which was a fortuitous follow-up to the talk given in March by Martin Lloyd on 'Passports'. Members who missed one or both of these talks can read accounts of them here and see how they complement each other.

By the time the Newsletter appears three of the summer outings will have taken place, the trips to Batemans, to Lydd and to Faversham, all in time to include a mention here, with two of the accounts from new contributors and one from Sheila Cope. As ever all trips were well organised by Joan Liggett and enjoyed by all who participated. We look forward to the August trip to the Bank of England and Tate Modern and the September visit to Lille. Both outings have sufficient numbers to be viable, with a few seats still available for members who have not yet booked. Contact Joan as soon as possible if you wish to join either trip.

Chris Taft contributes his usual WHPS report and is to be congratulated on his Society's work in opening up the Western Heights this summer. The Drop Redoubt and Grand Shaft have been open to the public several times and have attracted large numbers of visitors.

This issue contains two long articles which I had not expected, both resulting from pieces in past Newsletters. The first is by Aubrey Jones who read an article by Derek Leach in Newsletter 44 and then got in touch with us. Derek's article was about the YHA building and the Koettlitz family. Aubrey's wife, Ann, was the youngest daughter of Dr. Maurice Koettlitz and she lived in Charlton House until her father died

in 1960. Aubrey Jones has not completed his research into the life of Reginald Koettlitz but has sent us a fascinating account of the career of the polar explorer.

The second article is from a new member of the Society, Jeane Dutton-Hill, who read the article on Cowgate cemetery in our last issue and discovered that in one of the graves in Cowgate is buried the architect who designed the office building in which she works. He was Arthur Beresford Pite, who married Mary Mowll and is buried with her in the Mowll family vault at Cowgate. We are grateful to both these contributors for their articles and their interest in the Society.

Also in this issue is a report on the first year of Dover Discovery Centre. As I felt the new centre was a great asset to Dover

I asked the Centre Manager, Symeon Hill, to write an account for the Newsletter. This will be of interest to all our readers who use the Centre and perhaps some of our members might like to send in their views for the next issue.

Due to the inclusion of these three fairly lengthy pieces I have reluctantly left out my usual feature of 'Glimpses of the Past', but will make sure it appears in the next issue.

With many thanks, as usual, to all who have contributed to this 50th issue of the Newsletter, to advertisers, distributors and, most of all, writers, with a special welcome to five new contributors.

Please remember, in October, to meet at BIGGIN HALL for this one meeting only!

Editor

* * * * *

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 51 will be Monday 11th October 2004.

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 EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION TEAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK PFIZER LTD. FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION OF £300 TOWARDS THE COST OF THIS ISSUE.

The Newsletter's



NEWSLETTER No.1

Appeared in June 1988

The Editor was Philomena Kennedy.

The Editorial reported that the first meeting of the Dover Society took place on 25th April 1988. The Countess of Guildford was President and the Vice Presidents were: Mr. 'Budge' Adams, Lord Ennals, Mr. Jack Ind, Mr. Ivan Green, Mr. Peter Johnson, Miss Lilian Kay, Mr. Jonathan Sloggett and Mr. Ray Warner.

Mr. Jack Woolford was Chairman and Mr. John Gerrard was Vice-Chairman; Mr. Barry Smith, Secretary; Mr. Norman Willis, Treasurer; Mrs. Sybil Standing, Press Secretary; Mrs. Linda Clackett, Social Secretary.

By June 1988 there were 110 members. The first public meeting was held on Monday 27th June at the Methodist Church Hall on the subject of 'The Improvement of Dover'

The first Newsletter was produced on A4 sheets and consisted of 10 pages Newsletters 1-7 were all in this A4 format, gradually increasing in size until No.7 ran to 40 pages

NEWSLETTER No.8

Appeared in September 1990

This was the first to appear in the new format, as it is today, and was printed by Adams and Sons Ltd. The editorial thanked 'Budge' Adams for his time and invaluable skill in its production.

Philomena Kennedy continued as Editor for another two issues, No.9 and No.10, working with 'Budge' Adams as her page-setter and producer.

NEWSLETTER No.11

Appeared in September 1991

This was the first with Merrill Lilley as Editor, working with 'Budge' as page-setter and producer, as before. 'Budge' gave up his job as page-setter with issue 30, in December 1997, but continued to give his support as a consultant until his death in December 2000. The cover picture for No.11 was Philomena's drawing of the restored facade of the Market Hall as the new museum and the first article described the opening of the White Cliffs Experience by H.R.H.The Princess Royal on 1st May 1991.

NEWSLETTER No.50

August 2004

This my 40th Newsletter as Editor and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have helped and supported me through the last thirteen years, specially May Jones and Pam Taylor, my two excellent proof readers.

Editor

Annual General Meeting

19 April 2004

Reported by Merrill Lilley

The sixteenth Annual General Meeting was held on 19th April 2004 at St. Mary's Parish centre and was, as usual, well attended. The Chairman, Terry Sutton, began by listing apologies for absence and mentioning, sadly, the loss of members who had died during the last year. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and there were no matters arising.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, with especial mention of our President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton and his wife, Wendi, several Vice Presidents and Mr. Barry Smith, who was the first Secretary of the Society.

In presenting his report, the Chairman said it had been a very successful year, including many excellent talks and interesting social events. After three years he was pleased to hand over to Derek Leach, OBE, and to thank all members of the Society who had helped him throughout his term of office. He went on to mention the success of a new venture of the Society, the piano recitals organised by Jack Woolford and Jeremy Cope, held at the Astor College for the Arts and sponsored by Dover Town Council.

Next he thanked various members of the committee: Mike Weston, the Treasurer, who compiled meticulous monthly reports; Bill Naylor, the Secretary, for his compilation of the minutes; Joan Liggett, Social Secretary, for her excellent organisation of Society outings and meetings; Jack Woolford and his committee for keeping an eye on local planning matters; Merrill Lilley for her

production of the popular Newsletter; Jeremy Cope for his constant support and advice and Sheila Cope for her work as Membership Secretary, adding that, at 446, our membership of the Society had never been higher. Our finances, he said, were in excellent shape and he thought that our acceptance in the wider community had never been so good. He said that after three years 'on the bridge' he handed over the position to a new captain who would steer us to an even brighter future.

The Treasurer then presented the end-of-year accounts. He was happy to report a surplus in the general fund. This was in part due to the success of Society outings which made a profit. He thanked our Social Secretary for all her hard work and all members who supported outings generally. Only one had to be cancelled through lack of support. He again urged members to book early for outings so that the viability of numbers ensured that cancellations did not take place, causing the deposit money to be lost. Another feature which boosted the general fund was that of raffles which take place at meetings throughout the winter months and this year brought in £495.00. These raffles made a difference between our meetings running at a loss or making a surplus and this was due to the efforts of Sheila Cope who organises them. Thirdly, he mentioned several things which had helped towards the production costs of the Newsletter. For two issues this year help had been given by Steve Franks doing the page-setting, but he was no longer able to

continue with this. Advertising revenues always contributed towards the cost and for two years we have been grateful for sponsorship towards one issue from Pfizer Ltd. He thanked Merrill Lilley, Editor, and her husband, Bruce, Advertising Manager, for their work and commitment.

He spoke of administration costs and hire of hall, much the same as the previous year. The cost of membership of the Civic Trust and insurance with the Trust had risen considerably. Donations made by the Society to various organisations were itemised. He ended with the good news that interest on the Society's high interest account was slightly up on last year but, best of all, the real benefit to the Society of the 'Gift Aid'

money received from the Inland Revenue, amounting in total to £1262.00, since the scheme started in the year 2000.

The Chairman then called on other members of the committee to give reports on their areas. Jack Woolford spoke for the planning committee, Jeremy Cope for the project team, Joan Liggett on outings and Merrill Lilley on the Newsletter and publications.

The elections were rapidly dealt with. There were no objections and the officers were reselected en bloc. Two new committee members were elected, Marjorie Wright and Adeline Reidy.

After the interval the speaker was Martyn Webster. His talk is reported by Anthony Lane.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SUMMER 2004

Thanks again this year to all those members who simplify my task by paying subscriptions promptly and/or by Standing Order. Our current membership exceeds 450 and we trust that this number will be maintained once the few outstanding payments have come in.

We may feel optimistic because we have gained 14 new recruits since the spring, including newly wed husbands of 2 lady members. We therefore welcome:- Mrs A Knott, Mrs C & Mr M Walker, Mrs D Charlton, Mr M Groombridge, Mr P Harding, Lady Jeane Dutton-Hill, Mr T Fuller, Mrs I Small, Mr A May, Mr I Pascall, Miss S Rashidally, Mr C & Mrs D Hall.

Sheila Cope

Letter to the Editor

An error spotted in the April Newsletter.

Miss de Bourbel says that workmen killed during the construction of the London, Chatham and Dover Railway 'along the foot of the cliffs' are buried in Cowgate Cemetery. But the LC&D railway line reached Dover from Faversham via Canterbury. The line along the foot of the cliffs from Folkestone was constructed by the South Eastern Railway and was actually the first to reach Dover. The Minster-Sandwich-Deal-Dover line was also built by the SER. However, in 1901, without actually amalgamating, the two railway companies set up a joint operating committee and were henceforth, until the grouping of 1922, known as the 'South-Eastern and Chatham Railway'. So Dover got left out in the end!

Neil Turns

The Dover Society

An extract from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2004

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

Society Badges
 Newsletter Binders
 Debtors and Prepayments
 Cash at Bank and In Hand

2004

59
 161
 762
15578
 16560

2003

63
 0
 1262
13782
 15107

CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within
 one year + subs in advance

(1140)

(1146)

Net Current Assets

15420

13961

Net Assets

15420

13961

FUNDS

£15420

£13961

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2004

	General Fund 2004	General Fund 2003
INCOME		
Subscriptions	2410	2284
Donations	35	64
Social Events	422	357
TOTAL INCOME	<u>2867</u>	<u>2705</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Members and Meeting Expenses	11	4
Administrative Expenses	824	553
Newsletter Expenses	1705	1439
Other Items	-236	-16
Gift Aid Reclaimed	-569	-1432
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>1735</u>	<u>548</u>
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources	1132	2157
Total Funds Brought Forward	<u>9412</u>	<u>7255</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>£10544</u>	<u>£9412</u>

Capt. M.H. Weston

PROJECTS

Summer 2004

◆ ◆ Report by Jeremy Cope ◆ ◆

Cowgate Cemetery Clearance

In my last report I noted how nature or the spirits of Cowgate had blessed us with dry weather on our working days, both Thursdays and Saturdays. I should have kept silent - we were rained off for a third time on our June Thursday. Have we angered the gods? Perhaps at our next bonfire we should offer up a burnt sacrifice to appease them. It would have to be a bought biscuit from the mid-morning break supplies; certainly not one of Peter Hargrave's delicious home made pieces of cake.

Weather apart we continue to make good progress although we still have bramble control work to do on the furthest plots. This time of year the cemetery is at its best, with the long grass and other plants providing a pleasing and gentle aspect particularly in the areas nearest the gates. I recommend a visit to one of the most peaceful spots within the town boundaries.

We have also received a very generous donation of £250 to the Projects Fund for which we are very grateful. This help enables us to get the best tools for the job and is invaluable.

The River Dour

At the time of writing this report we are awaiting the Babbie report prepared within Environment Agency guidelines. The first draft is due any day now. It is anticipated that the report will form the basis for a sustainable long term plan for the river. I hope to provide a summary in the next newsletter together with the initial reaction and plans of the River Dour Steering Committee.

Cowgate Plaque Unveiled

from Terry Sutton

There was praise and thanks for members of The Dover Society when the then town mayor, Councillor George Allt, unveiled an interpretative signboard at Cowgate cemetery explaining the history of the site. Mr Allt said the Society had helped to turn the churchyard into an 'oasis of peace.'

After the unveiling ceremony the mayor and others were taken on a tour of the cemetery where they saw the results of the hard efforts of the Society's working party in clearing overgrown grass and undergrowth yet leaving it a haven for wildlife. In fact the working party had knocked off from their labours only a few minutes before the civic party arrived.

The Dover Society, along with others, had contributed towards the design and construction of the panel which details Cowgate's history, tells of some of the interesting people buried there and describes the flora and fauna that thrives among the tombs and gravestones on the foothills of the Western Heights.

As well as the Society's clearance working party, we were represented by our chairman Derek Leach.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

March 2004 Meeting

BUCKLAND PAPER MILL

Past, Present & Future Reported by Jack Woolford

PAUL CLARKE, Dover District Council's Forward Planning Officer, dated the mill to c.1638. It was extended a century later, twice burned down, in 1814 and 1877, acquired by Wiggins Teape in 1890 and closed in 2000, by which time annual production had increased from three to 27,500 tons.

Failing for two years to find an industrial buyer, it was acquired by SEEDA (*South East England Development Association, a regional government subsidiary*) in consultation with the District Council and English Heritage. Unfortunately demolition of some of the buildings left others structurally unsound, necessitating further demolition. On the other hand the Dour was opened up, cleaned, and a weir and fish run installed. The proposed Riverside Walk will benefit.

The Planning Brief has been prepared by consultants, within restraints of scale, design quality, traffic and conservation (notably the Grade II listed Millhouse and St. Andrew's Church) architecture and landscaping. These include stock brick walls, both ecological soft and built (public space) river edges, the view of Dover Castle, accessibility (especially to the handicapped), roads, footpaths, parking, energy-saving and pollution(s!) Access for employment will be as it now is. For housing, the former bricked-up, entrance will be reopened. There will be bold groups of trees and avenues

Four developers have been short-listed. One will emerge on July 30, hopefully responsible for the whole site. Eventually there will be public consultations.

* * * * *

WITHOUT LET OR HINDRANCE

The Story of Passports

Talk by Martin Lloyd..... Reported by Derek Leach

MARTIN LLOYD, who was an Immigration Officer for 20 years, gave a fascinating talk about the history of passports at our March meeting. He explained that the title of his talk was taken from words in the British passport, although a passport only establishes the identity and nationality of

the owner. It is up to the immigration authorities of the country concerned whether to admit you - without let or hindrance - or not.

It is not known when the first passport or its equivalent was issued but the first recognisable document appears to be a

Examining passports at Dieppe



permission to leave, called the King's Licence, issued by William the Conqueror. When travel for pleasure became popular with the Grand Tour in the 17th and 18th centuries, letters of introduction were used to ease frontier problems. A traveller would find somebody at home who knew somebody else in the country of destination and one would introduce by letter the traveller to the other person. The traveller didn't have to visit the foreign person, but was able to produce the letter on demand at frontiers etc. to establish his bona fides. These two requirements - official permission to leave the country and the need to establish your identity - came together to form the passport. With the expansion of the British Empire and the industrial revolution came another surge in foreign travel and the need for many more passports.

Strangely, early passports were impressive documents extolling the virtues of the person issuing the single sheet of paper - designed perhaps to impress frontier guards who could not

read - but containing no description of the traveller! Until 1851 British passports were in French, the language of diplomacy. European countries introduced descriptions during the nineteenth century, but not Britain.

Passports had no time limit on them and could be used time and again. They could soon be covered in official and hotel stamps, which created some problems, but a solution was found. An

agent would obtain a passport for you from the Foreign Office and the agent would give it to the customer in a wallet containing a notebook. This notebook was often used for the stamps. By 1914 the British passport comprised two sheets of paper valid for five years only, containing the age of the bearer and profession, but still no description. World War 1 brought changes with the need to detect spies. A description was incorporated into a new leaflet style passport, which also included a photograph for the first time. When folded it resembled what we would recognise as a (pre EC) British passport.

In 1922 there was an international agreement on passport design and the British version lasted for 70 years until the EC passport was introduced for the sake of uniformity, but in fact the passports of all EC countries are different and of poorer quality!

Having traced the development of the British passport, Martin showed us some passports which had interesting stories to tell, including passports that were needed

to travel between towns on the continent. One involved a passport issued in 1826 by Spanish police for a refugee wishing to travel to Marseilles. The official instructions said that in such circumstances the Mayor should send the passport to the 'Home Secretary' in Paris for the asylum claim to be considered. If it were granted, the Mayor knew that Marseilles would have to bear the cost of caring for the refugee, so he cunningly issued another passport from Marseilles to London via Calais. This was not the last time that the French passed on their refugee problems to Britain!

World War I left behind a problem of five million refugees in Europe. Few, if any, had passports. Without one no country would employ them, despite the acute shortage of men. The League of



Nansen passport photograph

Nations appointed Nansen, the explorer, to solve the problem. Cleverly, the refugees were issued with League of Nations passports, called Nansen passports, and by 1929, when Nansen died, the refugee problem had been solved.

When he showed a slide of Prince Charles' passport, Martin explained that all members of the royal family need passports, except the Queen. She, like all other heads of state by international agreement, does not need one. Diplomatic passports are a different colour and there are distinctive passports for the 35 Queen's Messengers, who travel with diplomatic bags, which are always in the messenger's sight (always males), when the contents cannot travel as cargo.

An interesting phrase still in the British passport is 'Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State requests and requires...'. Surely, it should be one or the other? Either one has the power to require somebody to do something or one does not have the power, but would like somebody to do something. This phrase was originally used to address two



Nansen passport



Queen's Messenger passport

different groups of people as illustrated by a 1659 passport for a German mercenary soldier travelling from Britain to Saxony, which referred to 'requiring those under our control' and 'requesting those not under our control' to allow the bearer to pass freely.

By the end of a well illustrated talk delivered with enthusiasm and humour, Martin Lloyd had amply demonstrated that a passport is not just a boring piece of officialdom, but an interesting and sometimes fascinating insight into one or more episodes in a person's life.

Martin Lloyd has produced the only history of the passport. *The Passport - The History of Man's Most Travelled Document*, a hardback published by Sutton Publishing, price £9.99, is available in most book shops.

April 2004 Meeting

DOVER'S ALIENS' CLERKS..... *Reported by Anthony Lane*

OUR USUAL action-packed A.G.M. was completed with a talk by Immigration Officer Martyn Webster, who broke away from his usual theme of memorials to talk about immigrants, a subject on which most of us are prepared to profess an opinion, but whose exclamations are not always based on the true facts surrounding the issue. Recalling this familiar subject, he took us back to less familiar times, commencing in the latter half of the 18th century when few immigration controls existed.

At the time of the rise of Napoleon there was concern of a threatened invasion from France, not by a military force, but due to the possible displacement of up to 80,000

'Europeans' who might feel safer on this side of the Channel. How many of these actually succeeded in reaching these shores was not recorded but the 'threat' caused the government of the day to pass an Aliens Act in 1793, resulting in the employment of a force of Aliens' Clerks at Dover. These clerks required the recording of details by ship's masters berthing at Dover of all foreigners they had aboard. Such information was entered in the registers kept for the purpose. The aim was to reduce to a minimum the entry of 'Spies, insurgents and refugees and those who could undermine the British State.' Failure to report an alien would result in a fine of £10 in 1793 for the shipmaster concerned, a



The introduction of paddle steamers to the cross-channel routes resulted in a very large increase in the number of travellers during the nineteenth century. Although they still had open decks, their arrival improved the degree of comfort available and shortened considerably the time of the crossing relative to the days of sail.

sum which increased to £20 in 1826. The Aliens' Clerk would in turn issue a certificate of landing.

The stringent 1793 Act was modified in 1816. The Inspectors of Aliens were employed by the Aliens Office, a separate Office of State, to which all the returns were sent. It was amalgamated with the Home Office in 1836. Further amendments to the legislation for aliens was made in 1826 and 1836, when the requirements were relaxed by degrees, for with the arrival of the steam packets, the numbers of foreigners arriving at Dover increased rapidly as the nineteenth century progressed.

The introduction of a railway network led to increased ease of travel and a peak was reached at the time of the Great Exhibition of 1851. Totals for passengers crossing the Channel at this time were:

1849	-	19,949
1850	-	21,915
1851	-	36,215

In the last of these 68,668 bags and packages were examined, which suggested

that the tasks of the Customs and Aliens' Clerks had to be combined, as the bags also had to be searched for contraband. It became very difficult for the Clerks to list all foreigners arriving at London and Dover at this period and so those having return tickets to their place of origin were not recorded.

These controls and searches caused numerous complaints from passengers arriving at Dover from abroad. Having to wait in all weathers in a crowd on the open upper deck, while the vessel rolled at her mooring, and expose their personal effects to the elements as well as the inspecting officers, was too much for many of those whose faces were already paled by seasickness. Travellers were often justly concerned about these intrusions, maintaining they had committed no crime and these occasions often led to swearing and unruly behaviour by some. 'How can the most civilised people in the world provide such barbarous conditions for examinations?' was a common complaint



A view of the deck of a cross-channel steamer experiencing rather inclement weather. After uncomfortable crossings, passengers complained if they were kept waiting on deck while details were taken and searches of their property made by the Aliens' Clerks.

even up until the First World War.

Clearly the connection of Dover to London by rail in 1844 and the opening of the line between Calais, Lille and Paris in 1848 meant that the arrivals at Dover would become much higher, and to avoid some of the problems of examination on the boats special facilities were opened at Dover Town station in 1851. As many of the steamers now arrived at night, an extra duty was initiated for the Examining Officers on 20th June 1850. One Polling Smithett was a senior officer during this period, whose family lies buried in Cowgate cemetery. At this time there were 25 established staff at Dover covering a variety of tasks related to the examining of all passengers as well as aliens, as Dover was the main port of entry for visitors from Europe.

After 1865 the Aliens Act of 1836 fell into desuetude, and although still on the Statute Book, no great change occurred

until 1905, when Sir Haldane Porter, doyen of the Immigration Service, presided over the introduction of a new Act, which allowed only for two steerage passengers to be inspected by Aliens' Officers—presumably allowing for emigrant ships and the new record-breaking liners which called at Dover on their way to America and Australia. This new Act formed the basis for modern legislation. In 1920, under subsequent legislation, an Alien Officer's stamp was introduced for marking travel documents.

Martyn went on to talk about current immigration controls, saying that more people are travelling these days than ever before, and it seems as if the whole world is on the move. These huge numbers mean that different and much more sophisticated methods of checking have to be used. He explained that as warranted officers of the Crown, nowadays immigration officers may take fingerprints, make photographs

but they do not nowadays have the power of arrest, for the person examined has committed no crime in arriving at the border of another country.

He quoted from a newspaper some words perhaps familiar to us. 'It is impossible to calculate the number of aliens in this country. They are gathered together in groups in certain towns and those in employment work longer hours for less wages. There are sufficient poor in our society, and these immigrants only add to our burdens etc.' The newspaper was dated 1898. *Le plus ca change....*

Martyn Webster's talk was highly informative and particularly interesting as it followed directly Martin Lloyd's presentation on the history of passports. It was also directly relevant to the concerns about immigration which are highly topical. Those who had wondered about who Napoleon might displace, and later

were concerned who the railways and steamers would allow to reach us, might now worry who might be eligible to come here from all those new countries joining the European Union. However, having not been invaded for nearly a thousand years it is due to those immigrants that have reached our shores that we owe our social diversity and national character.

NOTE. Martyn mentioned that few books had been written about the Immigration Service. He had managed to find two which might be of further interest:

'The Key in the Lock,' by T.W.E. Roche, was published in 1969. The author was a Assistant Chief Inspector of Immigration. An authoritative history covering legislation since 1793 was published by the Public Record Office at Kew in 2000, entitled: *'Immigrants and Aliens - A guide to sources on immigration and UK citizenship.'*



A Boom House, situated at the original harbour entrance, was occupied by those recording the arrival of aliens. This later building, constructed around the time of the First World war in approximately the same place, was also occupied by the Immigration Service and later HM Customs and Excise. (A.R. Lane)

Society Outings

A Visit to Batemans

reported by
Alice Wilmshurst

The 15th May turned out to be a warm, sunny day for the Society's trip to Batemans, the house of Rudyard Kipling and his family for more than thirty years, from 1902 to 1936.

'A real house to settle down for keeps' said Kipling.

The two hour drive took us through lush spring countryside and pretty villages that Jane Austen and H. E. Bates would have recognised, to Burmarsh on the Sussex Weald.

The house nestles in meadows and woods and was built of local sandstone in 1634. It has its original oak staircase and panelling made from local oaks, which were 'so prolific to be called weeds by the locals'. It is a plain Jacobean house, unpretentious and comfortable. Only the stark, six chimneys, set obliquely to the roof tops, cause one to raise an eyebrow. They are from local clay so that they blend into the countryside.

The inside of the house reflects the interests and tastes of the Kiplings. It was both a protective haven for Kipling to write in and a sociable centre for friends and family. Kipling's interest in engineering and motoring was embodied in a sturdy Rolls Royce, circa 1928, which was probably 'state of the art' for its time. Being now a National Trust property, the ubiquitous shop is well supplied with



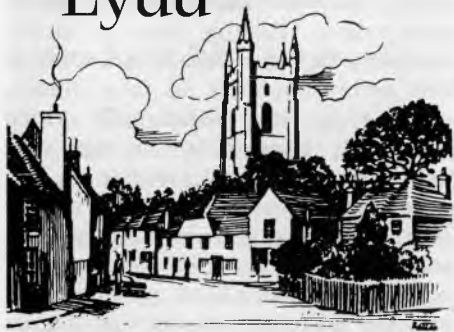
Kipling's books, both new and second-hand, and with the usual gifts and novelties.

The cafe was well supplied with cakes, scones, home-made soup at lunch time and an assortment of baked dishes to suit everyone's tastes. After lunch most of us wandered in the grounds, having toured the house in the morning. We strolled through the meadow gardens, dotted with beautiful flowering trees, and saw the river where the Kipling children played, for which they had a special licence written by their father. There was a strong sense of the sociability and playfulness of the owners and, strongest of all, a sense of contentment all around this beautiful old house.

There is a mill at the far end of the estate, served by a lake, is small compared to Crabble Mill but otherwise very similar. It had a shop which sells cookery books and flour.

We set off for home at about 4 pm and arrived in Dover at about 6pm. The whole day was a pleasure, thanks to the organisation of Joan Liggett,

Walkabout Lydd



Wednesday 9th June 2004

reported by Sheila Cope

Fortunately the weather, bright and breezy after the suffocating heat of the previous day, was ideal for our trip, and we arrived at Lydd Town Museum to be welcomed with coffee and biscuits by its volunteer curators. No background muzak here. We were given an impromptu pianola demonstration on an instrument so treasured that only a few named experts may play it. It was fascinating to watch the felt hammers strike the chords at the behest of the pre-set roll although the pianola could be played as a normal piano.

Then we divided into three groups for our tour around the town which is a limb of the Cinque Port of New Romney and a member of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports. Our guide, a native of Lydd and a fervent advocate for the best interests of the town, could obviously visualise in her mind's eye all the people and events she described to us. Thus we shared the feelings of the lady who laboured over a drawn-thread work altar cloth only to have it rejected because it

was too small for the new altar, the publican's family who correctly suspected that their customers were German spies because they asked for apple cider one morning in perfect English and the owner of an historic cottage who would not allow experts to investigate it until eventually the roof was damaged in a gale. On a memorable occasion when the Queen Mother visited Lydd, Her Majesty had shared with our guide the method by which she maintained the stability of her hats; they were attached to a tightly fitting turban made of the same material.

At the Guildhall, now Town Hall, in the High Street, we were shown the mayoral chain, to which a link is added to record each mayor, and the jewel worn by the mayoress. The town mace is noteworthy because its head can be unscrewed to reveal inside a loving cup used on special occasions such as a Twinning ceremony. The participants stand back to back, each taking a sip as the cup is passed around.

The church of All Saints, known as the Cathedral of the Marsh because of its double doors and its size and visibility for miles around, was badly bombed during the last war and its altar and much of the roof destroyed. Fortunately fire watchers in the tower at the time were unharmed. Our guide pointed out names on the war memorial in the church, most of whose families are still resident in the town. The Archbishop of Canterbury's prediction that the church would never be rebuilt was proved wrong by the supreme efforts of the congregation. The church has many interesting features including an excellent organ and the remains of a lepers' window.

In New Street we were shown a former 16th century hall-house and one time market hall now sub-divided into 3 dwellings, and in Coronation Square,

much older and more interesting than its name suggests, the hardware shop with its 15th century Old Court Hall above. Incidentally the hardware shop itself is fascinating, the type of business now supplanted by B&Q and Homebase and much regretted once lost.

The original staircase of the Court Hall is too precarious for public use. Apparently the room's former purpose was discovered by accident and no attempt has been made at restoration. It is about 5 metres square and contains the magistrate's chair together with artefacts collected by the owners interspersed with old items of stock from the shop below. 'Eclectic' might be the modern word to describe it, 'hotch-potch' a more old fashioned one, but neither would do justice. It seems as genuine a piece of history as you would find, just left as it is. We were shown the Rype, still the largest village green in Kent and now jealously guarded against encroachment, but once a much larger area given to Lydd for the common use of its townspeople.

After our tour we returned to the Museum to explore it further. It contains 'the 1890 Merryweather Fire Engine, c1900 Horse bus, 1928 Landau used on Club Day (and for weddings) and a unique Beach Cart used for carrying beer etc from Finns Brewery across the shingle to Dungeness'.

The Museum is housed in the Old Fire Station, originally built because the nearest ones were at Rye or Ashford, and manned when required by nearby residents. The Museum is similarly maintained by amateurs in the best sense; words such as theme park and experience are irrelevant here. Crowded and as orderly as possible in limited space are displayed the actual tools used in the trades and activities including smuggling which supported Lydd's economy. There

are implements used by the blacksmith before his forge was quite recently dismantled, and the barrel in which fishing nets were daily soaked in special preservative. Fishing was a family business which took place from the beach. Nets were supported on large frames standing up like windbreaks which presumably trapped fish at high tide. Some exhibits were familiar to us, however, and remarks such as 'My mother used one of these' (gofering iron) could be heard. A visit to Lydd Museum is recommended, details of opening times available from the New Romney tourist office.

In addition to sheep farming, brewing was an important industry. Ginger beer was made too but the market collapsed when American prohibition ended. There appeared very little social stigma attached to smuggling. We had been shown terraced cottages with their connecting roofs which provided smugglers' runs. The family of French impressionist painter Alfred Sisley came from Lydd and our guide told us that his father, who moved to France, was a business man by day and a smuggler by night.

Lunch was pre-booked at the nearby Moon & Stars, a small restaurant where the friendly proprietors filled us to the brim so that at least one of our party succumbed to sleep on the homeward journey. This type of trip is very suitable for a Society member on his or her own and who does not know many people. The group tour and shared meal bring us all together.

Our thanks are due to the Friends of Lydd and their dedication to their Museum and willingness to give up their time to show us their town. Above all, how lucky we are to have Joan Liggett with her talent for organisation and great sense of humour.

Dover - meet Faversham

report from John Husband

The original purpose of the visit was the proverbial tour of a brewery and indeed our thanks are affectionately due to our social secretary Joan Liggett for organising it. This was my first trip with the Society, and I was grateful for the welcoming friendliness which everybody showed me. In next to no time, the little coach got us there and though there was a fresh breeze, the morning was a sunny treat.

We found that in Faversham, life starts at 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning. The day of our visit and the next two Saturdays are a special 'Open House' event organised by the Faversham Society to allow access to a nucleus of interesting properties, 39 in number, which they have selected for viewing this year.



Faversham Parish Church

We were offered a tour of the town centre by Vicki Shepherd and the guide Kenton, both of the Faversham Society, while some of us took the option, others went under their own steam. Incidentally, the Faversham Society is run for profit, although it promises to plough the profit back into the community. The most notable attractions to me were the Abbey, the Alexander Centre and the Guildhall but these are just a few of an historical, architectural score.

Faversham is probably the centre of



Shepherd Neame Brewery Commemorative Stained Glass Windows

the Kentish building tradition. Faversham bricks, gunpowder production, Thames barges and a host of beautifully built and preserved buildings bear witness to Faversham's historic nature. All too soon, we had to leave the tour and continue with the main purpose of the trip: to view the brewery on our pre-booked tour.

The care and pride which the inhabitants show for their heritage reveals the true Kentish character, which is akin to that of John West, who only 'selects the best and rejects the rest'. This natural resistance to change, while nonetheless anticipating the effects of it, are epitomised by Shepherd Neame brewers. Shepherd Neame is now the only surviving Kentish brewer who distributes beer countrywide. The company has preserved the character and continuity of its brewing tradition, while adapting and improving their ability to make the beer. This is so skilful that many foreign breweries entrust them with their recipes and license them to replicate their beers for sale.

We had an extremely sociable and enjoyable tour with a young lady guide, culminating with the famous beer-tasting in



the company bar, before it started to rain, as predicted by Michael Fish. However, the impression of the day was very good and we would like to extend more links to our fellow amenity society.



Our guide at Shepherd Neame

DR REGINALD KOETTLITZ 'RK'

Polar Explorer, Geologist, Botanist

1860-1916

by Aubrey A Jones

The article concerning the YHA building, Charlton House, Dover in the Society's August 2002 newsletter was read with great interest and affection by me and my wife Ann Koettlitz.

Ann, the youngest daughter of Dr Maurice Koettlitz, lived in Charlton House until the death of her father in 1960.

As described in the society newsletter the house is indelibly connected with Dr Reginald Koettlitz the polar explorer from the heroic period of polar exploration, which bridged the end of the 19th century and into the 20th century.

We are fortunate due to the care and diligence of Miss Ulrica Koettlitz, late of Dover and Lydden, to possess many of Reginald Koettlitz's papers, photographs and other material relating to his industrious life of exploration and scientific achievement.

As a result we are researching his life and many achievements in an effort to establish his rightful place among the foremost scientific explorers of the period.

Although RK is rightly remembered for his role with the National Antarctic



Expedition in 'The Discovery' led by Captain R. F. Scott, this was the last of four major exploratory and amazing journeys.

The Antarctic connection is described in detail on the memorial of his final resting-place in Cradock, South Africa. His

The *Discovery* in dry dock, Lyttleton, New Zealand



cabin on the *Discovery* can be viewed on the ship, which is the centrepiece of the Dundee Heritage Centre, Discovery Point. The *Discovery* was constructed in that city.

However, it should be acknowledged that two of his previous expeditions were of equal standing and of greater personal achievement and scientific significance.

Firstly, there was the Jackson/Harmsworth expedition to Franz Joseph Land led by Frederick G. Jackson, which lasted for three years. This was the longest

period and closest location to the North Pole that man had ever survived. The intention was to find a route to the North Pole; it was thought at the time, 1894-1897, that Franz Joseph Land might be a land bridge to the pole.

RK was the expedition surgeon, geologist and botanist and other explorers of note who survived in the hut at Elmwood, Cape Flora were Captain Albert Armitage who also travelled south in the *Discovery* and William Spiers Bruce the Scottish polar explorer.

There were two major personal achievements by RK during the three years in the Arctic. The land party stayed clear of the dreaded explorer disease, scurvy, for the whole period. This was a major breakthrough for the time and before the advent of knowledge concerning vitamin deficiency.

It was achieved by the insistence of Koettlitz ensuring the party continually ate fresh meat. In this case,

polar bear, walrus and wild birds. In fact, together with the specimen in Dover Museum the slaughter of polar bears by the expedition affected the balance of polar bear existence in the region for many years. This lesson relating to the prevention of scurvy was a crucial one that was ignored in subsequent Antarctic exploration with fatal results.

His other major contribution was in the world of geology where RK's examination and study of the rocks and land formation in the area of the Cape

Flora base led to ground breaking discoveries. His estimates as to the age of rocks differed from other eminent English geologists but were later confirmed by the Norwegian geologist Mathoist supported by the famous Norwegian explorer Dr Fridjof Nansen.

Nansen and his companion Johansen were saved from death by being discovered by RK and other members of the expedition whilst returning from an attempt on the North Pole. This led to a lasting friendship between the two men.

RK later presented papers to the Royal Geographical Society with Frederick Jackson concerning the expedition. His achievements in Franz Joseph Land are commemorated by the naming of 'REGINALD KOETTLITZ ISLAND' in the archipelago.

In 1898 Koettlitz joined the Herbert Weld-Blundell expedition to Northeast Africa, again as surgeon and scientific adviser in addition to his responsibilities as expedition resource manager. This involved the purchasing of camels and mules to facilitate the journey.

The expedition set out from Berbera in British Somaliland. Whilst making a slight deviation from the route RK discovered a new species of cuttlefish which now bears his name, 'SEPIA KOETTLITZI'.

The expedition travelled west and crossed into Abyssinia at a remote crossing point named Jig-Jigga before heading for Harar where the countryside became mountainous and most difficult when compared with the previous plains.

An interesting description is contained in the diaries and reports prepared by RK during this journey. He describes areas in Abyssinia as a veritable 'Garden of Eden' where there are lemon groves, olives, limes, irrigation programmes where cotton and coffee are grown with vast herds of cattle and other wild beasts.

This contrasts greatly with modern Ethiopia and the Sudan. Advancement into the 21st century has not assisted all peoples of Africa.

From Harar the expedition headed towards Addis Abeba passing many caravans carrying ivory making their way to the coast. On reaching Addis Abeba they were met by the British representative, Captain Harrington who resided in the British residence, which consisted of two large tents in an enclosed turf, walled compound.

The other British resident was a man named, McKelvy who had resided there for 37 years having been captured by the Magdela tribe, been released but continued to live as an Abyssinian national. Until the arrival of Captain Harrington he had forgotten the English language.

Whilst in the region Koettlitz became the first British national to visit the famous sacred mountain, Mount Zuquala the centre of Abyssinian Christian religion which had survived many centuries of persecution. At the centre of the mountain is a sacred lake surrounded by dense woodland and inhabited by hermit like holy men who questioned the intentions of the Koettlitz visit.

He proved his credentials and good intentions by producing a sovereign showing the image of St George who was the patron saint of the Abyssinian Christians. From that moment he was regarded as a Christian of a very high order and held in great esteem.

On returning to the capital the expedition re-formed and made their way overland to the Sudanese border at Famaka and thence up the Blue Nile by gunboat and local dhow to Khartoum and Cairo.

Full details of the expedition, its achievements and discoveries including

animals and birds previously unknown to science were given in two papers presented to the Royal Geographical Society by Herbert Weld-Blundell and Dr Koettlitz in 1899.

As indicated in the society newsletter RK then travelled by the steamer 'Sobralcuse' across the Atlantic to the Amazon where he made extensive collections of plankton and other marine life.

Finally, he was appointed as senior surgeon, botanist and bacteriologist to the National Antarctic Expedition in the *Discovery* from 1901-1904.

Much has been written on this expedition and the subsequent fatal Scott

led expedition in which he and his companions perished. Little has been written on the role and accomplishments of Dr Reginald Koettlitz who is better known in South Africa than in the United Kingdom.

He should be regarded as one of Dover's famous sons but many events have conspired against this. I will touch briefly on a number of his personal achievements while in the Antarctic.

He led, or was a member of the early sledging journeys from the expedition base at Hut Point, McMurdo Sound. Along with Albert Armitage and Louis Bernacchi who had Antarctic experience they were the only members of the party with polar



Officers and members of the scientific staff on board *Discovery*, 1901. Reginald Koettlitz is 5th from left, next to Scott

Marie Louise Koettlitz at their farm in South Africa, 1910



In fact, he and his wife died within two hours of each other in Cradock and are buried in the cemetery of Cradock church where his fine memorial is located and is a major tourist attraction in the region.

This project is but two years in to a five-year term. This autumn will bring a visit to visit South Africa to carry out further research on this remarkable citizen of Dover who will eventually receive the recognition he richly deserves.

If any of your readers feel they can contribute to the Dr Reginald Koettlitz debate and research please contact us via the officers of the Dover Society.

New Zealand and the Falkland Islands but Dr Koettlitz was unhappy with his exclusion from the final scientific reports and he decided with his wife Marie Louise to emigrate to South Africa.

They settled in the area of Somerset East in the Western Cape and he spent the years as a contented local doctor and JP. His reason for choosing South Africa were linked with the Discovery expedition when they had received a kind welcome from the residents of that country. He considered New Zealand but felt it too far and remote.

He was a well-respected doctor and citizen of Darlington, Somerset East and Cradock and as the society newsletter stated he died of dysentery and his wife of heart disease. They resided initially on a small farm at Grobbelaar's Kraal where Koettlitz told neighbours that he wanted a long rest in the sun away from his polar endeavours.



Cradock Cemetery, South Africa



FOCUS ON COWGATE



New member, Jeane Dutton-Hill, researches one grave in Cowgate Cemetery

HELLO DOVER SOCIETY, I'm Jeane Dutton-Hill your newest member! I'm a part time Civil Servant and also a Parapsychologist and Reiki therapist (an unusual combination I know!) I live in London with my fiance Jeremy. My interest in Dover goes back many years. As a child I enjoyed pleasant days out here with my parents. Growing up it was day trips to France and in recent months my interest in Arthur Beresford Pite, a London Architect who was responsible for the building I work in. I had been carrying out some research about him and, with the help of the volunteers who had been clearing Cowgate cemetery and logging the names on the graves, discovered where he was buried. I visited Cowgate for the first time in March and think it's a wonderful place. The work the volunteers have carried out is nothing short of amazing and I wish them continued success with the project.

ARTHUR BERESFORD PITE 1861-1934 *buried in Cowgate Cemetery*

Arthur Beresford Pite was born on 2nd September 1861 in Newington London to Alfred and Hephzibah. The Pite lineage originated from Woodbridge, Suffolk, and has been traced back to the late 1600's. Alfred worked as an architect and he and Hephzibah had six other children, Francis, Percy, Horace, George, William and Annie. Young Arthur was educated at Kings College School. In 1877 he entered the office of The Builder's Journal doing mainly literary work, he also attended the Royal Architectural School. In 1878 he became a partner with the notable architect John Belcher; he was then 24, Belcher 44. They had already been friends for sometime. He worked in the Belcher office until he won the RIBA Soane Medallion for his design for the West End Club House in 1882. Following this Arthur travelled to the continent with his brother William (also an architect) and they were joined by Belcher and J W James for part of the trip. Arthur returned to Belcher's practice and the partnership lasted 12 years.

The Pite family transferred to Ramsgate, Kent where Arthur and William shared rooms and an architectural office. In 1887

Arthur married Mary Kilvington Mowl and they moved back to Brixton in London. They had four children, Grace Sarah (1888), Ion Beresford (1891), Molly (who died shortly after birth) and Arthur Goodhart (1896.) Arthur continued working on his commissions including the Burlington Arcade, Piccadilly, two churches in Brixton, Kampala Cathedral in Uganda, a hospital in Jerusalem, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Moorgate, a library in Islington and buildings in Marylebone to name but a few. He also served as professor of architecture at the Royal College of Art and Cambridge University where he was considered a gifted teacher and speaker. As an active church member he ran a bible school for young students and a weekly bible class for prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs Prison.

In 1889 he built Earlywood, a large family house at Frinton, Essex. Here he enjoyed many happy holidays with his wide circle of friends and relatives. In 1903 he moved to York Gate, Regents Park and it was there that his beloved wife Mary died in 1905.

In 1906 Pite began his commission to

build the headquarters of the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow Assurance Company at 30 Euston Square. It was a magnificent building of Portland stone, Grecian in style and spanning seven floors. The building took two years to build and was opened on 22nd January 1908. The main entrance hall was decorated in yellow and sage green Doulton Parian ware, tiled arches and a curious ceiling of dentils. The mosaic floor features an astrological design. The director's boardrooms on the first floor are lined in oak with oak strip floors and

Details of the main entrance hall



stunning marble fireplaces as their focal point. The basement housed the records for the Assurance Company; the walls are three feet thick in places and further protected by steel 'bomb blast' doors. The new office building was also fitted with a passenger lift, electric lighting and oil-fired central heating, all very modern for its time. Pite's detail was meticulous; each window arch was lined with white glazed brick, which can only be seen if you lean out of the window backwards! Light, which flooded the lower floors, was provided by five light wells also lined in white glazed brick. Further light was provided to the basement level by skylights. Pite was asked to add further extensions fronting Melton Street almost as soon as the Euston Square building was finished. He continued to enlarge the building for almost 20 years with the addition of the 9 Melton Street tower being his final work there. With the widening of Euston Road in the late 1920's the final expansion took place; the architect this time was not Pite but one of his contemporaries Josiah Gunton. The London, Edinburgh and Glasgow Assurance Company had moved out in 1910, the new occupants were the National Amalgamated Approved Society.

I played a significant part in having the building upgraded from Grade 2 to its current Grade 2 special listing in 1999 due to its significant architectural importance. At least half of Pite's smaller commissions were in the Marylebone area off Oxford Street. He always retained an office in this vicinity even when he lived in Brixton and Beckenham. At 48 Harley Street Pite was asked to make alterations on the property for Gibson Sankey. His trademark style of mosaic tiling, this time in blue glass, still remains today surrounding the entrance. Pite built 82 Mortimer Street circa 1900 for Doctor Dudley Buxton as a family house and consulting rooms. It was constructed of

red brick and Portland stone over 4 storeys with a basement and slated mansard roofs. The sculptures flanking the 2nd floor, seated male and female figures, were not by Pite but produced by Farmer and Brindley. Pite regularly attended the Nash built All Souls Church in Langham Place where he was invited to design the Peace Memorial



The Mowll family vault, Cowgate

floor of 1918/19. Its Byzantine mosaic style is reminiscent of his floor in the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow Assurance Company's entrance hall. The similarities are so great I knew it was his work before I even verified the fact.

In 1914 Pite moved his home to Hampstead. Following Mary's death his sister Annie cared for Arthur and his family. His daughter Grace who suffered ill health spent most of her time at Earlywood with Sadler, the family's old nanny as she felt the coastal air more beneficial.

In 1930 Arthur moved to Beckenham, Kent in order to live near his brother William and this is where on 27th November, 1934 he died from exhaustion and skin cancer. He is buried with his wife Mary Mowll in the Mowll family vault at Cowgate cemetery in Dover, Kent.

PLANNING REPORT 2003-04

We lamented the loss of Leo Wright but welcomed his widow Marjory to the Committee.

Deeply involved in all of them, we continued to await desirable decisions on these issues: widening A2 from Lydden to Dover; Danish State Railways takeover from Connex/SRL; Channel Tunnel Rail Link through Shakespeare Tunnel; Dover Harbour Board/Dover District Council 30 Year Plan; River Dour Survey; Heathfield Avenue Home Zone; housing at Westmount and the Art School in the Paddock; continued train services to Kearsney; removal of the gate at Langdon Cliffs; naming of the Preferred Developer for Buckland Paper Mill; resolution of Residential Parking; planning application from Rix Scaffolding; Town Hall improvements from Thanet Leisureforce; Beachwatch in action, and implementation of our proposed Town Centre Trees project.

We were pleased to acknowledge these outcomes: no Market Square statue or metered sausages; our townscape awards to 13 London Road shops; conversion/conservation of Buckland Flour Mill; improved Christmas Lights; Dover in Bloom; Oswald Passage improvements; the Maison Dieu/Castle Street Puffin Crossing; and taxi de-zoning.

Deeply involved in them, we noted developments in the relationships on Dover Town Council Committees and between Dover Town Council and Dover Town Centre Management.

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

The Western Heights Preservation Society

report from Chris Taft

THE FEW MONTHS SINCE THE LAST DOVER SOCIETY UPDATE have been very busy for the Western Heights Preservation Society (WHPS). The coming months promise to be just as busy. Detailed below are some of the things the Society has been up to.

Open Days

In April the WHPS were pleased to be able to once again open the Drop Redoubt. This event was part of the European Historic Fortifications Network's Euroregional Days for Fortified Sites. Historic sites were opened across Kent, Western Flanders and the Nord Pas de Calais. The special open days were begun in 1987 by The Journées Regionales des Villes Fortifiées in the Nord Pas de Calais and have now grown to include the other regions. On this occasion the fortress was opened for both the Saturday and Sunday and once again proved a real draw.

For those that missed this opportunity more openings are planned, including at the annual Western Heights Open Day on 27th June, sadly too late for this publication date. However, it is hoped that plenty more opportunities will arise to offer tours of the Drop Redoubt and readers interested are advised to keep an eye on local press where events are always publicised or the WHPS website where a notice board features all forthcoming events relating to the Heights.

Much work has been ongoing of late relating to these open days and at present details are being finalised for the June event.

Publicity and Promotions

The open days, while an important aspect of the work of the Society, are not all the WHPS has been involved with. Naturally lots of time has gone into publicising these events but the team have also been working on producing a much more professional leaflet. As mentioned in the last update, work is now underway and has developed significantly since the last report and it is hoped some designs will be ready in the near future.

The WHPS website also continues to improve and is an excellent place to keep up-to-date with events. *Dover Lines*, the Society newsletter, is also being regularly produced and is available to WHPS members. Work in publicising Western Heights continues and as a result the Western Heights are now much more widely known. The Society has been contacted in recent weeks by a number of organisations or individuals who have been made aware of the Heights through the work of the WHPS and who are interested in getting involved or finding out more.

Project Days

The last issue of the *Newsletter* reported the work on clearing the North Lines. Further work has been undertaken here although this has now stopped for the

First Foot Guards in Drop Redoubt lines



season. Project work is now focused on the open days and in particular the Drop Redoubt. The last open days have allowed access only to a small part of the fortress and in future the Society would like to open more. To do this work is needed to clear some areas and to maintain those already opened. For this to happen help is, of course,

required from Society members without whom nothing would ever be achieved and whose assistance is invaluable. Those wanting to help in any capacity or simply to be kept up-to-date with the WHPS's work are advised to join to Society, details of which are below.

Membership

The Western Heights Preservation Society is not all about getting your hands dirty clearing trees, it is also about supporting and moving the Society forwards in promoting the Western Heights and help is needed at all levels.

For more information or to join please contact the Hon. Secretary at 66 Union Road, Deal Kent CT14 6AR or visit the website

www.dover-westernheights.org

and please remember to say where you read about the WHPS.

40th KFAS AGM & SPRING CONFERENCE

BROADSTAIRS PAVILION, 15 MAY 2004.....by Jack Woolford

Hosted by the Broadstairs Society in the splendid Pavilion on its beautiful beach, the highlight of the 40th AGM of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies was the address by its Founder Arthur Percival, now D. Litt, MBE, FSA, former officer of the Civic Trust, founder of the Faversham Society which created the first Heritage Centre in the country, and distinguished author. He said that in 1964 the number of amenity societies (*including the New Dover Group*) incrementally increased because of post-war

development plans which gouged out the heart of historic and irreplaceable communities without any public consultation. Drastic railway pruning meant that increasingly heavier and faster lorries wreaked environmental havoc. Tower blocks were fashionable and old buildings useless without 'modern amenities'. Communities were uprooted and re-planted in urban jungles...

Things had changed for the better through the hard work of local amenity societies which shamed councils,

companies and government into action. In 1966 Lord Duncan Sandys got grudging government support for the Civic Amenities Act which created conservation areas and encouraged public participation in planning. New community spirit was generated and local pride resulted. Nowadays the presumption was in favour of adaptation rather than wholesale redevelopment. Derelict buildings were almost as popular with developers as

Greenfield sites.

It was, however, unfair to blame 'planners'. We all shopped in their superstores and bought fake hall-houses or emasculated Edwardian dwellings. If 'personal service' shops were to survive we should use them. We should encourage developers who were not nostalgia-bound and were confident enough to build houses which belonged to the twenty-first century.

B.O.O.K R.E.V.I.E.W

from Terry Sutton

The Blighted Cliffs *a new book by Edwin Thomas*

Edwin Thomas uses the backdrop of Dover during the Napoleonic Wars to tell his yarn of murder, espionage, money-laundering and smuggling. The author walked our town and, with the help of museum staff, visualised what Dover was like in 1806 when there was illicit cross-Channel trade by smugglers.

He interweaves historical events with imaginary activities of his hero, naval officer Martin Jerrold, who is suspected of murder and gets romantically involved with a smugglers' moll. The story builds with a plot of a wealthy Dover banker who is funding Napoleon's conquests by illegally exporting golden guineas to France in exchange for smuggled brandy and silks.

The climax comes with a French commando-style raid resulting in the capture of Dover Castle. The enemy forces get into the castle grounds through a stepped tunnel that runs from near the shoreline, through the chalk cliffs to exit inside the walls. (Yes, one exists).

Dover Castle is eventually recaptured by the British dragoons thanks to the bravery of our Royal Navy hero.

At one stage he is locked up in Dover gaol but escapes through a network of underground tunnels used by the smugglers to hide contraband. One tunnel, from the Market Square, comes out through a tomb in the churchyard of old St James' Church. (A tunnel through water-laden strata under the river Dour? I find that one unlikely.)

The Blighted Cliffs (Bantam Press) £10 hardback, is obtainable at Dover public library where the author gave a talk in the spring. The book will be obtainable in paperback this summer.



Three Piano Virtuosi



Third DOVER SOCIETY/TOWN COUNCIL Recital

by Jack Woolford

IT CAN'T BE FAR FROM UNIQUE, either in the UK or anywhere in the world, to have, as two hundred of us did on Saturday April 17, a third free recital, this time by three piano virtuosi, in the splendid theatre/ concert hall of the Astor College for the Arts.

We already well know (and indeed love) the consummate artistry of Russian Yuri Tykhonenko who (characteristically?) opened the concert by substituting an ordinary chair for the piano stool, and then played a Chopin Scherzo and Fantasia with all his thunderous power and whispering delicacy. Liszt's Tarantella No. 3, which followed, was so obviously modelled on Chopin that Yuri may be said to have established a Chopinian ambience.

What followed was as near miraculous as makes no matter. Anglo-Russian Oliver Poole, who is unbelievably (and visibly) but *twelve* years old, played a Study by Scriabin (like Liszt a musical descendant of Chopin) and then two Chopin studies. I closed my eyes and it could have been Yuri himself, not only in power and lightness of touch but also in emotional intensity. It was unbelievable: but it happened. The Chopin ambience continued.

What could follow? It was Bulgarian Lora Dimitrova to play Beethoven's Waldstein Sonata, a masterpiece I have cherished for seventy years. I have

never heard anything like it. Although the first movement was at breathtaking speed it lost none of its majesty and pathos. The second was transformed from a more prelude to the boisterous third into a lingering tragic lament, as Chopin himself must have played it. The prodigious last movement was prodigiously played. Lora Dimitrova left next day for a recital in Vienna. Lucky old Vienna!

Even so, the climax was yet to come. Forget Chopin. We know that Brahms and Rachmaninov in their Variations on Paganini's simple theme paid homage to him, but Polish Lutoslawski emphatically did not. He wrote the most impossibly brilliant and difficult variations for two pianos in a cool and witty modern style: and it was sheer delight. Who played? Oliver the boy, from memory, and Lora, the mature artist (with page-turning by Yuri himself), in incredible unity.

Chairman Terry Sutton and compere Nicholas Harby duly and properly thanked Dover Society and Town Council for their contributions. My tribute is also to Robert Poole and his wife Natalie, parents of Oliver, hosts to Yuri and friends to Lora. Robert plans to establish a Music Society in Dover embracing both professional musicians and local talent. He very much deserves to succeed and has all the requisite qualifications and connections.

One year on...

DOVER DISCOVERY CENTRE

Report from Symeon Hall, Centre Manager

The concept of the Dover Discovery Centre, which opened in September 2003, is one of bringing partners together to provide a holistic approach to service delivery through close partnership of those working for people living in the Dover District. The partners in the centre include Kent Adult Education Service, the Dover Library, UK Online and the Dover Museum. There is also a crèche and café at the centre.

The centre has been able to benefit the residents of Dover District in a number of ways:

UK Online, the first to move into the Discovery Centre in February 2003, has proved to be a huge success, with approximately 40 local volunteers who help to support the service of free IT and Internet use. The number of UK Online members accessing the service is over 1,600.

Adult Education moved in by April 2003 prior to the start of their new term so as not to cause too much disruption for tutors and students. The number of tutors has increased and, in addition, since moving into the new premises, one and a half new posts have been created as a result of the setting up of the Flexi Learning Suite. This is a new service that provides free access to basic skills. The number of classes run at the centre has increased to 253 with over 2,000 student enrolments. Courses on offer at the centre

range from computing to creative studies and run from Monday to Saturday.

Since moving into the centre in July 2003 and after public consultation the Dover Library has increased its opening times. The local studies library, for example, is now open full time with over 95% of the Library's Local Studies stock on public show. In excess of 6,000 new books have also been purchased. The Library has worked in partnership with Adult Education to improve the stock of books available to students. Libraries have been working with Sure Start to help increase literacy within some of the most deprived wards in Dover. They have also been working with Bookstart to introduce reading to young children. In addition to the everyday users of the library over 1,800 young people aged 0 to 16 have taken part in events organised by the library since August 2003. Library membership has increased to 8,043, which includes 2,256 new members joining as a result of the move from Maison Dieu House. Library issues have increased by 21% in 2003-04.

To date the Dover Museum has had over 121 school groups and 3,311 pupils on educational visits studying Roman, Tudor and WW2 periods. 44 have come from schools within the Dover District with 1,209 pupils and 77 from outside the District with 2,102 pupils

The centre has seen the setting up of 2



View of the main library



The children's library



The teenage 'curve'

new businesses. A crèche employing 6 Dover residents and a café which employs 3 Dover residents both opened in August 2003. The centre has also supported those affected by the recent P&O redundancies by providing facilities for Jobcentre Plus to set up an 'Employment and Information Centre' free of charge. The centre is also being used by the Skillnet Group which provides new skills for adults with learning disabilities. This supports 20 local residents.

Plans for the development of the theatre are still under discussion. All views from the public using the centre are appreciated and issues raised in the 'Comments book' are considered and acted upon.

To illustrate the first year success of the Discovery Centre the following quotes have been taken from the book:

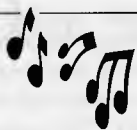
'I am absolutely amazed. Dover really needed a place like this. Fantastic'

'Fantastic. Dover really needed this. Everything under one roof and children's area is especially lovely. My two daughters enjoyed the day.'

'Wow! We're not used to something like this in Dover. Superb. Will be back. Fantastic facility'

'What a brilliant use of this building for the people of Dover'

REVIEW from Pam Taylor



Fun and music at the **MATZO CAFE**

IN JUNE AND JULY a number of Dovorians and others enjoyed two very memorable evenings at the Matzo Cafe/Bar between the Discovery Centre and the Museum in the Market Square.

In June, Matzo hosted David Rovics and Attila the Stockbroker. 'Attila who?' and 'Is he a Hungarian?' were two of the questions I fielded in the run-up to the event, but frequenters of past Glastonbury festivals were at home with his name, knowing him as a long-established radical performance poet, who, in his forties, prides himself on having made his living, for more than twenty years, from his unforgettable poetry and music. We were especially privileged on this occasion that Atilla was joined by David Rovics, who, on his European tour, chose Dover for his only gig in the South-East of England. David is an American, brilliant, inspirational, radical singer-songwriter. Hailed as 'the true heir to Woody Guthrie, the authentic voice of the American left', he was recently heard on Radio Three's world music programme. He was rapturously received by the audience which packed the event to laugh, be moved and even shed a tear, while delighting in the wonderful food and drink available at Matzo.

On 3rd July, over a delicious three-course meal, diners were entertained by the well-known and much-loved local Bill Barnacle Traditional Jazz Band. The music positively flowed along and the evening was enjoyed by all.

Matzo serves wonderful lunches, good coffee, home baking and interesting 'specials' on a daily basis and is right in the centre of Dover.

Try it lunch time or evening or at one of their special events.

MATZO has organised several evening entertainments through the summer from May to October. They have all had different themes and, at the time of the Newsletter going to press, there are three more forthcoming events still to come.

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SATURDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

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SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER

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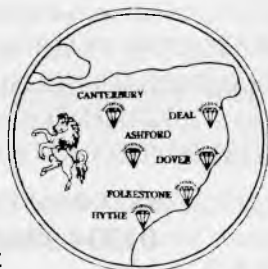
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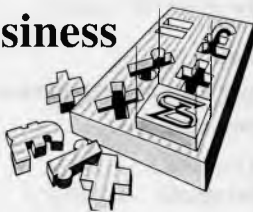


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Read reports on meetings, check the programme of events.

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- Dover Carnival: www.dovercarnival.homestead.com
- Dover Castle: www.dover-castle-friends.org
- Dover District Council: www.dover.gov.uk
- Dover Hospital Fete: www.doverhospitalfete.homestead.com
- Dover Operatic Society: www.dods.org.uk
- Dover Pageant: www.doverpageant.com
- Dover Topsy: www.topsy.demon.co.uk
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- Dover Town Council: www.dovertown.com
- Dover Web: www.doverweb.co.uk
- Gateway Hospital Radio: www.ghbs.org.uk
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Venturing outside Dover

- Confederation of Cinque Ports: www.cinqueports.net
- Kent County Council: www.kenttourism.co.uk
- Kent Federation Civic Amenity Society: www.kfas.org.uk
- St Peter's Village Tour: www.villagetour.co.uk

**Contact the editor, Mike McFarnell or a member of the committee
if you want more information.**

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Tel: 01404 201711

Email: mmcfarnell@hotmail.com

PROGRAMME 2004 - 2005

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

AUGUST 12
Thursday
Pick-ups
The Bank of England. First an audio-visual presentation then time to explore the Bank Museum before rejoining the coach for the short journey to Tate Modern. DIY for the rest of the day. £14.00
0800 The Railway Bell, 0810 Frith Road, 0815 Brook House

SEPTEMBER 11
Saturday
Pick-ups
Lille - European City of Culture 2004. A fascinating mixture of old and new. £26.00
0700 The Railway Bell, 0710 Frith Road, 0720 Brook House

OCTOBER 25
Monday 7.30
BIGGIN HALL
Speakers: Mike Dawson "Planning for Dover"
Jon Iveson "Future of the Western Heights"

NOVEMBER 15
Monday 7.30
Speaker: Councillor Lyn Young "Dover District Council"
Brainstorming Session

DECEMBER 19
Saturday
7.00 for 7.30
The Christmas Feast. Enjoy a sumptuous feast in splendid surroundings for only £17.00, to include a sherry reception, wine, soft drinks and entertainment.

2005
JANUARY 17
Monday 7.30
Speakers: details later

FEBRUARY 14
Monday
7.15 for 7.30
Wine & Wisdom with Clive Taylor.

MARCH 14
Monday 7.30
Speakers: details later

APRIL 18
Monday 7.30
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Speakers: details later

Plans for summer outings are not yet finalised but the first two outings are likely to be:

MAY
JUNE 23
Chartwell - home of Winston Churchill
Walkabout Hythe - half day guided tour. Lunch at local hostelry

JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
Chatham Dockyard
London - to be confirmed
France - to be confirmed

Autumn Meeting Dates

OCTOBER 24
Monday 7.30
NOVEMBER 14
Monday 7.30
Speakers: details later
Speakers: details later
Brainstorming Session

All indoor meetings are held at St Mary's Parish Centre except the meeting on 25th October 2004 which is at **BIGGIN HALL**.



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