

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 55

March 2006



Dr Reginald Koettlitz, photo from Cradock Museum, South Africa



THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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

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The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

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

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

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

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

Editorial

The next meeting of the Society will be the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting at St. Mary's Parish Centre at 7.30pm on Monday 10th April. The speaker that night will be Martyn Webster. This will be the last indoor meeting until October. We hope for the usual good attendance.

Summer outings will take place from May to September and details of these are listed, as usual, on the inside back cover of the Newsletter. Our Social Secretary Joan Liggett has again been working hard planning the summer trips; hopefully there will be something to interest everyone. Please note there are some changes to the previously published outings. The first visit on 13th May is to Wakehurst Place with its multitude of plants and trees. On 10th June Joan has organised a cruise in Bewl Water and following this we will move on to Lamberhurst Vineyard. This produces some of England's finest wines and after the tour a wine tasting has been arranged, something I for one am looking forward to. The outing on 15th July to Kensington Palace will, as well as visiting the State rooms, will include the Orangery and Sunken Garden. Application forms for all three events are included with this newsletter, or if you prefer just give Joan a call and book over the phone, 01304 214886. There will be no outing in August this year but the September French trip will take place and is in the process of being planned.

Will any members with any ideas or suggestions for society outings in the future please contact either Joan or a member of the committee?

As well as our regular and most welcome contributions as usual I am looking out for any articles or reminiscences from new contributors, there must be a lot of our members with tales to tell. If you would prefer to tell your story verbally then please contact me and I will arrange a

meeting with you. This edition we have two people who have not sent anything in before. One from my wife, who has never written an article to be published before, is a personal recollection of her father and their early life. The other is the first in what I hope will be a series connected to the Dover Town Council's project aiming to research all of the names on the War Memorial which stands in front of Maison Dieu House, the new Town Hall. If any of our members have details, information or photographs connected to any of the

names on the memorial, or even names that may have been omitted could you please contact the Editor.

Last but not least thanks must once again go to all who made the Christmas Feast such a success. It was the first time that myself, wife and daughter had attended and we were very impressed with the organisation, entertainment, catering and setting. We can thoroughly recommend this annual event to anyone and look forward eagerly to the next one.

Editor

WANTED

A volunteer to take over the post of Advertising Manager for the Society Newsletter. If you are interested in this role, or you know of anyone else who may be, then contact the Chairman or any member of the committee. (See inside cover of newsletter for contact details)

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DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 56 will be Wednesday 14th June 2006. 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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The work of the
PLANNING
 Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

WAG - Whitfield Action Group - has come into existence to fight the proposal to quadruple the size of the village. Following their successful launch in Nov 2005 at a public meeting which we were invited to address, they now have a Steering Group (on which we have an advisory member), a joint committee with the Parish Council, funding from the Parish Precept, a website and an action plan. They will have noticed the Environment Agency's current advice that East Kent's water supplies will not accommodate the projected thousands of houses and need no reminding that their enemy is the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

As to regionalization, the latest rumour is that Kent County Council will disappear and so will existing District Councils. Dover, Thanet, Shepway and Canterbury will together become a unitary authority under unelected SEERA

(South East England Regional Assembly) and SEEDA (South East Economic Development Association), together constituting GOSE (Government of the South East) in Guildford. We shall only retain our Town Council... perhaps with a little more power at its elbow.

The good news is that after a year's delay by Kent Highways, the Town Centre trees for which he have worked so long and to which our members have so generously contributed, will be soon be planted in containers (supplied by Dover District Council) in Biggin St, subject to the consent of CCTV. Consequently it is unlikely that we shall need the £800 we sought from the Regeneration Unit, which in any case ceases to exist on March 31st 2006.

We continue to await action by DTIZ, ASDA, Buckland Paper Mill, WCCB Phase II, Netto, etc etc. Most of all we await the impending decision about Dover's link to Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Given that, many other good things could follow.

Dover Harbour Board has turned down our suggestion that their 400th anniversary be commemorated with a bandstand on Granville Gardens. We are locked in dispute with Dover Museum as whether or not there is a Green Man on the doorway of 10 Biggin St, the old Labour Exchange. Continue to watch this space!

* * * * *

The Integrated Kent Rail Franchise

Kent Federation of Amenity Societies Bulletin 30

Bob Ratcliffe, City of Rochester Society

January's edition of the *Railway Magazine* reports on the award of the franchise to *Govia*, as the preferred bidder for the Integrated Kent Franchise (IKF) to begin on April 1st 2006. This covers all Kent's present services, as well as well as the domestic service on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) due to start in 2009. *Govia* is a partnership with the *Go-Ahead Group* and *Keolis*, and already owns the franchise for the 'central' section of the old Southern Region in Surrey and Sussex. The South East will again be held by one franchise as it was with *Connex*. *Govia*, who will trade in Kent as *London and South Eastern Railway*, is committed to building two new maintenance depots - at Ashford and Ramsgate. It is also to invest £76m in passenger and staff facilities, refurbish trains, remove graffiti within 24 hours (!), and improve performance and reliability. On the down side, fares will rise by 3% above inflation from January 2007. The franchise term is for eight years, the last two being dependent upon performance, and the government subsidy will be £585m over this period. For the past two years Kent's railways have been run by *South Eastern Trains*, a *Strategic Rail Authority* company who took over the network on the sacking of *Connex* for poor performance.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Spring 2006

SUBSCRIPTION TIME!

SUBSCRIPTION TIME!

Our subs (£6 single, £10 for joint members living at the same address) have not increased for 10 years. There can be no better value for money since annual payment accesses three newsletters, two speakers at most evening meetings and a wide choice of outings and other entertainments. Equally valuable is the credibility that its 446 members provide for the Society in trying to meet its objectives.

Gift Aid is one of the means by which we are able to maintain our bargain prices since it enables the Society to claim back from the Inland Revenue nearly a third of the value of the subscriptions of members who have agreed to it. Providing that you are a taxpayer, a once and only signature on the membership form is all that is required. So if you are eligible, please sign up if you have not already done so.

Fortunately our gains in number just exceed our losses over the past year. We welcome our new members :- Mrs A & Mr I Fagg, Mr R & Mrs J Walkden, and Mrs K Quigley.

We send our condolences to the families and friends of members who have died:- Mr W G King, Mrs R Storm-Torstensen, Mr B Cockerill, Miss E Grocock, Mrs G Dobby, Mr M Wilson, Mr A Goodburn, Mr G Henshaw, Mrs W Cope, Mr N Willis.

Sheila Cope, Membership Secretary

SOCIETY PROJECTS

COWGATE CEMETERY

Report by Jeremy Cope

YOU WILL, I AM SURE, have heard of the serious concern arising from the acute shortage of rainfall this winter. As an example that most clouds have a silver lining the weather has given us dry grass and undergrowth. Dry grass is easy to cut and rake whereas wet grass tests our volunteers and if they were not gentlemen would cause their verbal expressions to be of the coarser sort, quite shocking to our sole lady worker. Needless to say we have maintained good progress on our maintenance of the cemetery.

The dates for our meetings are set out below. Society members would be most welcome to join us. If you are at all interested please phone 01304 211348 or e-

mail (address on the inside cover of this newsletter). Please note that the dates may be changed because of the weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

Meeting Dates for 2006

<i>Thursday Meetings</i>	<i>Saturday Meetings</i>
9th March	18th March
6th April	15th April
4th May	13th May
1st June	10th June
6th July	15th July
3rd August	12th August
31st August	16th September
5th October	14th October
2nd November	11th November
7th December	16th December

THE RIVER DOUR

Report by Jeremy Cope

TO THE CASUAL OBSERVER little has changed. The dry winter has meant that water levels have dropped quite markedly and rivers without water are just not rivers. The District Council may be making good progress on tidying the litter from the river but all of that good work is set at nought if only one major private riparian owner (such as the owners of the B&Q lake) neglect to keep their bit of the river litter free. It leads everyone to think that the river is still a rubbish tip.

However the District Council is working hard at removal of litter. Claire Pitts, the officer responsible has tackled Netto and has received a verbal assurance that they will start work on improvements to the B&Q lake in March and this will include removal of the litter. Claire is very committed to the river and to getting it clear of rubbish. The District Council have now set up a call centre and if you see litter, rubbish or an environmental problem phone and report the abuse on 01304 872428. Claire will deal with the litter and pass on environmental problems to the Environment Agency. The District Council want dog fouling reported; Barton Path is something of a problem at the moment and I would urge members to use the call centre number. Well done Dover District Council.

The Peoples Places money has now been secured, subject to submission of evidence of expenditure, with £8,500 committed on volunteers' tools and training, signs for the riverside walk, explanatory leaflets, and information boards. Without input from White Cliffs Countryside Project and backroom support from the Environment Agency the bid would have failed. The riverside walk has been one of the Society's long term aims.

The White Cliffs Countryside Project is now active in the leadership of the volunteers, busy organising training in risk assessment and first aid, vital for work on a river. It will be important to get training completed by the end of March/early April

when the trout breeding season comes to an end and work can restart on the river. The Project's Julie Thomsett is also looking to recruit as River Dour Wardens those who walk the river. The wardens will be asked to "keep an eye on the river" and report abuses to the District Council help line. Those interested in becoming a volunteer or warden please contact Julie on 01304 241806.

The Environment Agency intends to hold a seminar on the river's environment and this should prove popular with so many in Dover interested in the Dour.

In my last report I wrote of progress proceeding "bit by bit" and I am pleased that this continues. Of course we would all like to see the Dour upgraded in an instant but that is not going to happen. It is up to Dorovians to determine that we will work and campaign for a better river over the years ahead.



Local Books

Most titles are available from local Dover bookshops but also from:
Triangle Publications
 Derek Leach Tel: 01304 823926

Dover: Collected Memories of a Century

A.F. Adams and Merrill Lilley
 price £10 - out of stock

Dover and the Monarchy

Ivan Green price £8

*The White Cliffs of Dover:
 Images of Cliff and Shore*

Peter and Julie Burville
 price £8.75 - now in its second print

*Dover Tribute in Photographs
 to Budge Adams*

Bob Hollingsbee and Derek Leach
 price £10 - now in its second print

SOCIETY MEETINGS

November

"THE FUTURE OF KENT"

A talk by Cllr Richard King, KCC - *Reported by Jack Woolford*

Until recently Cabinet Member for Structure Plan and Transport, now Chairman of Planning, Richard King, said that the world was screwed up by climate change; witness the virtual disappearance of birds, etc. In comparison, the deposition of Saddam Hussein and the recent earthquakes and floods, etc, were trivial whereas the melting of the polar ice-caps and world-wide pollution were our fault. Our grandchildren would ask why, knowing about it, we did nothing.

The London Barrage, designed for rare emergencies, had had to be used sixteen times in the last year. Romney Marsh would soon be under water. Yet the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's (John Prescott) main concern was how many thousands more houses should be built in Kent whilst thousands of new houses were being

demolished in the North. In the Kent countryside, orchards as well as footpaths and hedges had disappeared because supermarkets demanded standard apples but only paid farmers 8% of the shop price. It was nonsensical to import fruit from abroad we could grow ourselves.

What Kent's 600 councillors and parish councillors wanted was low growth for Kent's own population, not incomers from elsewhere. The Kent Structure Plan sought this, but the Deputy Prime Minister's South East Region's (nominated) Assembly's Spatial Strategy with its East (including Ashford) and West Kent Sub-Regions, insisted on houses by the thousand every year for the next twenty years. It was madness all round and he (Richard King) was glad he would be dead by the time it all happened.

"BRAINSTORMING SESSION"

There was general support for seeking to open up the Bleriot Memorial. The centenary is in 2009 and stresses the need for any scheme. Alan Lee has found that the memorial is owned by English Heritage but the maintenance, cutting the grass adjacent to the memorial, has been carried out free of charge by DDC. However DDC is reconsidering its commitment and may discontinue next year.

Adeline proposed that the Pencester bandstand was in the wrong place and a more appropriate situation was Granville Gardens, the site of the pre-war bandstand. She had found that there was no possibility of moving the existing Bandstand so that it would be necessary to build a new bandstand. Bill Fawcus told us that because next year would be the 4th centenary of DHB the board may be open to funding a commemorative structure such as a bandstand. John Turnpenny was against the move to Granville Gardens because of the potential parking problems.

Jack read the invitation sent by Nadeem Aziz to the "Dover Masterplan - options workshop" with its reference to consultants and plethora of development plans and frameworks. We have had endless plans to create a prosperous Dover. What will have a real effect is (a) bringing in jobs and (b) creating better transport links. Then we will be able to deal with expansion.

Comments from the floor: Training must be available for those over 20 years old if we are to make the best of our existing workforce. At present the Government concentrates all resources on those under 20 years of age.

We should make the best of what we have: Victorian and older buildings in town centre, green spaces and surrounding hills, River Dour, neighbouring areas of outstanding natural beauty, the sea and the historical buildings and sites.

The lorry park, an idea floated by DHB was the subject of a leading article in the Dover Express of 10th November. This was seen as a way of dealing with the shortage of space in the docks and the traffic jams on the A20. Mike Weston was in favour - the park is necessary to safeguard the position of the port and hence to conserve jobs. The park must be close to Dover so that shipping operators can call off vehicles to quickly load ships. The dock area is sometimes insufficient to contain the lorry demand. The parking space required must be adequate to deal with the worst conditions caused by bad weather or strikes in France.

Views against: Destruction of natural habitats. Alternatives proposed were a widening to A20 with a 3rd lane for stacking, using the railway sidings above Shakespeare Beach together with the unused Hoverport and having a parking area further away i.e. Ashford or Folkestone. Terry Croft asked, why do it at all? We are sending our manufacturing jobs to Poland.

Bleriot Memorial

Reported by Sheila R Cope

Those who lived in Dover in the 1950's and early 60's may remember a Sunday afternoon stroll which took one up the East Cliff path, across the parade ground on Northfall Meadow, past the Bleriot memorial and the north walls of the Castle, to the summit of Castle Hill with the choice of returning to the town either via the zig-zag path to Laureston Place or through

Connaught Park. Now, I understand, the middle section of this walk requires the utmost determination in order to complete it. Scrub encroachment, described by Kirk Alexander at our meeting in January 2004, has all but enveloped the Bleriot Memorial. We understand that Dover District Council has kept the immediate area clear but may not continue to do so. Indeed visitors who



Bleriot's landing at Dover 1909



Bleriot's landing memorial 1909

can no longer envisage a grassy meadow must wonder how such a small frail aircraft could have landed amidst all those trees.

2009 marks the centenary of Louis Bleriot's first flight across the Channel in a manned aircraft. Now that the Langdon Cliffs area is so popular and "Bleriot" is en route for many tourists it is surely time to try to improve the status and accessibility of this historic but neglected memorial. Initial enquiries indicate that the land is the



Bleriot's route across the Channel 1909

responsibility of English Heritage. The Society's committee will attempt to further Bleriot's cause and would welcome any practical help and suggestions.

Pencester Gardens Bandstand

Reported by Adeline Riedy

The Committee had a discussion on what the Members would like them to suggest to Dover Town Council regarding the future of the Bandstand.

At the General Meeting a short history informed the meeting that the Town Council had the Bandstand built in 1999, as a Millennium Project, at the cost of £80,000 pounds. It was not the preferred site, but after consultation with the police and security *blind spots* were identified which resulted in the decision to build it in the position where we see it today. At the time Granville Gardens was also a preferred site, but Dover District Council would not give permission to release the land.

The Bandstand is now in need of repainting and the costing has been approved by the Town Council for the current financial year. The Dover Society has an interest by having previously purchased two flagstones, on the present

site at a cost of £290, with the two historic events commemorated being 1066, the Norman Invasion and 1520, Henry VIII and the Cloth of Gold. St Mary's School have also placed a *Time Capsule* in the base of the Bandstand.

It is not possible to move the Stand as a complete unit as the base is mainly brick. It would therefore be cheaper to leave the present one in position and built a new one *IF* the District Council could be



persuaded to release the land although it could not even be considered before the 2007/8 financial year. The downside would be that the town would have the expense of maintaining both bandstands. It was felt by members the bandstand was VERY UNDERUSED in its present position and that the Granville Gardens site would give many people the opportunity to listen to music in a more attractive setting with seating and parking available on the seafront. This is also the area where

Dover originally had a fine bandstand. After Members discussion time the vote was as follows:

Leave on present site	15 votes
Investigate moving it to Granville Gardens with a request to DHB to provide finance as a celebration of their Anniversary in 2006	17 votes
Move to a different site on the seafront	2 votes

Dover Pride

Reported by Jack Woolford

Chief Executive Nadeem Aziz says: "Dover Pride has commissioned regeneration consultants, Urban Practitioners, to produce a Master plan for Dover Town. The Dover Pride initiative seeks to promote an integrated approach to regeneration in Dover combining the renewal of the local economy, support for the community, improvements to the infrastructure of the town and enhancement of the local economy. Dover Pride consists of a partnership between Kent County Council, Dover District Council, South East Economic Development Association (SEEDA), Dover Harbour Board, Government Office for the South East (GOSE), East Kent Partnership, Kent and Medway LSC, Business Link Kent and representatives of the local business community.

The Master plan will undertake options and appraisal work on a series of areas within the urban area of Dover. The work will develop the recommendations of Dover Pride Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan (Feb 2005) and will also play a role in assisting the preparation of the Dover Area Action Plan which forms part of the Dover District Council's Local Development Framework ..."

This is in addition to the Local Development Framework (10,000-20,000 more houses for Dover), which replaces

the former Dover Local Plan, the Kent and Medway Structure Plan, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's South East Plan, and its accompanying Kent and Medway proposed amendments, to all of which the Dover Society has responded. We have uniformly asserted that the key to the replacement of Dover's lost industries and garrisons, etc, etc, is connection to the High Speed Rail Link, the restoration of the rail-freight link to the Western Docks, the dualling of the A2 from Lydden, the improvement of the stupid Townwall Street deadlock and the upgrading of Dover Priory. Without all these we shall not get commuters and tourists from London or developers to complete the uptake of the White Cliffs Business Park Phase I in addition to the White Cliffs Business Park Phase II. Dover's prime need is JOBS. Jobs by the thousand will fill Dover's many empty houses (and even justify building new ones), improve local shopping, stimulate educational improvement, promote the re-development of Buckland Paper Mill and even necessitate a new hospital. The employment horse should lead the housing cart.

Dover District Council has hired many consultants in the past. It will be more than interesting to see how Urban Practitioners compare. We shall, of course, be on hand to help.

Dover Harbour Board - Proposed Lorry Park

Reported by Mike Weston

At the Society's November indoor meeting, members were asked for their opinions on four subjects currently of interest to people living in and around Dover. The subject which led to the liveliest debate was the issue of the Harbour Board's proposal for a lorry park on the A20 on the outskirts of the town.

As I said at the above meeting, Dover, whether we like it or not, is dependant on the port. Dover is the Port and the Port is Dover. Without the port Dover would die. At present there is no other industry within the area that comes anywhere near providing the jobs which the port does. So it is in the interests of all the people of this town to see the port prosper. To this end decisions have to be made at times, which are going to be controversial; I believe that the lorry park is one of these decisions.

There is no doubt the town suffers heavily when freight vehicles are stacked up along Townwall Street in times of heavy usage of the port, delays due to weather, delays due to industrial action and mechanical failures of ships or plant. In such times it is manifestly obvious that an answer to the congestion in this area outside the port has to be sought. In my opinion the Dover Harbour Board does a splendid job under normal conditions in accepting vehicles into the port as they arrive and marshalling them into lanes for almost immediate transhipment. But the area they have to work from is tiny compared with areas in the continental ports and the area which the Channel Tunnel operators have at their disposal. When one considers that the modern ferry lifts 100 + heavy vehicles and that one of these vessels are arriving or leaving the port around every eight minutes in busy times it is not surprising that a build up of traffic occurs quickly if delays occur in the normally smooth running of the port operation. Delays, which are usually

beyond the control of the Port Authorities, soon see the available waiting areas within the port become congested and this congestion then feeds back into Townwall Street and beyond to the detriment of the town and its inhabitants.

The answer in my opinion has to be the construction of a lorry park which must be near to the port so that as vessels become available the requisite freight can be called forward to the port in as short a time as possible. It also has to be constructed alongside the main traffic route into Dover which as we all know is the A20. If not it will not be used. Facilities for freight drivers (lacking at the present time when "operation stack" is in operation) such as refreshments, toilets and washing facilities should be included in this area for humanitarian reasons.

At our November meeting a show of hands taken at the conclusion of this discussion indicated that virtually everyone present realized the need for the lorry park. The question for debate, however, was where this park should be situated. With a fairly even number of people happy with the proposed site against those wishing for further investigation into possible sites the argument is set to continue. But for the sake of Dover and its residents, especially those bordering Townwall Street, let us hope that a speedy and amicable decision can be reached so that Dover sees the end of queuing freight vehicles through the town and the port is able to attract more business and become even more successful.

After a very lively discussion the vote was as follows:

Support on the proposed site near Aycliffe	19 votes
Investigate other sites and possibilities	29 votes
Do nothing	0 votes

January

“HUBERT DE BURGH”

A talk by Phil Wyborn-Brown - Reported by Jack Woolford

Although a commoner, probably born in 1175 in Norfolk, by 1198 Hubert De Burgh was Court Chamberlain to the future King John, probably having already served John's brother, King Richard I. In 1200 he was appointed Custodian of Dover Castle, amongst many other signs of royal favour, and two years later Warden of the Cinque Ports. King John was confronted by rebellious barons and by his nephew Arthur of Brittany who were allied to Philip Augustus, king of France. King John won the battle of Falaise and captured Arthur (whose claim to the throne was better than his) who was later murdered. Willy-nilly Hubert was, perhaps innocently, involved and his fortunes fluctuated wildly as he rose and fell in the king's favour. However, when after the Battle of Bouvines in 1214, which Philip Augustus won, John was forced to submit to the Barons to sign Magna Carta at Runnymede in 1215, it was Hubert who emerged as Justiciar, the king's deputy.

At the invitation of some barons Prince Louis of France invaded England and twice besieged Dover Castle (“the key to the kingdom”) in 1216/17 and despite siege engines, a mine under the gate, siege towers and crossbowmen, Hubert not only defeated them on land but also at sea in the Battle of Sandwich. On the death of the Earl Marshall in 1219 he became Vice Regent to the young king Henry III and married the daughter of the



Coat of Arms (window)



Hubert de Burgh

king of Scotland. His power naturally generated opposition and in 1222 the pope intervened to give the Great Seal to the king. Although he was defeated by a Welsh rebellion and in an invasion of France he nevertheless became Earl of Kent, Justiciar of England and was endowed with castles galore in 1227/28. In 1232, however, rivals with baronial support supplanted him as Justiciar and he lost the Earldom of Kent, became a prisoner in the Tower

of London and his wealth was confiscated. Further imprisoned in Devizes, whence he escaped, he found sanctuary in a church from which he was rescued. Papal intervention caused Henry III to pardon him and he was restored as Earl of Kent and Constable of Dover Castle in 1234. He did not, however, live happily ever after because his daughter secretly married his wealthy ward Richard de

Clair. He pacified the king with money but the charges against him were revived in 1239. He was successfully defended but still had to forfeit castles in Wales. He died in 1243 aged 68.

Concluding this most remarkable story, Mr Wyborn-Brown contended that Hubert De Burgh should rank as an English national hero alongside Henry V, Nelson and Winston Churchill. But for his defence of Dover England would have fallen again to French conquest as in 1066. If not wholly convincing, this argument has some plausibility.

"THE HISTORY AND RESTORATION OF WALLETT'S COURT"

A talk by *Lea Oakley* - Reported by *Merril Lilley*

Lea Oakley, one of the present owners of Wallett's Court, situated at Westcliffe near St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, gave the second talk at the January meeting. She told us how she and her family had bought the property in 1975 and slowly and painstakingly restored it, little by little, to its present splendid state with hotel, restaurant and health spa.

There is mention of the site in the Domesday Book, where it is called 'The Manor of Westcliffe'. In 1627 it was a farmhouse and many of its original features date back to this period.

When the Oakleys took over the property in 1975 they faced a mammoth task. They paid £21,000 for a building in a very run-down state which needed everything doing to it. Lea told us how her husband looked at it and said, "Anybody who buys this must be

mad!" Nevertheless, they bought it in October 1975.

They were both working so the first stage of the restoration could only be done at weekends with help from all the family. It was an exhausting but exciting time. Some weekends earned a special title, associated with what was found then. There was the 'staircase weekend' which brought to light the old 1627 staircase, which had been hidden behind a lath and plaster wall and continued, to everyone's amazement, right up to the loft. Discoveries took place almost every week. The

'wall paintings weekend' was followed by the 'clay pipes weekend'. It was thought that the pipes had survived from the ostler's room above.

As the months went by, working in cold weather with no heating, they gradually removed all the 'rubbish' and got down to



Wallett's Court 1627 Doorway



Staircase 1627



Wall Painting



Eleanor of Castille

original features, such as the old beams and the ingle-nook fireplace. They worked on one room at a time, each taking about five months. Paint had to be removed from the beams; a long process. The carved posts, of great interest, had to be treated with care as they had the date, 1627, carved into the wood. Woodworm and dry rot had to be treated, and finally, for the new roof a mortgage was necessary.

Lea gave up her teaching job and worked full time at the house. More items were found as they worked; signs on the brick work, toys, pictures and coins.

In 1977 they held a grand party and in 1978 Lea started to offer 'Bed and Breakfast', first with two rooms for six weeks and then gradually building up. In 1978 Walleth's Court was awarded its plaque for a Historic Building of Kent. Lea's husband left his job as a chef in London to run the restaurant and the hotel went from strength to strength. Today it has 17 rooms, a restaurant with 60 table settings and a spa with a swimming pool.

As Lea taught history she became fascinated with the history of her new home and she gave us a brief summary. The Church of St. Peter's, across the road, dates from 1200 and was visited by Eleanor of Castille. Might she have stayed a Walleth's Court, wondered Lea? Was there a house there on the site when the church was built? Some of the detail on one of the posts in the house is not in keeping with 1627 and shows detail of Eleanor, but this could have been obtained from her tomb and then carved into the post. Lea researched Eleanor in depth and told us of some of her life as she followed her husband, Edward I, around the country.

In the Tudor period there was a connection with Katherine Parr when she was married to her first husband, of the de Burgh family. There seems to have been a connection with Walleth's Court but she did not stay there.

One of the first mentions of the property was found in an old will, of

one Thomas Gibbon. Letters carved on the porch show TDG (Thomas and Dorothy Gibbon) 1627. The letter G is reversed. A stone in the church has graves of the Gibbons. Edward Gibbon, historian who wrote *Decline and Fall* was a descendant.

Between 1804-06 Walleth's Court was visited by William Pitt when he was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. In the nineteenth century the house was tenanted by William Banks, descendant of Joseph Banks, the botanist, who sailed with Cook. In more recent times many well-known celebrities have stayed at Walleth's.

This was all so interesting we wanted to know more and, certainly, to visit the house to see for ourselves the results of the Oakleys' restoration. Many thanks to Lea Oakley for her excellent talk.



Walleth's Court 1978



Walleth's Court 1987

Christmas Feast

* * * Alan Lee * * *

Held on Saturday, 17th December, at the Dover College Refectory the Christmas Feast of 2005 lived up to all expectations.

On arrival we were greeted warmly and offered either a glass of sherry or fruit juice. Everyone present, including the Town Mayor, seemed in excellent spirits and the atmosphere was full of expectation of an evening's entertainment.

The food was well presented, tasted excellent and there was plenty for all, as my young daughter can testify as she was seen approaching the buffet at least three times. The most acceptable wine and juice was also in plentiful supply and the delicious, tempting desserts rounded off an excellent meal.

This year was also Adeline Reidy's first

at running the raffle and she must be congratulated in making it a success. Once again we must extend our thanks to Joan Liggett for booking the most excellent *Quodlibet* who were a resounding success.

Everyone left, I am sure, after having had a most enjoyable evening. My 11 year old daughter is already looking forward to the 2006 feast with great anticipation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped in anyway to make this such an enjoyable occasion.

We would like to have some views and suggestions from members. What would you like? Have you any ideas for entertainers? Please reply to the editor or if preferred just call on 01304 213668. We can then take account of your views.



Wine and Wisdom 2006 ? ?

Report from Merrill Lilley

The Society's annual Wine and Wisdom evening was held on Monday, 20th February and this has become such a regular event that we all expect it to occur each February and to be a great success.

This year was no exception. Clive Taylor and his trusty team embarked on the usual pattern of nine rounds, with the fifth being a selection of Dingbats to be worked out while the teams enjoyed their refreshments of wine and ploughman's platter. This year the Dingbats seemed more difficult to interpret but when we complained Clive said that in the previous year he had been told they were too easy! Each team chose one round to play its Joker, bringing the total score to 100.

The attendance was better than ever, 15 teams of 6 just filling St. Mary's Parish Centre.

The winners were the Dam Busters with a magnificent score of 83 (Prize engraved tumblers). Second team was the Bill Stickers with 82 correct answers (Prize engraved glass measures), just beating the Odds and Sods who took third place.

Many thanks to Clive and his team and to Joan and all her helpers for arranging this enjoyable evening.



Dr Reginald Koettlitz

POLAR EXPLORER, GEOLOGIST, BOTANIST

Visit to Cradock, South Africa by Aubrey A. Jones

In my article concerning Dr Reginald Koettlitz (RK) in the 50th edition of the Society newsletter I said I was hoping, during 2005, to visit South Africa where Dr Koettlitz and his wife died and are buried.

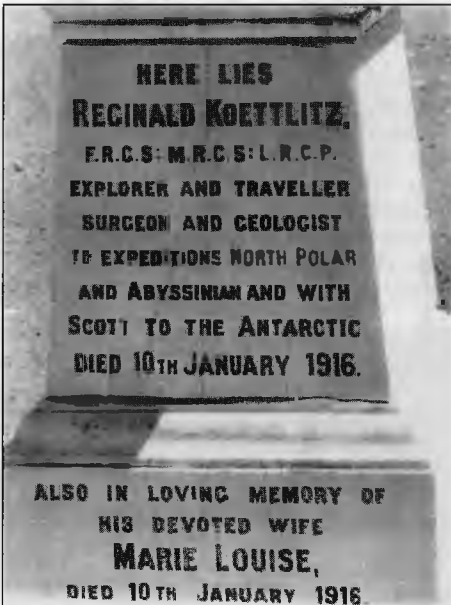
In November I accomplished this and visited both Cradock and Somerset East, Eastern Cape, where Koettlitz practised as a rural doctor and ostrich farmer and was later interred in the Anglican section of the Cradock Cemetery.

This is a brief account of what I achieved and discovered, to add to the reputation of Dover's famous explorer from the heroic period of polar and African exploration. I had previously

been in email and postal contact with a number of elderly contacts in the area who had direct knowledge of RK through their ancestors or by taking an interest in local history.

You may recall, from my previous article, that Dr Koettlitz had an impressive memorial stone in the cemetery and I was hoping that this still existed. Other objectives were to locate the original photograph of RK in his polar clothing shown in the 50th edition and any correspondence he may have written during his time in South Africa.

Cradock is a small rural town located in the Karoo region of the Eastern Cape and is still fairly remote. It is the largest



Cradock Cemetery, South Africa



Vortrekker Street, Cradock

Dutch Reform Church, Cradock



town between Port Elizabeth, my place of arrival and Bloemfontein in central South Africa. It is 300 kilometres from Port Elizabeth and the only hamlet en-route is Cookhouse which derives its name from being the main cookhouse and depot of the British army during the Boer War in that region.

During the time RK resided in South Africa 1905-1916 it would have been even more remote although there was a single railway line between the two towns with a junction at Cookhouse. RK initially practised in the area of Darlington near Somerset East. This is now at the bottom of Lake Mentz a large reservoir created to

serve the Eastern Cape. His subsequent practice was in the Karoo town of Somerset East which remains an attractive farming community at the foot of the Bosberg hills and was sited here for defence purposes during the frontier wars.

On the approach to Cradock there is one of two large "townships" which house the majority of the town's 50,000 inhabitants which includes approximately 4,000 Afrikaans and British descendants of the early settlers.

The town is much as it was during the time Dr Koettlitz resided in the region with many buildings from the Victorian period and a small number over 150 years old. Having located my B&B, which was a fine Victorian house, it was time to become familiar with the layout of the town, which is dominated

by a fine Dutch reformed Church, a perfect copy of St Martin's in the Fields in Trafalgar Square.

I headed for the Municipal offices and town museum where I discovered that RK is one of four celebrities highlighted in the information guide to Cradock. In fact, he holds number two spot after Olive Schreiner the famous South African author who resided in the town.

The curator of the museum was somewhat bemused by my arrival and pointed out he was only at the museum by default and had no knowledge of local history. I then spotted on the wall above his desk the very photograph of RK in full

polar attire. Had he sat at the desk for over a year without looking up? Initially I thought he was about to give me the photograph to return to UK but once I had explained the significance of Dr Koettlitz in 19th century exploration, he decided the picture should remain in Cradock. Unfortunately, no further information was retained at the museum.

I then met an elderly gentleman by the name of Duncan Ferguson, a retired manager of South African railways whose lifetime's passion had been historical research of the Eastern Cape. This I discovered was the place to locate the history and records of Cradock and Somerset East and his home housed the most wonderful collection of manuscripts, photographs, paper cuttings and other material going back 150 years. This included a sizeable file of Reginald Koettlitz and his life in the region. We spent many hours together discussing RK and many other issues concerning South Africa from the past and present time.

Duncan Ferguson then escorted me to the Anglican Church, Cradock where the burial service for RK and his wife, Marie Louise, was conducted and to the



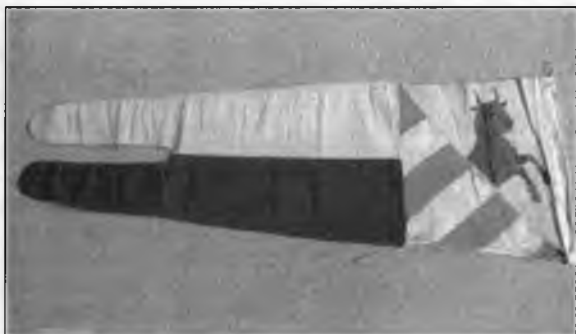
Duncan Ferguson, local historian, at Dr Reginald Koettlitz grave

Anglican Cemetery where the fine memorial still stands. Both Dr Koettlitz and his wife were carried to the grave by local Freemasons as stipulated in his will which incidentally had been witnessed by Sir Ernest Shackleton the heroic polar explorer. A little worn, the grave lies amongst those of the British soldiers killed in the Boer war in engagements in the Cradock area.

Although a well-kept cemetery it seemed a lonely resting spot for one of Dover's eminent citizens and outstanding explorers of the period. This was made even more pronounced when I discovered his plans to lead another expedition south to the Antarctic, the objective being to reach the South Pole set up a base there for up to six months. This was to be a purely scientific expedition and linked to a shore base with similar objectives. It is interesting to note that such a scientific expedition base was not established for approximately another fifty years. Unfortunately, as with many grand plans, funding was not forthcoming and he never left his hard life in South Africa but was thinking years ahead of his time.

This is the first time that plans for such an expedition have been published. RK was held in very high esteem in the Eastern Cape by local residents and the professional community but it shows he never entirely settled. It was the failing health of his wife that finally scuppered any further thoughts of exploration or a return to England.

I remained in Cradock for six days and by the end of my stay had become a well known visitor to the town and the profile of Dr Reginald Koettlitz had risen to new heights. The 50th edition of the Dover Society Newsletter is now located in the town museum, the Municipal Building, the Olive Schreiner museum and the Victoria Hotel which happens to be the only hotel in town and the meeting place of Cradock's influential citizens.



Dr Reginald Koettlitz sledging flag discovery Antarctic expedition

I have been asked to re-write the official RK historical document held in the Municipal Hall and museum as it contains many inaccuracies and links Koettlitz to the death of Captain R F Scott on his subsequent fatal expedition. By this time RK was resident in South Africa.

My research in Cradock at an end I headed for Somerset East and the museum in particular. The comparison with Cradock museum could not have been greater. The very helpful curator once I had gained access via many security doors, immediately went to the safe and located the "Reginald Koettlitz" file, which contained many documents and other material of great significance. Two letters in particular show the



Somerset East Museum, Eastern Cape

outstanding reputation of RK in the Eastern Cape. In one old lady describes his excellence as a doctor to the whole community and his particular attention and kindness to children. She also writes that Marie Louise Koettlitz received brightly coloured magazines from France which she turned into dolls for the local children. The second, from the late Professor W H Craib of Somerset East hospital,

describes RK as a "Tallish, thinnish, sad-faced and withdrawn world famous north and south polar regions explorer. He travelled by horse and cart for over 50 miles attending his patients and collecting his post and other necessities. He was sad and seemed frustrated by something that happened to him in Europe - not uncommon behaviour among OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF HOMO SAPIENS".

Following my research and enquiries in Somerset East in was time to head back down the N10 highway to Port Elizabeth and a few days rest and recuperation on the coast before returning to the UK. I was most grateful for the assistance and kindness shown

me in the towns I visited which are well off the normal tourist trail for visitors to South Africa. The Eastern Cape receives many visitors from the UK, so if you happen to be in the Karoo region don't forget to visit the memorial to one of Dover College's outstanding alumni and it is the reason Dover Museum has that most famous polar bear.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES...

& Thoughts of Dad

by Linda Lee

MY DAD WAS A REAL CHARACTER. His name was Norman Wright, but he was always known as Tim, I am not sure why Tim but it suited his personality better than Norman. He was always a happy-go-lucky type of a bloke, always singing and whistling songs with all the wrong words, especially when taking Mandy the family dog out for a walk. He had a love of clean air and the peace and quiet of the countryside.

I can picture him now dressed in his old tweed jacket tied up with a piece of string and with bicycle clips on his trousers. If there had been any horses down the lane that day he would have a bucket and spade with him to collect the droppings to fertilise his garden. At the time we had one of the biggest gardens in Guston and it was always full of flowers and vegetables, his favourites being wallflowers which he would forever be trying to sell.

In the early days when I was still quite small we used to move around a lot because after Dad left the pits he found it very hard to settle down doing one job. He tried his hand at various things, often working as a farm labourer, and once as a grave digger. This did not last very long as it was too upsetting for him, especially when it involved small children.

When I was about five we moved to a place called Salton, back once again to working on a farm. We moved into a tied cottage set in the middle of a field with a dirt track running past either side, one leading to the farm and the other to the main road near the Swingate Inn. Mum always had to collect our mail from an old biscuit tin she left under a tree for the postman. It was much harder for her having to drag sacks of coal down the track to provide a bit of extra winter heat.

I loved the countryside but being the only child it could sometimes be a bit lonely.

At times like these I would go into the fields around about and talk to the cows. It was like having a complete secret fantasy family of friends. I was blessed the most vivid of imaginations, even the old toilet at the bottom of the garden was turned into my dream house where I used to go to look after all of my make-believe children.

That was, of course, until Dad went on one of his regular trips to Sandwich market; he could not stand for anything to be in a cage, so he would always buy it and bring it home. Poor Mum, she never knew what he would turn up with next. Once he came home with four geese and a brown duck, which was very exciting for me and it made a nice change from all the rabbits we already had. One bad night a fox got in and killed all our geese, but in the morning I was happy to find that Billy my brown duck had escaped unharmed. To make sure that he was safe Dad turned my little house (the old toilet) at the bottom of the garden into a refuge for him.

One night, out of the blue, Mum and Dad asked me if I wanted to go on a caravan holiday or to have a baby sister. Immediately I shouted, "A sister, of course". Then lo and behold after what seemed forever: in fact it must have been just a few short months, there arrived a little baby boy. At first I thought that this was very unfair as I had said that I wanted a sister. However I soon got over the disappointment and have always loved my baby brother a great deal.

When I started school at East Langdon, this being at least a mile and a half away meant that poor Mum had to walk me to school in all weathers. This, as well as a young baby to look after. Looking back I sometimes wonder how she managed it.

One evening after school Dad suddenly said that he was starting a new job at the Duke of York's School and we would be

moving to Guston. At first I was sad at having to leave our quiet and peaceful existence as I loved the country way of life. I was also sad because we had to leave my duck Billy behind. I gave him to our nearest neighbour to look after. Dad said that he probably ended up in the cook pot; I like to think that he lived to a ripe old age and passed away peacefully.

We settled into our council house at Guston quite quickly, with me at a new school and my brother just coming up to school age. We found it a friendly place and Mum got on well with the neighbours. What a big difference it made to her life being able to stop and have people to talk to. For my brother and me the highlight of day would be to see our Dad come home as he normally had some sweets for us. It did not matter how small they were: it made us feel special.

As we got older our parents started to take us out more. Mainly it was a day out to a nearby town. We were always excited and we always went by bus. If Dad sat next to a stranger then you can bet that by the end of the journey he would have invited them round for tea if they were ever in the area. Mum was only too pleased that no one ever took him up on the offer. Imagine what it would be like for a perfect stranger to turn up on your doorstep expecting tea.

As my brother grew older and started to take more of an interest in football and cricket there would be Dad playing along with all of the kids on the village green. A lot of the time it was not my brother the kids came for to play it was my Dad.

As I got older he was always making me laugh. He would try any silly thing if someone had told him it would cure an ill. Apparently boiled onions cure a cold and if you rub coconut oil on your head it will



Linda with Dad



Norman (Tim) Wright

make the hair grow: one of his favourites as by then he was getting a bald spot.

These are some of my treasured memories of Dad who, after a series of heart attacks, died only 47 years old on 20th April 1977.

I still miss him tremendously even after all these years and it makes me sad that my husband and daughter never had the pleasure of meeting him. Mum and her new partner still live in Guston and over the years have made a happy life for one another.

I wish that I had had the chance to tell him that although we never had a lot of money or mod. cons. ours was a very happy childhood with a very special mum and dad.



Linda, Norman Wright, wife Ivy and Geoffery at Leysdown, Isle of Sheppey

MP Who Proved To Be No Butterfly

by Terry Sutton

Every year, for 300 years, our civic leaders have distributed the Papillon Charity to deserving recipients in Dover.

Just who was this man Thomas Papillon with the French name meaning butterfly whose generosity has benefited our citizens down the ages?

Thomas Papillon sprang from a French Protestant family who, in the reign of Elizabeth I, were asylum seekers in this country. His father David and the then family stole away from France in 1588 but their ship was wrecked near Dover and Mrs Papillon was drowned. His father presumably married again and Thomas was born in Putney in 1623, although the family home was in Leicestershire.

At the age of 14, young Thomas was apprenticed to a member of the Mercer Company and made progress. This was the time of the aftermath of the Civil War and he and a fellow apprentice began plotting for the overthrow of Cromwell and the restoration of the monarchy. Their plot was discovered and the two had to run away to France.

By about 1648 Thomas Papillon thought it safe to return to England but he was arrested and jailed at Newgate until the man to whom he was apprenticed bailed him out so that he could continue his apprenticeship. He served under this employer for 13 years until the age of 27 when he embarked on a merchant's career on his own account, becoming a director of the East India Company.

Thomas is reported to have taken no further involvement in politics until after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 (when Charles II landed at Dover). In 1666 Thomas purchased the Manor of Acrise near Folkestone and around this time he married Jane Broadnax of Godmersham.

In 1673 the Earl of Sandwich died and his heir, Dover MP Viscount Hinchinbrook, went to the House of Lords creating a vacancy at Dover. Papillon made his move and contested the election that proved to be hard fought. His opponent was Admiral Sir Edward Sprague who had the support of Dover Corporation (an offer

of £300 to the town might have had an influence in that support). Papillon was elected but his opponents alleged there was something wrong with the election procedure so another election was ordered. Not to be outdone Dover Corporation hastily appointed 52 new Freemen (who had the vote) and this second election resulted in Papillon's defeat. Before Papillon could take action on what had been going on in Dover his successful opponent, Admiral Sprague, was killed in action against the Dutch in August 1673. The House of Commons ordered that Thomas Papillon should be admitted as Member of Parliament for Dover. He became active in Parliament on commercial issues and introduced and carried through a Bankruptcy Bill.

There was further trouble for Thomas Papillon during his third term as an MP when he became involved in strife with the Lord Mayor of London while he was carrying out his duties as Sheriff of London. Due to some kind of legal mix-up a writ was issued under Papillon's name for the arrest of the Lord Mayor for which the mayor hit back with a court action that resulted in Papillon being ordered to pay £10,000 damages. To evade this punishing fine Thomas mortgaged his estates in Kent and dashed off to Holland where he remained until the end of the Stuart dynasty in 1688.

After the abdication of James II and the arrival of William III (William of Orange), Thomas Papillon returned from exile and in January 1689 was again returned as Dover's MP. He was elected Dover's MP five times between 1673 and 1690 and was followed, after his death in London on May 5 in 1702, by his son Philip and later by David Papillon who served as Dover's MP from 1734-1741.

*In his will Thomas Papillon bequeathed £400 for the purchase of land, houses or annuities with the profits arising to be used to help the sons of Freemen of Dover to become apprentices or to help the sons of poor Freemen to set up in trades. Or to be distributed in helping poor Freemen as should appear fit and convenient. That is what Dover councillors seek to do every January.

WESTERN HEIGHTS OPEN WEEKEND

The Western Heights Preservation Society

The Western Heights Preservation Society (WHPS) will once more be welcoming visitors to the White Cliffs Countryside Project's (WCCP) Western Heights Open Day in Dover. Special openings of the Drop Redoubt and Grand Shaft on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th June 2006 will appeal to all and cater for the casual visitor as well as the specialist wanting to find out more about Dover's Western Heights. On the Sunday additional activities for all the family will include stalls and activities for children, demonstrations of traditional craft and re-enactments, all on the site of the former Grand Shaft Barracks. Refreshments will also be available on the Sunday, including hot food and drinks. The main activities will take place from 11am and the last admission to the Drop Redoubt and Grand Shaft will be at 4pm. The Society will also have on sale a number of publications and information sheets on the Western Heights.

For the last three years the WHPS has provided access to this wonderful fortification and offered views inside a fortress normally closed to the public. No booking will be required and visitors will be free to explore the Redoubt at their own pace with marshals on hand to offer guidance throughout the fort. Health and Safety considerations will not permit every part of the site to be open but much will be and the weekend will provide an excellent opportunity to get an idea of the scale of this large fortress. Plenty of opportunity will be available for historians, archaeologists, architects and all visitors interested in fortifications or any of the historical periods covered by the Heights to explore and indeed photograph the Redoubt and Grand Shaft. This may well be the only time this year that the Drop Redoubt will be open on such a scale.

Everyone wishing to visit the Drop Redoubt is reminded that this is a historic building that is being opened especially for this event. All walkways will be made safe but sensible clothing, and particularly suitable footwear is required. Due to a number of steps within the Drop Redoubt access for wheelchair users and for pushchairs is sadly not possible. Both are however more than welcome at the site of the Grand Shaft Barracks on the Sunday where a number of activities will be taking place.

Entry to the Drop Redoubt will cost £3 for adults and £1 for accompanied children and all proceeds will go towards the work of the WHPS.

In addition to this excellent opportunity to visit the Redoubt, the Grand Shaft triple helix spiral staircase will also be open free of charge to all, though donations are appreciated. The Shaft is made up of three sets of spiral steps, one above the other, linking the sea front with the site of the former barracks. The opportunity to see this spectacular piece of 19th century architecture must not be missed. It was once described as 'such a union of elegance and convenience [that it] might have reflected credit even upon the genius of Sir Christopher Wren'.

The Western Heights are just off the A20 on the western side of Dover overlooking the Western Docks. Turn off at the first roundabout and drive up South Military Road, the Drop Redoubt is at the top of the hill and parking is available on Military Road at St. Martin's Battery or North Entrance.

People interested in attending are advised to keep an eye on the WHPS website, www.dover-western-heights.org where any additional details will be released, or contact the White Cliffs Countryside Project on 01304 241806.

Great Oaks From Little Acorns Grow

Marilyn Stephenson-Knight

WHOO was Coulson Crascall? And who was Harry Terry? And what do they have in common?

Questions like these are exactly what an exciting new initiative for Dover will answer. Under the auspices of the Town Council I have the honour to be the academic researcher for the Dover War Memorial Project. It aims to discover the full names, the families, and the histories behind every person named on the memorial that stands outside the Dover Town Council offices at Maison Dieu House. Fittingly, the project was born on Remembrance Sunday last year, the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the ending of World War II. While we stood in reverent silence by the memorial, remembering those who had given so much for all of us, there were two men in particular of whom I thought. Both are named on the memorial, both were my great uncles, and one was Coulson Crascall.



Dover's war memorial outside of Maison Dieu House

Therein lies the first answer. Coulson Crascall and Harry Terry were both Dovorian and both of them died in the Great War, World War I. Their names are preserved by the memorial, and we honour them and millions of others every November. The Dover War Memorial Project will continue this, publishing in an accessible form as much information as possible about our local heroes. The intention is to try to understand who they were and what they did - and how they lost their lives. In other words the project seeks to find and to know, as far as is possible, the person who bore the name.

The benefits of this are many. Not only does it help us to remember them - and underline the meaning and the enormity of the loss - but this project will also help educate our new generations about the sacrifices made by their forebears. It will give them an insight into the personal costs of war, it will enable them to relate important events in history to local knowledge, and in many cases it will reveal what their own relatives did, thus giving them an introduction to social and family history too. That is not all, for the Dover War Memorial Project is a community project. There is great enthusiasm and interest, there are many offers of help, and several people have already brought in to the Town Council offices items relating to their relatives, including an official yet most kindly letter announcing a death and some photographs, along with much useful information. This is a resource which everyone may use and to which everyone may contribute, including schoolchildren who may participate in research.

Can the Dover War Memorial Project tell us more about what Coulson Crascall and Harry Terry have in common? Indeed it can, for research reveals that both their

fathers were born in Dover and they even had the same name - Henry. Their sons, Coulson and Harry, are described as having brown hair and fresh complexions, both were married, and both of them, with records of 'very good' conduct, were seamen. They had tattoos on their left arms, but only Harry had a nautical one, having chosen an anchor. Though Harry was three years older than Coulson, having been born in 1875, they probably knew each other, for they came from the same area of Dover (Coulson lived in Military Road and Harry just off Biggin Street) and several times served on the same vessels, the Pembroke and the Wildfire, though not always at the same time. They also both served on the H.M.S. Cressy. This was to be their last voyage, for here, not long after the war began, both of them died. The cause of their deaths on 22nd September 1914 is given as 'killed in action with submarine in North Sea'.

Other records offer more information about what happened. Coulson is described as 'drowned' and Harry as 'lost' in the North Sea when Cressy was sunk by a German submarine. The submarine was Unterseeboot U-9, commanded by Lieutenant Otto Weddigen, who just a month before had married his childhood love. At around 7.15am he fired three torpedoes at the Cressy. One missed, and one, of which the crew plainly saw the trail as it approached them, struck her on the starboard side. Cressy began to list but remained steady for the crew had already closed the watertight doors and scuttles. It was the third torpedo that was fatal. It hit a boiler room, the boiler exploded, and within just 25 minutes 'in a cloud of dense black smoke' the Cressy had turned over and sunk.

Lieutenant Weddigen stated that the men of the Cressy were 'brave and true to their country's sea traditions'. They remained as long as they could by their guns, seeking the U-boat and even attempting to run it down. But they were

unable to damage it. Just how brave they were is shown by what else had already happened that morning. The Cressy was the last of three armoured cruisers lost within an hour. The crew had already witnessed the sinking of H.M.S. Aboukir. She was struck by torpedo at 6.25am under one of her magazines. This then exploded, hurling part of the vessel into the air. As the Cressy and the third ship, HMS Hogue, lowered boats to help survivors, the Hogue too was struck by two torpedoes. Her engine room flooded and she sank within twenty minutes. Captain Johnson of the Cressy ordered the crew to begin zigzagging as a defence, trying at the same time to manoeuvre close enough to assist the crews from the Aboukir and Hogue. Even before Cressy was struck her crew had thrown overboard all their loose timber to provide support for the men in the water. But the zigzagging failed. Survivors from the Cressy described how their fate was inevitable, for they had seen the third and fatal torpedo aimed at them passing directly over the upturned hull of the sinking Aboukir.

Otto Weddigen states that before he attacked he passed by several British ships, including torpedo boats, for he was seeking 'bigger game'. He is described as hardly able to believe his luck when he espied, as he says, the 'grey-black sides' of the cruisers 'riding high over the water'. The three vessels formed a triangle and he positioned U-9 in the centre, thus enabling the submarine to strike any one. But why was he so easily able to do this, and to carry out such a successful attack?

The three cruisers, Aboukir, Hogue, and Cressy, were of an old design, much slower than newer battleships. Even before the war the decision had been made that they were no longer to be maintained and once faults became serious they were to be scrapped. Many from their crews were young and inexperienced, and they were without their normal hierarchy of command for

two Rear Admirals were absent. Despite advice to the contrary, the Admiralty commanded the cruisers to patrol an area off the coast of Holland in order to help keep approaches to the English Channel clear of German mine-layers and torpedo boats. Operating without destroyer support owing to adverse weather conditions, so great was the vulnerability of the cruisers that they were known as the 'Live-Bait Squadron'. Having enticed U-9, their own actions compounded their danger for they ordinarily travelled without zigzagging - which Otto Weddigen himself stated had rendered Cressy more difficult to hit - and Hogue and Cressy, rather than calling for destroyers and removing themselves, had stopped their engines in order to help the crew of the Aboukir. At the later enquiry in to the loss of the vessels, all their senior officers were censured.

One who came in for particular criticism was the absent Rear Admiral Campbell who was in overall command of Cruiser Force C, as the patrol was known. He was accused of 'a very poor performance' at the enquiry, for he maintained he did not know the purpose of his command. While this may seem an incredible admission, it nevertheless provides a further perspective. World War I was like no other - the period has become known as 'the birth of total war'. The Great War was the offspring of the industrial revolution and a key moment for the power of the modern state in terms of mass mobilisation, industrial logistical warfare, and the formation of patriotic identity. But at the same time it retained vestiges of previous eras, for on the battlefields contemporary technology and infrastructure were frequently unable to provide swift communication and transport, and so armies often moved by foot and depended on messengers. Along with the soon-shattered belief in 1914 that the war would be finished by Christmas, this provided a sense that new tactics for this different époque needed to be

developed, learnt, and employed. This perhaps is what lies behind Rear Admiral Campbell's statement. They were learning on the job.

In 1914 the submarine as a combatant was given little importance or credence, for it was assumed that war at sea would be between battleships. There was much less awareness of danger from beneath the waves, and in those first days of the war many vessels customarily did not zigzag. Moreover, the cruisers were looking out for ships, not submarines, and thus when the Aboukir exploded Captain Drummond believed they had struck a mine. He signalled the other two vessels to his aid. It was only when the Hogue was torpedoed that the danger was understood. Even then there was confusion, for Bertram Nicholson, Commander of the Cressy, believed there was more than one submarine, and Lieutenant Weddigen states that the Cressy was firing wildly, hoping to hit a target, but that only one shot came 'unpleasantly near'.

Great oaks from little acorns grow. What this research for the Dover War Memorial Project demonstrates is how initially following the story of one man, Coulson Crascall, provides an entry to greater and further knowledge, in this case into the very nature of the Great War itself and how it may be understood. But again, it does not end there! At the same time the project illustrates how vast events may have local impacts. Left behind when Harry and Coulson died were two widows and grieving families and dependants. But they were not the only ones. On our memorial is another seaman lost with the Cressy. Allan Loram was a stoker, and he left behind his parents, Jesse and Mary Ann, when he was killed at the age of 37.

This is where the Dover War Memorial Project produces surprises. For research has shown that, although he is not named on the memorial, there was a fourth Cressy victim from Dover. His name was William Epps and he was 47 when he died. His father was a Dovorian, and his wife

Margaret lived just along the coast at Sandgate. Very probably he knew Allan Loram, for William was a Petty Officer Stoker. Perhaps they were both working where the U-9's third torpedo struck.

There were also Dover victims from the Aboukir. Six are named on the memorial: Sydney Claw, Edward Everall, William Fairweather, John Fennel, Benjamin Franklin, and Horace Fry. Two more, George Holder and Maurice Woods, who are not on the memorial, have also been found. All of them left parents, and most left widows for only Edward and William were not married. Despite several ships and little vessels, alerted by wireless, rushing to help the men from the three cruisers, over 1,400 lost their lives that morning. We now know that twelve were Dovorians. But could there be any more victims from our town? Were there any Dovorians on the Hogue? And were there any Dovorians who survived? These are just three of the many questions the Dover War Memorial Project is trying to answer.

There is one other question that can be answered here. The twelve men all died on the same day, they all died in the same action, and they all were Dovorians. But what else do they have in common? The answer is that as seamen registered at Chatham, they are all commemorated on the large Naval Memorial there. For, lost at sea, they have no known grave.

And yet ... perhaps they have. Twenty five miles off the Dutch coast, in a hundred feet of water, lie the wrecks of the Cressy, the Aboukir, and the Hogue. Technology has advanced, and just over eighty years after they foundered divers began to visit them. They are sunk into a soft sandy mud, so close together that it is uncertain which cruiser is which. The remains of bridges and gun stations can still be seen, along with a gaping area of damage on one of the vessels - probably the result of the torpedo attack. But their condition is poor, and one of the divers believes that within another eighty years the remains will be virtually gone.

That is why memorials are so important. As the years go on, reminders and memories become fewer and fade. At the start of World War I there were senior officers at the Admiralty who tried to save the crews of the Cressy, Aboukir, and Hogue. Even they may not have completely appreciated the threat of the submarine, for they argued that the cruisers were vulnerable to modern surface ships. But one of those officers doubtless could have done, for he was Commodore of Submarines from 1910 to 1914 and had used British submarines at the battle of Heligoland Bight, less than a month before Cruiser Force C was torpedoed. He too is one of our local heroes. He is buried in St James's cemetery, and in April Dover Town Council will be commemorating the action for which he gained fame, and which formed part of his title when he became a peer. Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, Baron Keyes of Zeebrugge and Dover, opposed the sending of the 'Live-Bait Squadron' to the Broad Fourteens off Holland. Perhaps it is appropriate then that the memorial he unveiled in 1924 preserved some of the names of the men he sought to save. It is this work that the Dover War Memorial Project will continue, honouring those we lost by remembering them and by enabling those who come after to discover and learn about them.

To be continued.



Marilyn Stephenson-Knight

The Western Heights Preservation Society

Report from Chris Taft, Publicity Secretary

The Western Heights Open Weekend

As the nights stay lighter for longer and the mornings are brighter spring must be on the way and with it activities intensify in preparation for the annual open weekend at Dover's Western Heights. This edition of the Dover Society Newsletter contains details of this year's event. The latest news is that the Drop Redoubt will be open on both Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th June. Re-enactors will be onsite on at least one of the days this year. As well as the ever popular Napoleonic 1st Foot Guards members of the Hellfire Corner Living History Club will be encamped, helping to demonstrate the role Western Heights played during World War Two. The weekend will be supported by the now annual lecture evening to take place at 7.30pm on the Saturday evening. This year the WHPS is delighted to welcome Nicholas Hall from the Royal Armouries at Fort Nelson, speaking about artillery.



1st Foot Guards at previous open weekend

Exact details are still to be confirmed and at the time of going to press details of the venue are not yet fixed. Anyone interested is encouraged to keep an eye on the WHPS website at:

www.dover-western-heights.org

where the latest news of the open weekend and all aspects of the Society will be posted.

Publicity and Promotions

The Publicity and Promotions team of the WHPS is pleased to announce that it has secured funding from Kent County Council to purchase digital presentation equipment to help spread news of what the WHPS is up to and to present the history of the Heights. A special talk has been prepared which will be delivered for the first time in late February. This is intended to explain the Heights, its history and significance, to audiences previously unfamiliar with it. The talk is rich in images showing the Western

Heights as it was and is, explains how it developed and outlines the work of the WHPS. It can be adapted to meet a variety of audiences with different backgrounds and prior knowledge of the Heights. Any group interested in finding out more are asked to contact the Publicity Secretary at the address below.

Work on distributing the Society leaflet continues, with 5000 having been made available for distribution at the London Parade. Groups who are interested in distributing the leaflets are again asked to contact the Publicity Secretary.

Towards the end of last year the

Casement Barracks (south) at Western Outworks.
Western Heights



WHPS helped to facilitate a visit to the Drop Redoubt by the Young Archaeologists' Club who appeared to enjoy their visit. Some of their members produced a very well written article for their publication. Conversations have taken place with members of the group in the hope of further developing links with younger enthusiasts of the Heights.

Work Days

Work days are now a regular feature at the Heights and each month more members and non-members get involved in a variety of activities that help improve the site for all. Much of the work is focused on preserving the site and making it accessible to visitors for the open days. Currently much work has taken place clearing rubble from part of the Drop Redoubt which will help improve the experience for visitors to this year's open weekend. Extra volunteers are always welcome so anyone wishing to become involved should look at the website www.dover-western-heights.org for details of dates of forthcoming work days.

Getting Involved

The WHPS is keen for people to become involved at all levels with all sorts of work and would welcome hearing from anyone who wishes to help. The Society is at present especially keen to recruit more people to assist on more administrative levels, most especially helping to work on developing the Society. Every year at one of the open days visitors say how much they enjoy the day and the opportunity to see parts of the site not normally open. Every time they express the wish to see it open more often. Opening just once a year takes up an incredible amount of the time of the core of dedicated volunteers and to open more often and do even more will require more people.

There is a great deal to be done, much has been achieved but much more can be with more support. Other plans are in the pipeline but can only be realised with more help. The WHPS is very grateful to all its members and will always welcome hearing from others who can and will help. 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 or write to WHPS, Pox 366, DEAL, Kent CT14 9XY



Work day, Western Heights

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor

I thought the Dover Design Competition was rubbish and a waste of money but I was not aware of the idea submitted by the Roman Painted House. It is so simple but says so much and would do so much for Dover and tourism. Please can I have your view?

Thanks and kind regards,
Mike McFarnell



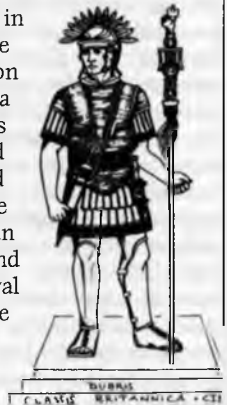
Roman Painted House entry for Dover Design competition

Artists and designers have been producing eye-catching designs for Dover after they were challenged to come up with a really exciting idea which could bring in millions for the town.

Key Element 1 of 8

The Colossus of Dover in the Harbour Area

This is a greatly-enlarged figure of a Roman Legionary, standing astride in full armour and holding a standard found in Dover in 1970. It is intended that this should closely resemble the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the seven ancient wonders of the world. That famous classical figure was built across the harbour of Rhodes in about 305BC. It was destroyed by an earthquake in about 224BC. The Dover Colossus should also stand 32m high and could be positioned on the outer breakwater, foreshore or seafront. It should stand on a podium, be cast in bronze and be illuminated at night. This Colossus will reflect the fact that Dover was the Gateway of Roman Britain and the first port of entry. All Imperial officials entered through Dover and most would have stayed in the hotel (mansio), now known as the Roman Painted House. Dover was also selected as the Roman Headquarters of the Classis Britannica, the fleet of the Channel and North Sea. It was thus the only naval base known in Britannia. The naval fort was discovered by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit in 1971. The importance of Roman Dover is further emphasised by the construction of an even larger Roman army fort in the late 3rd Century AD. This true Colossus, with its very long world-renowned history should stand as the ultimate iconic figure for Dover.



MORE HOUSES

As to the future housing issues within Dover and District, why do we need this amount of additional houses in the first place? The South East of England is recognised as the most densely populated area in the United Kingdom. There are water shortages in the South now. What will it be like when Mr Prescott's regional plan to build hundreds of thousands of houses across southern England is completed? Our birth-rate after all is precipitately low; it has been 40 years since we last had enough children to sustain our population level.

Part of the answer is economic, increased longevity and the shift towards single-adult households when couples split up to form two households. We then have the last recorded official government estimate (Nov. 2004) that increased immigration would be responsible for one third of new household growth. Additionally amongst others, Home Office figures show that "On-shoring/Off-shoring" is increasing by 15% annually, now at 21,448, these workers mainly from India have been given permits to be employed in the poorly paid IT industry. A work permit almost automatically leads to long term settlement. Both Charles Clark and David Blunkett have said that there is "no obvious upper limit to legal immigration" regardless that Europe stands at the receiving end of a global upheaval of populations from poor to rich countries.

So when we are asked to give an opinion on the number of houses to be built over a 20 year period the fact is actually, for the unforeseeable future, the question now is academic. We signed away our countryside when we signed away our immigration controls, isolated villages will become part of towns and bluebell groves will disappear under tarmac.

We could, of course, take steps to make the accommodation of such numbers more manageable. Make it fiscally attractive to renovate urban houses. Possibly, encourage communities to buy land and then lease it at peppercorn rent to local farmers and delay the government proposals.

We should in the meantime learn from a recent report, "Towards a Strong Urban Renaissance" which has been produced by an independent panel, chaired by the architect Lord Rogers. The report refers to John Prescott's Urban Task Force as "clumsy, insensitive, rushed, quantity-driven and wasteful" and that areas were being developed in a "piecemeal fashion without vital public transport links and failure to produce attractive living areas for families". The report blames a "lack of vision, compounded by overweight decision-making that are unable to focus and prioritise".

Planning is perhaps the key determinant of the social and economic health of a neighbourhood. Only by restoring to communities the power to approve and reject planning applications will we see buildings arise of utility, economy and attraction. Lord Rodgers recommends "one accountable, empowered delivery body" - which we call the local council. Research carried out for the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) supports this belief by declaring that when there is a question of any impact on green belt boundaries the TCPA believes that locally elected councillors, rather than central diktat, should plan that future to ensure the most sustainable outcome possible.

Jim Francis

The Dover Society Website

www.doversociety.homestead.com

Please visit the site.

Read reports on meetings, check the programme of events.

Your comments and observations would be appreciated.

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The Dover Society Website
 2006 (up to 25.02.06) 174 visits
 2005 1,134 visits
 2004 1,587 visits
 2003 606 visits

Dover Websites

- Blackfish Academy: www.blackfishacademy.com
- Charlton Shopping Centre: www.charltonshopping.co.uk
- Dover Carnival: www.dovercarnival.co.uk
- Dover Castle: www.dover-castle-friends.org
- Dover District Council: www.dover.gov.uk
- Dover Film Festival: www.doverfilmfestival.homestead.com
- Dover Hospital Fete: www.doverhospitalfete.homestead.com
- Dover Operatic Society: www.dods.org.uk
- Dover Pageant: www.doverpageant.com
- Dover Town Centre Management: www.dovertcm.homestead.com
- Dover Town Council: www.dovertown.com
- Dover Transport Museum: www.dovertransportmuseum.homestead.com
- Dover Web: www.doverweb.co.uk
- Gateway Hospital Radio: www.ghbs.org.uk
- Accommodation: www.stayindover.co.uk

Venturing outside Dover

- British Olympic Association: www.boa.org.uk
- 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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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

PROGRAMME 2006

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

2006

MARCH 20
Monday 7.30

Speakers: Brian Madderson "Bananas to Dover"
David Iron "Irons, Crundles and Dover Harbour"

APRIL 10
Monday 7.30

Annual General Meeting
Speaker: Martyn Webster "Steiber's Clocks, Dover"

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Saturday
£22.00
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£24.00
Pick-ups:

Kensington Palace. From the splendid State Rooms to the Orangery and Sunken garden, the Palace is a must for everyone.
0800 The Railway Bell; 0810 Frith Road; 0815 Brook House car park

AUGUST

There will be no outing in August

SEPTEMBER
Saturday

France. Details later, but the cost will be £26.00

OCTOBER 16
Monday 7.30

Speakers: Bryan Walker "Dover Regalia"
Derek Leach OBE "Dover Harbour Board 400 Years"

NOVEMBER 13
Monday 7.30

Speaker: Paul Watkins "Dover Pride"
Brainstorming Session

DECEMBER 16
Saturday
£17.00

Christmas Feast. Celebrate the beginning of the festivities at Dover College in the splendid surroundings of the Refectory.

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



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*The Pines Garden &
St Margaret's Museum*

Beach Road, St Margaret's Bay
Tel: 01304 852764

MUSEUM:

Open Easter and Bank
Holidays, then end of
May to early September
2.00pm to 5.00pm.
Closed Mondays &
Tuesdays

GARDEN:

Open Daily and
Weekends throughout
the year.
10.00am to 5.00pm.
Closed on Christmas
Day

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