

The  
Dover  
Society

# Newsletter

No. 53

August 2005



*H.M.S. Cavalier the last of the World War II Destroyers*

# THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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

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## *The Objectives of the Dover Society*

*founded in 1988.*

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

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

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

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

# Editorial

Before I introduce myself as the new editor I would like to thank Merrill for the many years that she has devoted to producing one of the best society newsletters in print. I am sure that all of the members wish her well, but although standing down as the editor Merrill intends to remain an active member.

Just a few words about me by way of an introduction, my name is Alan Lee and I am married and have one young daughter. I was born in Dover in 1947 and apart from when I served in the Army I have mainly lived and worked in the town. Currently I work for the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and Queen's Regiment Museum based within Dover Castle. Having never before attempted to edit a newsletter I hope that I can continue to produce one that keeps up the high standards that are worthy of the Dover Society.

The last indoor meeting was the sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 18th April at St. Mary's Parish Centre. Details of the meeting are given in the Newsletter together with the Treasurer's annual financial report. It is hoped that members will continue to fully support the "Gift Aid" scheme as this is of a real benefit to the society and at no extra cost for the individual, so please do sign the form. After the interval and the raffle, the best ever, the speaker was Philip Robinson on "French as she is Sung". The audience was taken by surprise at some of the unusual facts that emerged from the talk. A full account appears in the Newsletter.

In this edition special congratulations must go to the Western Heights Preservation Society for the hard work in opening up the Heights this summer. Also to all involved in the organisation of the Dover Pageant, a most enjoyable day out. May these events, and many similar ones in the area, continue to enhance and broaden our way of life.

By the time this edition appears three of the summer outings will have taken place, the trips to Chartwell, Hythe and Chatham Dockyard. As

usual all trips were well organised by Joan Liggett and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Later this month is the trip to London, there are some seats still available but to avoid any disappointment please book with Joan as soon as possible on 01304 214886. You will also find included booking forms for the September visit to St. Omer, the 200th Anniversary of Trafalgar Dinner and Dance and the Christmas Feast. These are all likely to prove to be very popular so it is advisable to secure your place by contacting Joan as soon as possible.

August also sees the Dover Regatta followed closely by the Dover Rowing Club Regatta. October then sees the return of our indoor meetings with the speaker Harry Ward enlightening us on Captain

Cook. For November we have Councillor Richard King on "The Future of Kent" always a concern for most members.

As very much the new boy on the team I will welcome any comments or constructive criticism on the Newsletter. The committee are always receptive towards any ideas or suggestions as to speakers for the meetings or destinations for society outings. I am very much looking forward to receiving any articles submitted by members, both those who have not previously contributed, and our regular contributors, your experiences would we of great interest to many readers.

With many thanks to all who have contributed or helped in any way in the production and distribution of this latest newsletter.

*Editor*

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## DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 54 will be Monday 10th October 2005. 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 213668 to discuss details.

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<b>Editor:</b>	Mr Alan Lee
<b>Proof Readers:</b>	Miss May Jones, Mrs Merril Lilley and Mrs Pam Taylor
<b>Advertising Manager:</b>	Mr B.J. Lilley
<b>Distribution Organiser:</b>	Mr J. Cope
<b>Envelopes and Labels:</b>	Mr J. Cope
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# The 17th

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# Annual General Meeting

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report by Merril Lilley

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**The seventeenth Annual General Meeting** of the Society was held on Monday, 18th April, 2005 at St. Mary's Parish Centre. The attendance was even greater than usual, with almost a hundred members packing the hall and the interval raffle making a record £118.00.

The Chairman, Derek Leach, announced that there would be a change of speaker for the evening. Paul Watkins, who was preparing for the General Election, would be replaced by Professor Philip Robinson, taking as his subject "French as she is Sung". He then opened proceedings by welcoming all those present. The Secretary read out apologies for absence and the minutes of the last meeting were accepted. The Chairman mentioned the loss of members who had died during the last year and the audience observed a minute's silence.

In presenting his report, the Chairman said it had been a very successful year and it had been a privilege to represent the Society at various functions throughout the year. Among those he had attended in that capacity were the St. George's Day ceremony, the mayor-making and the installation of the new Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. He said that when he attended such events he became aware of how highly the Society was regarded in the town and how hard the members of the Executive Committee worked, both by attending meetings and behind the scenes.

One of the highlights of this year was the publication of the book *A Tribute to Budge Adams* in pictures, which sold out in

three weeks. Every member of the Society received a free copy as a memorial to Budge and this was greatly appreciated. A follow-up CD is in preparation by the same team consisting of the Chairman, Bob Hollingsbee and Peter and Julie Burville.

The Chairman said members were kept informed of all activities and events through the excellent Newsletter. There had been concern at the beginning of April that a new editor had not been found but, since then, a volunteer had come forward and was already taking up the reins. He ended by thanking the members of the Executive Committee and of the Planning Committee for all their work during the year and also all the members who gave their help, both indoors and out.

The Treasurer then presented the end-of-year accounts, with reference to the report which was available on each seat. He was happy to report the healthy state of the general fund, this year making a surplus of £1111-38. The main elements influencing it were subscriptions, outings, meetings, the Newsletter, administration costs, interest from our bank accounts and donations. At present membership stood at 445. All the meetings and outings except one covered their costs. For the success of our outings we must thank our Social Secretary, Joan Liggett. Once again he explained to members how important it was to book early for trips, as many of these (for example, Chatham Dockyard) required deposits in advance. As always, raffles contributed a good deal towards

booking fees for the hall and thus helped to cover the cost of indoor meetings. He thanked Sheila Cope for organising the raffles. The cost of producing the Newsletter was helped by advertising and by donations, this year £300 from Pfizer Ltd. He praised the high standard of the Newsletter, of which, he said, we should be justly proud. He thanked the editor and the advertising manager. Gift Aid, he said, was a huge benefit for the Society, this year amounting to £662-58, and he urged members who paid tax to sign up for this benefit, if they had not already done so.

The Chairman then called on other members of the committee to give their reports. Joan Liggett thanked all those who had helped at indoor meetings, mentioning Muriel Golding and Sybil Standing in particular. She thanked all members who attended outings for their enthusiasm and support, and, once again, urged members to book early.

Lesley Gordon spoke on various projects and on a report from Jeremy Cope, who was unable to be present. At Cowgate Cemetery the whole of the area had now been cleared and the teams were now moving on to a stage of maintenance. Jeremy Cope thanked and praised the two teams of volunteers who had monthly sessions at the site. He thanked members for donations of money and equipment, like strimmers, essential tools. He invited members to join the happy bunch of workers and to see it as a free get-fit club.

On the subject of recording the gravestones, Lesley reported that, here also, the work was finished. She went on to read Jeremy's account of the River Dour project. All three of these reports were lengthy, full details appearing elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Jack Woolford gave a planning report and was challenged by the Chairman to complete it in three minutes. He said some things were NOT SO GOOD. We did

not get the Heathfield Home Zone or Farthingloe Golf Course or the development of the Castle Street night club and there was no resolution on the Langdon Cliffs gate. In the town many businesses had gone: Pencerster Stagecoach Office, Benson Shoes, Courts, Kent Photo and the Co-op. Other items were listed as GOOD, including Maison Dieu House - now the site of Dover Town Council, the town centre trees, Dover in Bloom, the berths at Western Docks, the cruise terminals and the marina. Danish State Railways had made an application to replace Connex. He said we were pleased with the improvement in the Dover Christmas lights and switch-on and with the continuing development of the River Dour scheme. He then listed a number of projects, ONGOING, which had not come to fruition and left us wondering what the future held. These were projects like the Seaport Centre, the Buckland Paper Mill, the St. James development, the Cherry Tree scrap yard, a Western Heights hotel and the old Army Recruiting Office. He ended with some items he felt had to be classed as BAD: the DHB berths which did not fit, the A2 dualling postponed, the problem of traffic on Townwall Street and the cost of demolishing Burlington House (£2m).

Merril Lilley, giving her report on the Newsletter, said that issue 52 was her last as editor. She had enjoyed the job for fourteen years. She introduced the new editor, Alan Lee, and hoped that he would do likewise.

The elections were rapidly dealt with. There were no objections and the officers were re-elected en bloc. To end the proceedings our President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton, presented a picture to the retiring editor.

After the interval the speaker was Philip Robinson. His talk is reported by Jack Woolford.

# The Dover Society

## An extract from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2005

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

### 2005

57  
 151  
 20  
18107  
 18335

### 2004

59  
 161  
 762  
15578  
 16560

### CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within  
 one year + subs in advance

(1178)

(1140)

### Net Current Assets

17157

15420

### Net Assets

17157

15420

### FUNDS

**£17157**

**£15420**

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2005

	General Fund 2005	General Fund 2004
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	2480	2410
Donations	157	35
Social Events	657	422
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>3294</u></b>	<b><u>2867</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Members and Meeting Expenses	-114	11
Administrative Expenses	832	824
Newsletter Expenses	1191	1705
Other Items	273	-236
Gift Aid Reclaimed	0	-569
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>2182</u></b>	<b><u>1735</u></b>
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources	1112	1132
Total Funds Brought Forward	<u>10544</u>	<u>9412</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u>£11656</u></b>	<b><u>£10544</u></b>

*Capt. M.H. Weston*



The work of the

# PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

Because it had become a party-political issue we could not express our emphatic rejection of the proposed privatisation of Dover Harbour Board. Now we can!

Our appeal for the Society's £1000 contribution to the funding of Town Centre Trees was generously over-subscribed. Thank you indeed! The Town and Environment Committee confirmed its keystone grant of £1500 on June 7th. We now apply for the remaining £800 to the Regeneration Unit (for former coalfields) and if we succeed the trees could be in situ by Xmas. Fingers crossed!

The two main subjects of current planning applications to Dover District Council are for extensions to existing houses, mainly unobjectionable, or for conversions of old houses, shops and offices etc, into flats in Eric, Folkestone and Salisbury Roads, etc. etc. This exemplifies the nation-wide trend to smaller households. Dover Town Council, however, objects, mainly on parking grounds. What will the District do? In any case, there are so many existing permits for conversions at Buckland Flour Mill, Westmount, South Kent College and the Paddock as well as for new housing on the RP Furniture site and the former river-side scrap yard that Dover's population will soar - provided there are takers.

St James, Buckland Paper Mill and Netto on the former Co-op site all continue to hang fire (time of writing, early June). Phase 2 of the White Cliffs Business Park has apparently got off the ground with £100m from developer AMEC in collaboration with B&Q which in exchange for permission to retail in

Whitfield (no longer for footsloggers in Dover) will finance the road infrastructure for 1800 jobs in new factories. The inhabitants of Whitfield and Guston will presumably suffer from increased traffic, and light and noise pollution, as well as archaeological damage to the Roman Road. We trust that the D.D.C. will enforce maximum mitigatory measures.

The Society has signed up for Community Involvement in the Local Development Framework. Well we would, wouldn't we! We've been at it continuously and intensely since our foundation year in 1988.

We note Folkestone and District Water Company's intent to construct a new main from Alkham Valley to Dover and trust that the uprooted trees in Kearsney Abbey will be replaced. We also hope that the new borehole at Bushy Ruff will not compound the drying up of the Dour.

We are proposing road widening at the junction of Crabble and London Roads so that vehicles will not need to drive over the payment because the road is blocked by vehicles turning right into Crabble Road.

We welcome the appointment of Lengthsmen by Kent Highway Services to trim trees, clean signs, cut drainage ditches as well as fill potholes, etc. Every little helps...

The addition of "green waste" to the collection of waste by Dover District Council is most welcome as is the clearance of long-accumulated rubbish from the Dour in the vicinity of New Bridge House.

# SOCIETY PROJECTS

## — COWGATE CEMETERY - CLEARANCE —

◆ ◆ A report by Jeremy Cope ◆ ◆

Picture the scene - balmy summer days in Cowgate with the rustics sipping champagne in their break discussing the complications resulting from the recent European Union referenda. At our last Thursday meeting we toasted the health of our oldest member, Jack Woolford, on his 88th birthday. Not only do we offer good weather to Cowgate workers but longevity is fast becoming another bonus.

It is striking the amount of growth that occurs in May and June. The grass and vegetation have shot up giving the whole cemetery a lush and verdant aspect. Against this background we have continued with the work of mowing paths, controlling undesirable weeds and checking that undergrowth does not re-establish itself.

Our success is due to our enthusiastic team of volunteers who regularly turn out to either one or both of our monthly working sessions. New volunteers are always welcome, just phone 211348 for details.



## — COWGATE CEMETERY - RECORDING —

◆ ◆ A report by Lesley Gordon ◆ ◆

At the end of last year, the small cemetery recording team were able to report completion of their work. Information on all remaining legible headstones in the graveyard, not previously recorded by Miss Jane de Bourbel in the 1980s, had been captured and grave locations mapped where possible. The complete work was passed to the local branch of the Kent Family History Society for comment, prior to presentation to the Dover Museum and Dover District Council. As previously reported, they kindly offered to put the whole work on microfiche to ensure easier access by the general public. In addition, they suggested certain amendments to improve the presentation of the work and provide more background information about the project.

This work was completed in March this year and the two tomes of information were then handed over to their microfiche specialist in Ashford. This summer, the originals, once handed back, can be presented to the Museum and Council. In addition, microfiche copies will be available, not just to them, but, for a small fee, to any members of the general public desiring copies for their own use. It transpired that The Kent Family History Society already had Miss de Bourbel's gravestone recordings, neatly typed, on microfiche, but not in plot and then numerical grave order, although that can be ascertained from the index. The Dover Society's records do (thanks to sterling work by Ian Murton) include her work in, more or less, the right order, although the

typing of the inscriptions is less easily readable. Researchers will, therefore, have a choice when locating graves recorded by her.

So, the Society has achieved its aim of recording all gravestones, and mapping them. A word of warning, however, Miss de Bourbel recorded over four hundred graves and this Society only slightly less. Yet there must be many graves where the headstone had already succumbed to the elements before (or since) Miss de Bourbel set the ball rolling twenty years ago. For

any family researcher it will be a matter of luck whether their forebears are in one of the graves or tombs where information has been captured. If not, then they must seek information from the full register of 7250 people buried in the cemetery between 1837 and the 1950s. A call to Madeleine Whitcombe at Dover District Council or via "burials@dover.gov.uk" with details of the name and date of death should yield at least the grave reference and (with the help of the Society's maps) the approximate location of the grave.

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## THE RIVER DOUR

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### ◆ ◆ A report by Jeremy Cope ◆ ◆



Since my last report matters have slowed somewhat. An important matter that should have been resolved in the early days is the legal relationship between the members of the Group. For a body involving itself in construction projects and maintenance of the river, members have to be quite clear of their commitments, legal responsibilities and liabilities. Matters are complicated because any work will be carried out on other people's property.

Following discussion on a draft constitution Jeremy Burgess of the

Environment Agency, Nick Delaney of Dover District Council and myself were asked to make a proposal to the Group. The proposal has now been circulated and I hope will enable us to resolve the matter. In the meantime work on the river has ground to a halt. I am not entirely sure why, although the absence of a constitution is quoted as the reason. I trust that our proposals will allow us to resume activities and that my next report will be much more positive.



# SOCIETY MEETINGS

## March

### "CONFESSIONS OF A DEVELOPER"

A talk by John Walker - Reported by Jack Woolford

Although both national and local government had been denying it for fifteen years, there is indeed, at the start of the 21st century, a housing crisis, said John Walker. With the average price at £160,000 across the UK, first time buyers cannot afford their own homes. What in 1972 had cost him £15,750 now cost £225,000. What on earth was going on? It was a complicated matter and anyone trying to deal with it finished up making it worse. The main drives in the housing market were: the desire to own a home; the ability to finance the purchase; the cost and availability of money; house prices; and supply and demand. It was not the number of houses available that mattered, but houses of the right type in the right place at the right price. Of these the only constant was the desire to own, to be independent of government and greedy landlords. In the second half of the 20th century it had been the best possible investment. As for ability to purchase, lending institutions had "shed loads" of money at historically low interest rates. Inflation had been - but was no longer - a problem with house prices. As to supply and demand, the demand was constant but the supply side had become very difficult. In the 1950s under Harold Macmillan, the building of 300,000 new houses a year was commonplace but now the number of

new homes was a little over 100,000. What has gone wrong?

The biggest single problem is Planning! The Planning System regulates the supply of land with planning permission. There are four tiers: National (policy guidelines); Regional (where, when, and how many), County (where, when, and how many), District and Parish. In addition there are huge numbers of statutory consultees and so-called "stakeholders" who must be consulted. This is a lengthy and complicated process which may be dubbed "the jungle of opinions". There is then what Sir Humphrey calls the "Political Dimension" which tends to screw up everything, as we see in "Yes Minister". Then at the end of all this is the Appeals System. Applicants who are turned down have a right of appeal to the Secretary of State either by written representations or Public Inquiry, which can take up to 12 months. But that is not the end of it. If the applicant feels that the Secretary of State (through his Inspectorate) has misdirected himself or has erred in law, he can ask for a judicial review involving thousands of people - civil servants, planners, lawyers, surveyors, valuers, architects, engineers, experts of many disciplines, from landscape consultants to acoustic experts and many more in between. The picture that emerges is one of Byzantine

complexity. It took eight years to build five houses in Ulcombe.

The government has recently realised the problem and seems to have decided that it is on the supply side, that if they put a lot of land on the market with planning permission prices will be stabilized. As this is too late they need a big and quick solution.

*"Yes Minister"*

*"Oh dear, yes, I see we seem to have a problem here. Well now, Humphrey, what are we going to do?"*

*Well, minister, fortunately we've got the answer for you. We need an extra 330,000 new houses in Kent. Luckily we can put 300,000 in the Thames gateway and 80,000 in Ashford.*

*Oh good!*

*Yes, minister, just sign this order and leave the rest to Bernard and his team"*

John Prescott has said this is government policy and whoever wins the election in May, this is what is going to happen. Planners, engineers and architects have to allocate the land, work up the details, assess the infrastructure, cater for sustainability and *do the detailed design*... In the past so as to control costs detailed design was left to the house builders who had standard home types. Design rather than "sustainability" (whatever that might mean) is the criterion of success. After all the discussions, arguments and disagreements, houses did *somehow* get built. What was most important was how they looked.

John Walker concluded with a sequence of slides illustrating his own developments and was suitably and heartily applauded.

\* \* \* \* \*

## "MY DOVER"

A talk by Cllr David Hannent - Reported by Jack Woolford

David was born in a house in Buckland Avenue fifty nine years ago and by the time he was seventeen had lived in no less than six streets, the best of which was Castle Avenue. After schooling at St Mary's, St Martin's and Dover Grammar he spent seven years at college in London, at what is now the University of East London, and returned to Dover and worked for the District Council on such things as the Multi-Storey Car Park, Brook House, the Sports Centre and Friars Way before becoming Project Manager at the Whitfield offices.

In 1984 he set up as a Project Manager and Chartered Surveyor in Castle Street and variously worked with



English Heritage on Dover Castle, the Drop Redoubt, the Emmaus building at Archcliffe Fort and 50 others including the Territorial Army HQ in London Road and, currently, the Ladywell Development and a warehouse in Whitfield.

In 2003 he helped establish the Independent Alliance and became a town councillor, helping to save Maison

Dieu House from private sale.

With a long sequence of illustrations, accompanied by witty and ironical remarks which excited (rueful?) laughter from all quarters of the gathering, he asked the question: "Was Dover in better shape now than fifty years ago"? His answers were that the Port but not the Town was better but that we were all trying.

## April

### "FRENCH AS SHE IS SUNG"

A talk by Philip Robinson - Reported by Jack Woolford

**S**tanding in at short notice because SCllr. Paul Watkins could not, as a parliamentary candidate, speak on "Dover Pride", Philip Robinson, Professor of French at the University of Kent at Canterbury, gave as much a musical and dramatic recital as a talk. It was, indeed, entertaining; but the instruction was real. His subject was the radical difference between French and practically all other European languages as far as the principles of speaking were concerned. He started with some examples of English from Shakespeare and Thomas Gray, to remind us that the basic building-block of our language, and therefore of our verse, is the stress-pattern in words: in words of more than one syllable, one or more of the syllables would be stressed whilst others would not, eg "The CURfew TOLLs the KNELL of PARTing DAY". He then (incredibly) sang and acted the Duke of Plaza-Toro's patter song from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* (unaccompanied but superbly) to demonstrate how the stress patterns of "That celebrated, underrated nobleman" matched the music in an amusing and necessary way.

But what happened when the language did not have any given pattern of stress within words, when all syllables had equal weight, as was the case in French? One thing that happened was that foreign learners of French, including Anglophiles, found it very hard to have to do without the basic building block of their own language. A French word or phrase was a string of equally-weighted syllables, with only the slightest stress, and pause, on the last syllable of the string. This was one of the most important things to remember when speaking French, if one hoped to be understood at all.

The Gallic ear was as offended by unwanted stress as the English person's was if a native French speaker tried to leave out the stress patterns when speaking English! The nature of the French language meant that French verse was not characterized by the number of 'feet' but by the number of syllables in a line. The point was illustrated by showing a few lines from Racine's *Andromaque*. The rhythmic interest of French verse was maintained, in the twelve-syllable lines of French tragedy, by varying the length

of syllable-strings within the lines, whereas Shakespeare made sure that not all his pentameters slavishly followed the pattern of "tee-tum - tee-tum - tee-tum - tee-tum: e.g. "Friends, Romans, countrymen, LEND me your ears".

Philip Robinson then, again without accompaniment (or help from members of the audience who didn't know it) performed a comic donkey song "*Mon Ane*" by Pierre Dupont from 1848-51 to

demonstrate how the musical stress could fall anywhere in a French line of verse. To end the evening, some of the audience learned that "*For he's a jolly good fellow*" is really a very ancient French tune as they (eagerly) sang along to several verses of "*Malbrouck s'en va-t-en guerre*" and enthusiastically applauded the command to "Go forth and utter your strings of French syllables, leaving your stress at home"(!).

Château de Malmaison set in the grounds of the Bois-Préau 10 miles west of Paris was the home of the Empress Josephine. Between 1800-1804 Napoleon would visit at weekends, though his presence would hardly make the party go with a bang. Only twenty minutes was all the time allowed for meals, and when called upon to sing, he always gave a rendition of "*Malbrouck s'en va-t'en guerre*" (Malbrouck Goes to War), out of tune. An odd choice, when you remember that it was Malbrouck, the Duke of Marlborough, who had beaten the French armies a hundred years earlier.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**SUMMER 2005**

At around 450 membership is about the same as it was this time last year and we have recruited a record 19 members since the spring. We are indebted to those who introduce friends and also to Terry Sutton who, as our press correspondent, works hard to keep Dovorians aware of the Society. Thus we manage slowly to increase our numbers year by year in spite of inevitable losses.

Our new members are:- Mr R Markham, Mrs L Young, Mr S Perkins, Mr D & Mrs J Downie, Mrs D Hodgson, Mr R & Mrs J Marsh, Mrs S Langley, Mr M & Mrs J Bates, Mr K & Mrs S Munday, Mrs C Dennison, Mr P Sherratt, Mrs J Baldwin, Mrs J Laws, Mr S & Mrs C Crowley.

In the Spring I thanked all raffle helpers. Adeline Reidy has kindly offered to organise raffles from October and I feel totally confident that with the support of members Adeline will find the task satisfying and even entertaining.

*Sheila Cope, Membership Secretary*

# Summer Outings

## Churchill's Chartwell

Reported by Lesley Gordon

COACH OUTINGS BY SOCIETY MEMBERS usually start quietly because of the early hour. This one, setting off later than usual at 11am on May 19th, saw the twenty-eight participants slightly crestfallen because of low cloud and the threat of rain, which boded ill for a visit to north-west Kent to see the home and gardens of the greatest Briton of them all. We need not have worried. The M26 gave way to the leafy lanes of the Weald, to brightly coloured rhododendrons, lush forested hillsides and pretty villages, and then we arrived at what

must be one of the most perfectly sited houses in the South of England. This was why he bought it, of course, in 1922, at the age of forty-eight, when a legacy from an Irish cousin provided the funds he had previously lacked. It was to remain his pride and joy until his death over forty years later.

The National Trust has kept the grounds immaculate and provided sympathetic visitor facilities. After a short stroll along a winding pathway bordered by meadows, lakes, goldfish ponds and formal gardens,





they even provided small plastic bags as we entered the house, to prevent rain from our umbrellas dripping on the carpets! It is very much a country gentleman's house, three or four storeys high to accommodate the rolling landscape to which it clings, but not over large, with many small passage ways and staircases leading hither and thither to the neat and elegant principal rooms. These are all furnished with mementos of the family kindly donated by Clementine, Churchill's wife, when history turned the family home into a shrine. Even on a dull day, the house is light and airy, thanks to the architect Phillip Tilden whose work of renovation and extension from 1922 to 1924, cost three times as much as the original purchase price but was money well spent. Even on a dull day, the overall impression is one of light, especially in the dining room, part of the 1922 extension, and in Churchill's study at the top of the old house, where exposure of the ancient beams and rafters created a large, double height

room worthy of its distinguished occupant. And everywhere, spectacular views across rolling English countryside.

Clemmie, unlike Churchill, was constantly worried about the expense of keeping up the house and gardens and soon after the end of the second world war, wealthy well-wishers combined to buy the house and pass it to The National Trust on condition that the two should be able to live out their days there. Ironically, soon afterwards, Churchill's writings on the war made him a rich man.

Some brave souls ventured into the gardens to see the studio, where a further selection of Churchill's paintings remain on display. Others repaired to the restaurant where a lucky few were in time for the delicious lunchtime selection of hot meals. A content and grateful party made its way back home. Never, as Jeremy Cope said of Joan Liggett, our organiser and leader, in the field of social outings, had so many owed so much to one woman.

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## To Celebrate Sea Britain 2005

### Trip to the Historic Dockyard, Chatham

Reported by Merrill Lilley

THE DOVER SOCIETY TRIP to Chatham Dockyard on Saturday, 9th July, was a great success. The coach left Dover at 9.15a.m. and arrived at Chatham at 10.30a.m., where we had an hour and a half to ourselves before starting our guided tour.

The Society had a trip to Chatham in 1996 and there were several changes since that visit. There is always plenty to see at Chatham Dockyard and, while our tour could not include everything,

we packed a great deal into our time there.

We started with a visit to the exhibition of 17 lifeboats, a new addition to the site, and then looked at the ship quays, where there are three vessels open to the public. Here can be seen the Cavalier, the last surviving destroyer of the Royal Navy, built in 1944 and decommissioned in 1972. It occupies the dock where Nelson's Victory was built. The Cavalier spent a



RNLB *Susan Ashley* - one of a class four 41ft lifeboats built for slipway launching

*H.M.S. Cavalier* the last of the WWII Destroyers



lot of its time in the Arctic and on the open bridge the men worked in freezing conditions. Alongside is the submarine, Ocelot, built in Chatham in 1962 and decommissioned in 1991, now in a dry dock. The next dock holds H.M.S. Gannet, the last remaining sloop of Queen Victoria's navy, built in 1878. Its

everything from the first spinning of the yarn to the final production of the rope.

Originally all rope was made of hemp. Now man-made fibres are used as well as the natural fibres of manila, sisal and coir. 34 miles of yarn are needed to make one single 3 inch rope. We saw every step of the process.

Whereas many changes occurred in the spinning of fibres to yarn, the process of making the yarn to rope has hardly altered since first used at Chatham in 1811. In fact, some of the



last use was as a training ship.

At one o'clock we joined the paddle steamer, Kingswear Castle, for a 40 minute trip on the Medway and the sun came out briefly for the first time that day. On landing our party went on board the Cavalier to the officers' ward room for a brief talk about the vessel.

From here we proceeded to the Ropery, which our guide regarded as the highlight of the visit. He entertained us throughout with bad jokes which kept us amused. He was very enthusiastic and obviously enjoyed his job. A tour of the Ropery needs an hour to see



original machines are still in use. The basic principles date back to the Egyptians. At one point our guide 'roped in' two of our party to help him make a piece of rope, with the two helpers turning large wheels at either end of the rack. Three thin strands of fibre twisted into one, three times, and then the three resulting strands into a rope of synthetic hemp, which he then donated to the Society.

Finally, after passing through each stage, explained with the help of scenes set up with figures in period costume, one emerges into the final building at ground level, the Ropewalk, almost a quarter of a mile long. This is a magnificent sight, even more interesting because the rope makers are still using the original method and machines. As one approaches the exit there is on display a piece of the biggest rope ever made, a cable-laid manila, 24 inches thick and made of 3456 threads.



Time was passing quickly and we made a brief visit to the Commissioner's garden, established in the seventeenth century.

His splendid house was built in 1703 and is used now for functions. There was a wedding party there at the time we visited. We had our delicious cream teas in an annexe of the house, originally the servant's quarters, leaving us just enough time to visit the shop on our way back to the coach, which left at five o'clock.

It was a fascinating, though exhausting, day. Many thanks to Joan Liggett for her usual efficient organisation.



# Installation of the Lord Warden *at the* Court of Shepway

A PERSONAL VIEW BY OUR CHAIRMAN DEREK LEACH

**I**N 1979 I WAS ONE OF THE CROWD in the Market Square cheering Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother as she passed in her carriage in procession from Dover Castle to the grounds of Dover College where she was to be installed as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle. It was rather different for me on 12 April 2005 when, as Chairman of The Dover Society, I had the honour of witnessing the installation of Admiral the Lord Boyce, the 119th Lord Warden, in the grand marquee. He had already met the representatives of the Cinque Ports at Dover Castle where he had been presented with the castle key and had attended the Hallowing Service in St. Mary-in-Castro.

My old friend, Joe Harman, a well-known local character and researcher of Dover history, also received an invitation to attend as one of the surviving Freemen of Dover. I pushed Joe, aged 90 and confined to a wheelchair, from the car park to the college. In due course we were allowed to enter the magnificent marquee through the guard of honour made up of smart sea cadets - at least half of whom are girls in these days of equality. Being in a wheelchair meant that Joe could sit in the main aisle and I could sit at the end of a row next to him, which meant that both of us had a grand view of everybody arriving and of the formal proceedings.

The army was in firm control of proceedings as the great and the good began to arrive to take their seats, including many army and navy officers both serving and retired and our own

President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton, a former Deputy Constable and the First Sea Lord. The bewigged Lord Chancellor was in the front row of the audience. By noon most of the 400 participants and spectators had taken their seats and we awaited the arrival of Admiral the Lord Boyce.

Having inspected the guard of honour comprised of sea, army and air cadets, he



processed in, followed by all the mayors and barons of the Cinque Ports and the two Antient Towns, who were preceded by their macebearers in all their finery. They took their seats facing the distinguished audience, as did the Town Clerks, with the new Lord Warden in their centre. The Sergeant-at-Admiralty placed the Silver Oar on the table in front of the Lord Warden. The formal proceedings began with the Seneschal reading the Queen's proclamation summoning the Grand Court of Shepway. The fourteen Mayors of the Ports and Corporate Members handed in the names of their representatives to

the Seneschal who announced that the Court was formed. As requested by Admiral Boyce, the Joint Solicitor then read the Letters Patent from the Queen appointing the Lord Warden and detailing the duties and privileges of the office. The Mayor of Hastings, as the current Speaker of the Cinque Ports, then invited Admiral Boyce to undertake the duties of the ancient and honourable office and to uphold the franchises, liberties, customs and usages of the Ports. Admiral Boyce accepted.

As the Mayors of the fourteen Cinque Ports bowed to the new Lord Warden, an army officer radioed *HMS Albion* to fire the 19 gun salute and we heard it rumble around the bay as the Lord Warden's flag was raised at the castle. This set several dogs barking in the college vicinity which half-drowned the speech by Admiral Lord Boyce when he



replied to the Address of Congratulation. When the dogs stopped, further interference came from a lone drummer outside the marquee!

With the proceedings completed, the Seneschal proclaimed the Court dissolved and the Lord Warden left. Efficient army officers lined up the distinguished guests in precedent order for the procession from the college to the Maison Dieu where they were to have lunch. As the procession



took a longer route via Norman Street, it allowed Joe and I to scurry down Effingham Crescent in time to see the rear half of the procession reach the Town Hall.

It was over for us. No doubt the procession for a retired Chief of the Defence Staff was not so impressive as that for the Queen Mother back in 1979, but the ceremony inside the marquee maintained the ancient tradition of the Crown's appointee promising to protect the ancient rights and liberties of the Cinque Ports, which were once so vital for the defence of the realm.

My wife and I were also fortunate to receive an invitation to the reception on board *HMS Albion* that evening to meet the new Lord Warden. With two or three hundred others we boarded this modern assault ship and made our way down countless iron stairs to what resembled a car deck on a ferry where presumably the assault craft and helicopters were



HMS Albion

normally stored. Lord Boyce welcomed everybody individually and then each couple were whisked away by a naval officer who obtained drinks and made polite conversation. Our officer was in fact a local lad who had worked at AVO's. After circulating for a bit, we were summoned up to the helicopter deck where a Royal Marines' band entertained us with Beating Retreat in the fading light. That marked the end of the evening and Lord Boyce said goodnight as we stepped off the ship. Back in 1979 it would have been on board the *Royal Yacht Britannia*, but you can't have everything!



*All photographs with the kind permission of Phil Wyborn-Brown.*





# The Western Heights Preservation Society

*Report from Chris Taft*

*The Western Heights Preservation Society (WHPS) is once again pleased to be able to offer a brief update on its activities.*

## *Open Day*

The weekend of the 4th and 5th June saw the annual Western Heights Open Day and the Western Heights Preservation Society (WHPS) were pleased to once more be involved in the event, the 6th organised by the White Cliffs Countryside Project (WCCP). Once again the event far surpassed previous years with around 6000 visitors over the two days. The WHPS managed the opening of the Drop Redoubt on both the Saturday and Sunday and this year gave visitors the opportunity to explore more freely, with marshals on hand to offer guidance. Additionally, for the first time, interpretation panels helped visitors understand more of the history of the Drop Redoubt. Even more of this impressive 19th century fortification was open thanks to the hard work and dedication of WHPS members. The Society was also involved with arranging for a free vintage bus service



3rd Battalion the First Foot  
Guards inside the Drop Redoubt  
© Jeff Howe 2005



Interpretation panels around the  
Drop redoubt to help visitors

© WHPS 2005

to take people from the town to the Heights, courtesy of Dover's Transport Museum, and once again the Grand Shaft opened free of charge. At the Shaft and on a stall near the Drop Redoubt the WHPS were also offering for sale a number of publications and, for the first time, some specially commissioned branded merchandise such as key rings and pencils. It is hoped this product range will be built on for forthcoming events.

### **Lecture Evening**

The weekend did not merely consist of events at the Heights however. On Saturday evening the Society welcomed visitors, members and non-members alike, to Dover Castle for two special lectures. Andrew Saunders, formally Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments at



English Heritage, delivered an interesting presentation on "*What if Nelson had lost at Trafalgar*", especially relevant this year as we mark the 200th anniversary of the great naval battle. Andrew's talk looked at the defences built up around Britain from Elizabethan times onwards and focused particularly on those that would have been used to defend Britain had Napoleon invaded, which of course included the Western Heights.

Paul Hadaway of the WCCP followed Andrew with a fascinating talk on "*From Fields of Fire to Fields of Flower*" where he described how the ancient chalk grass lands were built up and how they provide the habitat for some of this country's most important wildlife. Paul showed many illustrations of the plant and animal species, which can be seen easily on the Heights today.

### **Society Leaflet**

The open weekend provided the ideal launch for the WHPS leaflet. The glossy colour leaflet was produced by Chris Taft and Stephen Dent and printed with the kind assistance of SAGA. This new leaflet will lend a much more professional feel to the Society and will act as an excellent

introduction to the Heights and Society for those currently unfamiliar with the area. It is hoped it can support the wider publicity of the WHPS.

### **Annual General Meeting**

July 23rd will see the WHPS Annual General Meeting, exact details of which are still to be confirmed at the time of going to press.

### **Western Heights on the Television**

Hopefully some readers may have seen the Western Heights and Dover Castle featured in a recent Channel 4 television programme with Dr. Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage. Dr. Thurley has in the past expressed great interest in the Heights and chose to include it in his programme looking at Britain's buildings. Viewers saw Dr. Thurley enthuse on the importance and significance of Dover's Western Heights.

### **Getting Involved**

The last few months have been extremely busy for the Society. However nothing happens without the help and support of members. The WHPS is keen for more people to become involved and would like to recruit new members to assist on its project days, working on clearing, tidying and helping to preserve more areas of this important site. If you feel you can help at any level please get in touch with the Society through the website at: [www.dover-western-heights.org](http://www.dover-western-heights.org) or write to:



WHPS,  
PO Box 366,  
DEAL,  
Kent  
CT14 9XY

# Dover Pageant

## a Personal View

by Mike McFarnell

Expressing the thoughts inside my head going into the 2005 Dover Pageant as pressure inside began to rise, exponentially increasing with each passing moment. Desperately I began to search for some way to turn it off, some way out of the blinding morass of unfinished bits, uncompleted tasks, hundreds of pages of script falling out of order, flying away, hundreds of people wandering vacantly around asking the same stupid questions over and over again. But alas, as I knew from past experience, there is none. I knew also that sometime around one o'clock on Sunday morning, I would go into the final stages of a terrible process I have come to know very well, eyes blank, red and staring, hot and cold sweats, waves of panic accompanied by shouts of *where did I put that sledgehammer? And I know it; I just know it, that computer hard drive is going to fail again!! And Look I told you a hundred times you're going to be a \*\*\*\*\* peasant, not Henry the \*\*\*\*\* Eighth! I've got Henry the Eighths coming out of my \*\*\*\*\* ears. Now \*\*\*\* off!* Anyone observing this for the first time would think, this is it, this is the moment the lid finally comes off... but no,



just when there seems to be no place left to go apart from disappearing into a deep dark hole, an eerie calm slowly spreads over my face, blissful almost, and people realize that I have seen it...the vision I have been looking for everyday for the past 6 months, the moment when the last chair is put in line, the last programme neatly stacked, the last piece of ribbon tied, the last straggling performer rounded up, and heard the sound of the first fanfare in my mind... the moment when that vision is finally there locked in place in my minds eye, I know I am going to make it... against all the odds, the Pageant flags will fly once more. At the same moment, also borne of many years experience, my wife collapses in a heap!

I realize my dream is also shouldered by many other people, who contribute as much or more to turning a vision into reality. From the Dover Society, Jack Woolford as a discreet man of Dover was in the group who received the Dover Harbour Board Charter in 1606. In part two Terry Sutton as an ace reporter interviews Blanchard and Jefferies in 1785. For all those who missed the Pageant there is an opportunity to view photographs which are on the website [www.doverpageant.com](http://www.doverpageant.com) or to wait until the 2005 Dover Film at Dover Town Hall is shown in February 2006. I wish to thank all the members of the Dover Society who gave me their help and support.

# GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

*Some snippets of Dover History*

## **BEFORE THE WAR** by Dick Whittamore

I was born in Streatham, London, on January 6th 1925, an unwanted baby who was given a home by a very kind lady who brought me up. She took me to live on Chatham Hill which was on the main route to London in those days. As an infant I was always fascinated by watches and clocks and when I started school remember building a roman-figured clockface with matchsticks on the classroom floor.

From Chatham we moved to various places in Kent. In Ospringe I can recall witnessing a little girl being run over on the main road and I also walked into the side of a speeding car at the same spot - only bruised, thank goodness. At West Farleigh, living in the wilds, we had to share a communal pump with six other cottages to get our drinking water.

In 1937, at the age of twelve, we moved to East Langdon. The local school was mixed and catered for all ages. Mrs James, the headteacher, taught the seniors, Mrs Bottle the mid-ages and Mrs Robinson the infants. In those days a third-of-a-pint of school milk cost a halfpenny a day. Old fashioned stoves in the classrooms afforded the heat. I was given the task of recording the temperature each day from a thermometer which hung from the ceiling. My earlier interest in timepieces came to light again here. When the classroom was empty I got up on a chair and pushed the big-hand of the huge clock forward by five minutes so we could go home earlier - it worked!

I was a good pupil and, on several occasions, was top of the school. My rival, Ella Dixon, beat me sometimes. Poor Ella

was killed by a shell in Dover's Market Square in March 1942; she was only seventeen.

In those schooldays people were very poor. Only the well-off had cars. There was no television and wireless sets were pretty crude, needing a big battery, a smaller grid bias and an accumulator which had to be charged each week - 6d a time at a local store. Only businesses and the rich had telephones and, in the country, we still had lavatories at the bottom of the garden, the contents having to be buried periodically. I often earned a little money by working on the local farm by picking peas and gathering up potatoes. In those days big farm horses did the work of today's tractors.

During my early days I can still remember the last Dover trams, the skating rink on the seafront and the aerial ropeway crossing the Deal and Guston roads carrying coal from Tilmanstone to the Docks. I visited Dover each Saturday to attend the Plaza matinees - 4d to get in and 1d for a tube of wine gums. I recall the King's Hall being burnt down in 1937 and on my visit to Dover I went round the back and saw just the four walls standing. It was rebuilt and today is the Gala Bingo. I can also remember a fatal plane crash over East Langdon. Two RAF planes were manoeuvring overhead when their wings clipped. One landed safely but the other narrowly missed houses as it crashed in a field. The pilot baled out but the young observer stayed in the plane and was killed. The pilot later was driven away to fly again before he lost his nerve.

At school each year we performed a Xmas panto at the Village Hall. One I can

recall was Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, the juniors having to black their faces. Mrs James rehearsed the pupils whilst Mrs Robinson painted the scenery on stitched together bacon sacks supplied by Mr James who worked for the Danish Bacon Company. I didn't like the stage in those days so I was put in charge of ticket and programme sales. Admission 7d and 1/-. One year we made enough profit, with the help of a grant, to buy a portable radio which we used for schools educational programmes. Sometimes Mrs James let us hear the Grand National or Derby as a treat.

I was confirmed at St Margaret's Church, at the age of thirteen, by the Bishop of Dover.

I left school at fourteen and my first job was at Vye and Son, the Kentish Grocers. The shop was where Dixon's is today in Biggin Street. They had other branches all over Kent. 7/6d per week was the wage and we had to provide our own white jackets and aprons. I wasn't very happy there and left after only seven weeks. In those days, in early 1939, there were many national grocers: International, Pearks, David Greig, Maypole, Liptons and more. The Co-Op was Dover's main shop with several branches. It sold grocery and provisions and had a dairy and bake house amongst its many outlets. The annual dividend for

members brought about long queues on pay-out days. Before the war shops stayed open late in the evening, but there was an official early closing day and they were closed on Sundays.

On Monday, 14th August, 1939, living in Snargate Street, I started work as a page boy at the Royal Hippodrome at 5/- a week. I can remember the first show I saw. It was the OVALTINEY'S touring show. A disc from a tin of Ovaltine gained admittance. I can still recall the Ovaltiney's theme song.

On September 3rd war was declared and I can remember helping with blackouts and sticking gummed tape on windows to prevent splinters and sorting out my gasmask which had been issued earlier during a previous scare. What a nuisance it was carrying it with you in its cardboard box. As time went on people forgot to carry them - thank goodness we never needed them! Members of H.M. Forces always had to carry their gas masks, also a tin hat and often the soldiers carried a rifle too.

At the outbreak of war places of entertainment closed but they soon reopened - the Hippodrome did on Tuesday, 12th September.

That's my pre-war adolescent story. What followed was six years of war which was much more dangerous and exciting - but that's another story.



## Newsletter Binders

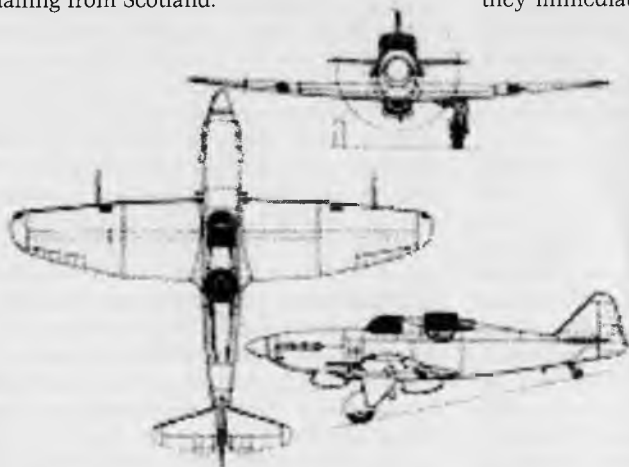
These are available, embossed with "The Dover Society",  
cost £4-48 each and will hold 12 newsletters.

Contact the editor at  
8 Cherry Tree Avenue, Dover CT16 2NL  
Tel: 213668

## 1940: Dover and Tragedy in the Air

by Alan Lee

It was early July 1940 and the Battle of Britain had just begun. 141 Squadron equipped with their new aircraft the Boulton Paul Defiant had just arrived at R.A.F. West Malling from Scotland.



The Defiant had no forward firing weapons but carried a gunner at the rear of the cockpit in a turret mounted with four .303 Browning Machine Guns. The German Messerschmitt 109 pilots soon realised the Defiant was slow, lacked manoeuvrability and was a much softer target than the Hurricane. Also the design of the rear turret made it very difficult to escape and it was a notorious death trap.

On 19th July the squadron left West Malling for their forward aerodrome at R.A.F. Hawkinge. The weather was sunny with light rain showers and the coast of France clearly visible. About midday the Dover A.A. guns were engaged quite heavily with the Luftwaffe who were bombing the harbour.

At 12.30hr 141 Squadron took off from Hawkinge to patrol south of Folkestone. Three aircraft had engine problems so only nine lifted off. They were then ordered to

patrol Cap Griz Nez at 5,000 feet. Unknown to the pilots at 20,000 feet lurked a flight of Me109's of JG 51 Squadron. Attacking out of the sun, taking the Defiants totally unawares they immediately shot four down. Of those

who bailed out only one gunner survived becoming only the second person to save his life using the new static X line parachute.

Only one Me109 was destroyed and after being badly shot up crash landed at it's base, the pilot, Fw. Heilmann, dying of his wounds the next day.

Badly shot up, the remaining planes of 141 Squadron tried to return to base. Two made it safely back

landing at 13.00hr, the remainder was as follows:

IL6983 Hit, returned to base, PO MacDougall unhurt, Sgt Wise missing.

I L7001 Crashed near base: engine failure. Flt Lt Loudon injured (treated Canterbury Hospital) PO Farnes baled out (rescued by the Ramsgate Lifeboat).

IL7009 Crashed at Elms Vale, Dover. Flt Lt Donald and PO Hamilton both killed.

IL6974 Shot down in the channel. PO Kemp and Sgt Crombie both missing.

IL6995 Shot down in the channel. PO Howley and Sgt Curley both missing.

IL7015 Shot down in the channel. PO Kidson and Sgt Atkins both missing.

IL7016 Shot down in the channel. PO Gardner baled out wounded (treated Canterbury Hospital) PO Slatter missing.

The "Dogfight" only lasted about 10 minutes and none of those missing were ever found. On returning to base the squadron was released from further

operations and they returned to West Malling. Next day they received seven new replacement aircraft. On 21st July they were posted back to Scotland.

Boulton Paul Defiant



## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

**Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th September 2005**

*Derek Leach*

Heritage Open Days, organised by English Heritage and the Civic Trust every year, celebrates England's fantastic architecture by encouraging free access to buildings that are usually closed to the public or would normally charge an admission fee.

Dover has a great wealth of historic buildings, but only some are normally open to the public such as Dover Castle, the Maison Dieu and the Roman Painted House. The Dover Society thought that it was about time Dover made an effort to have more buildings open, if only for a few days. As a result five buildings will be open this year. The Dover Society is coordinating publicity both nationally through the regional booklet and the on line service produced by Heritage Open Days and locally using local press and radio. Details of opening times are:

<b>St Edmund's Chapel</b>	Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th September	10am to 4pm
<b>Maison Dieu House</b>	Thursday 8th and Friday 9th September	10am to 4pm
<b>Archcliffe Fort</b>		
<i>(guided tours)</i>	Saturday 10th September	10.30am to 11.30am & 3pm to 4pm
	Sunday 11th September	3pm to 4pm
<b>Unitarian Church,</b>		
Adrian Street	Sunday 11th September	11am to 3pm
<b>Grand Shaft Staircase</b>	Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th September	10am to 4.30pm
<i>The Drop Redoubt will also be open at a small charge.</i>		

Hopefully, many of our members will take up this opportunity. It is a new initiative for The Dover Society and, if successful, we hope to increase the number of properties participating next year.

## Letter to the Editor

*Dear Editor,*

*I was very pleased to hear a new editor has been found for the Dover Society Newsletter and that the annual meeting was so well attended which proves the group is doing a worthwhile job!*

*My main reason for writing is to point out an error in the last newsletter regarding identification of an old engraving of a port building, from the late Ivan Green, said to be in Dover. I have several illustrations of this, including at least a couple of photographs, which show it was, in fact, seven miles away at Folkestone harbour. It was variously known as the Clock House, Clock Tower (which it had) or Harbour House, which was built in 1843 for the use of the directors and officers, etc. of the South Eastern Railway, including the harbourmaster Lieutenant G. Essells, R.N. According to the Folkestone Herald newspaper of March 8, 1950, he was succeeded by Captain George Hathorn R.N. (1850-60.) Later Admiral Hathorn, with a family of 10, he had his home in the large building. He was also the Superintendent of the company's steamers at Dover, Folkestone, Calais and Boulogne. The Folkestone Herald told how one of his daughters was still resident in Folkestone in March 1950.*

*In an old copy of the Folkestone Herald newspaper I found the building described as of Venetian style architecture, with each elevation having a distinct character of its own but harmonising as a whole. The building, of red brick, had a 100ft campanile tower, which projected from the centre of the frontage facing the quayside and inner harbour. It had an illuminated clock and a look-out gallery near the top. According to local book authors Alan Taylor and Eamonn Rooney, of Folkestone, the building was demolished around 1899 to make way for an extension of the nearby Royal Pavilion Hotel, on the site of which the Hotel Burstin was built in modern times.*

*The thought occurs to me that the building bears a resemblance to Dover's former Burlington Hotel with its lift tower in the centre of the Woolcomber Street frontage!*

*Yours sincerely,  
Bob Hollingsbee*





Clock House, Folkestone showing  
portion of Royal Pavilion



The Burlington Hotel, Dover,  
circa 1914-20

DOVER — The Burlington Hotel — L.L.

# The Dover Society Website

[www.doversociety.homestead.com](http://www.doversociety.homestead.com)

*Please visit the site.*

*Read reports on meetings, check the programme of events.*

Your comments and observations would be appreciated.

Our website has been sponsored by  
**CHARLTON SHOPPING CENTRE**  
 High Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1TT  
 Tel: 01304 212268

Visits to  
**The Dover Society Website**  
 2005 (up to 22.6.05) 603 visits  
 2004 1,587 visits  
 2003 606 visits

## Dover Websites

- Charlton Shopping Centre: [www.charltonshopping.co.uk](http://www.charltonshopping.co.uk)
- Dover Carnival: [www.dovercarnival.co.uk](http://www.dovercarnival.co.uk)
- Dover Castle: [www.dover-castle-friends.org](http://www.dover-castle-friends.org)
- Dover District Council: [www.dover.gov.uk](http://www.dover.gov.uk)
- Dover Hospital Fete: [www.doverhospitalfete.homestead.com](http://www.doverhospitalfete.homestead.com)
- Dover Operatic Society: [www.dods.org.uk](http://www.dods.org.uk)
- Dover Pageant: [www.doverpageant.com](http://www.doverpageant.com)
- Dover Topsy: [www.topsy.demon.co.uk](http://www.topsy.demon.co.uk)
- Dover Town Centre Management: [www.dovertcm.homestead.com](http://www.dovertcm.homestead.com)
- Dover Town Council: [www.dovertown.com](http://www.dovertown.com)
- Dover Transport Museum: [www.dovertransportmuseum.homestead.com](http://www.dovertransportmuseum.homestead.com)
- Dover Web: [www.doverweb.co.uk](http://www.doverweb.co.uk)
- Gateway Hospital Radio: [www.ghbs.org.uk](http://www.ghbs.org.uk)
- Accommodation: [www.stayindover.co.uk](http://www.stayindover.co.uk)

## Venturing outside Dover

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

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

**4 Harold Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1SF**

**Tel: 01404 201711**

**Email: [mmcfarnell@hotmail.com](mailto:mmcfarnell@hotmail.com)**

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CANTERBURY	01227 769842	27 St Margaret's Street



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## **The Dover Osteopathic Clinic**

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**Penny Strutt** Dip. Aestheticienne VTST Dip. Mass

**Lisa Steward** VTCT Dip. Hol. Th

**Tel/Fax 01304 214686**

*Situated at the United Kingdom's closest point to Continental Europe, the Port of Dover is a vital link for tourism and trade.*

*Over 16 million passengers, two-and-a-half million cars and 125, 000 coaches passed through the port on its ferry services to Calais and Dunkirk in 2003. Added to that, over 1.7 million freight vehicles used the port's freight services to Calais and Dunkirk carrying about 35 per cent of the UK's non-fuel trade with mainland Europe.*

*But the port's year did not end there. Dover became Northern Europe's busiest cruise port for turnround calls handling 120 visits involving more than 150,000 passengers. Its marina enjoyed record numbers of visitors and its cargo terminal saw consolidation in the fresh fruit and vegetable markets.*

*Dover - a leading light in the European ports and shipping industry.*



DOVER HARBOUR BOARD • HARBOUR HOUSE • DOVER • KENT CT17 9BU  
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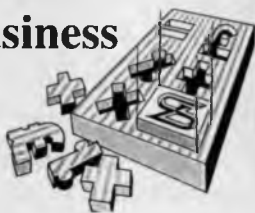
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Monday - Saturday



contact:  
Pat Hooper  
Manager

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*Payable on 31st March*

New  Renewal  Joint

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....

2nd Name if joint membership .....

Address .....

Postcode..... Phone .....

**The Gift Aid Legislation allows us to reclaim basic tax rate on your subscription and any donations. Please state that you are happy for us to do this by signing the Declaration below. You must be a UK taxpayer and pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax we reclaim on your subscription/donation. For joint members the first named is asked to sign as the taxpayer.**

### Declaration

I wish/do not wish\* the Dover Society to benefit from the new Gift Aid Legislation. This Declaration applies to all subscriptions/donations I make on or after 6th April 2000. (\* Delete as applicable)

Signed..... Date.....

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

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

Social events  Writing for newsletter

Projects e.g. clearance, surveys, photography

Any other interests or expertise .....

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# PROGRAMME 2005 - 2006

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

## 2005

AUGUST 25  
Thursday

**London - Morning: The British Museum.** See the Great Court, one of the lost spaces of London, hidden from public view since 1857. If time permits a visit to The Theatre Museum, Covent Garden. £14.00.

**Afternoon: Apsley House**, the home of the Duke of Wellington or **The Theatre Museum**, Covent Garden. £14.00

Pick-ups: 0800 Railway Bell; 0810 Frith Road; 0815 Brook House CP

SEPTEMBER 17  
Saturday

**France - Visit to St Omer.** Morning: From Salperwick an hour's excursion on the river with English guide followed by lunch in the adjoining restaurant. Afternoon: Time to explore St Omer. £26.00 to include all coaching, ferry and boat trip but not including lunch.

Pick-ups: 0645 Railway Bell; 0650 Frith Road; 0655 Brook House CP; 0700 Eastern Docks

OCTOBER 21  
Friday

**200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of Admiral Lord Nelson.** Dinner and Dance. Town Hall. Approximate cost £26.00.

OCTOBER 24  
Monday 7.30

**Speaker:** Harry Ward "Captain Cook".

NOVEMBER 14  
Monday 7.30

**Speaker:** Councillor Richard King "The Future of Kent".  
Brainstorming Session.

DECEMBER 17  
Saturday 7 for 7.30

**Christmas Feast.**

Start Christmas in style by attended our annual feast held in the splendid surroundings of the Refectory in Dover College. £17 to include sherry reception, a sumptuous buffet, wine, soft drinks and entertainment.

## 2006

JANUARY 16  
Monday 7.30

**Speaker:** Details in next Newsletter.

FEBRUARY 20  
Monday 7 for 7.30

**Wine and Wisdom** with Clive Taylor. A light-hearted quiz. £4.00 to include refreshments, wine, soft drinks, coffee and tea. Prizes for first and second places.

MARCH 20  
Monday 7.30

**Speaker:** Details in next Newsletter.

APRIL 10  
Monday 7.30

**Annual General Meeting.**

*All indoor meetings are held at St Mary's Parish Centre*

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