

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 58

March 2007



Tram Conductor, Joe Harman

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SOLD

THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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

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The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

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

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

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

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

Editorial

Our next meeting will be the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting at St. Mary's Parish Centre, on Monday 16th April at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Bob Goldfield talking about Dover Harbour Board. This will be the last indoor meeting until October. We hope for the usual good attendance.

From May to September, outings have been arranged to Greenwich, the Palace of Westminster and the Village of St Peter's at Broadstairs. The French trip is to La Nausicaa and a tour of Boulogne, arranged in conjunction with l'Association Culturelle des Amis du Chateau a Condette. They will also be visiting Dover on 6th June. Any member wishing to join them for a three-course lunch at the Maison Dieu Stone Hall will be most welcome. The cost will be £13 per person. Please contact Pat Hooper to book for this or any of the outings. Details are listed, as usual, inside of the back cover to this newsletter.

At this point, I must give a resounding thank you to Joan Liggett as she has now stood down as Social Secretary for a well-earned rest. Pat Hooper has taken over and has already organised the very successful February Wine and Wisdom evening.

I would also like to wish Jean Marsh all the best as she is now in charge of advertising in the newsletter. Jean has already proved her worth by gaining new advertisers.

Editor

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 59 will be Wednesday 13th June 2007.

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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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Spring 2007

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AGAIN

If, like me, you can hardly believe that another year has passed and that you might therefore neglect to pay your subscription please consider a standing order. Unlike direct debits these are totally under the payer's control and once set up rarely cause problems. New members may not be aware of the standing order option so please ask me for a form. Thanks to Gift Aid, revenue from advertisers, careful financial management which includes non-claiming of expenses by Committee members and benefactors, our subscription remains £6 for single members and £10 for joint members living at the same address. Current membership is 454.

We welcome:- Mr K and Mrs A Dupuy, Mr G Wantstall, C Nathan, A Uebe, Mrs P Shaw, Mr A Tonkin (visiting member), Mr R and Mrs P Lohan, Mrs J Hendry, Mrs P Lawrence.

Once again our obituaries include members who made significant contributions to Dover. We mourn:- Mr David Bevan, Mr Ken Davis, Mr P Chambers, Mrs J Foster, Mrs Pamela Blaxland, Mr Walter Mills, Miss Joan Dobby MBE, Mr Frank Woodbridge MBE, Mr Joe Harman.

Sheila Cope, Membership Secretary

Joe Harman

Freeman of Dover 1914-2007

A TRIBUTE BY DEREK LEACH

JOE HARMAN died on 28 January aged 92. His life was in some ways unique, always interesting, sometimes exciting, adventurous and always lived to the full, often for the benefit of others.

I think Joe's name was the most recent to be added to the Roll of Dover Freemen in July 1989, claiming his right by being married to the daughter of a Freeman.

He was born on 28 December 1914 and, his mother claimed, his birth was hastened by the fright from the first bomb to fall on Britain in Dover on Christmas Eve 1914. Joe lived in the same house in St. Radigund's Road all his life until forced by ill health into a care home two years ago. At the age of seven he developed diphtheria and spent 13 weeks in the isolation hospital without seeing his mum and dad. Apparently he picked up several swear words from the older boys, which were banned as soon as he got home! When his father, a sergeant in Dover's own police force, died at the age of 41, Joe had little choice but to leave Barton Road School to become the family breadwinner for his mother and two younger sisters.

He became a tram conductor in the days when you could go from the town centre to River for an old penny and quickly got to know all the girls on the route! When buses replaced the trams in 1937 Joe became a bus conductor, (he was on the last tram and the first bus) then a bus driver and, throughout the war, a bus mechanic as well. He spent the war dodging bombs and shells, narrowly

avoiding death more than once. Joe had to swap his shift in March 1942 because of a Home Guard exercise and so missed the bombs that destroyed the bus garage, killing 11 of his mates, including the one who had taken his place that evening.

In 1955 Joe became an ambulance driver and eventually retired as an ambulance service controller. As you can imagine he had many experiences – some sad and others amusing like the lady who cut her bottom, when the chamber pot she was sitting on cracked, and Joe had to stick a plaster on. He didn't go into the shop she worked in for weeks!

That was his working life, but he had many leisure interests.

Joe was a scout from the age of ten, even though you had to be 11. When asked how old he was, he did not lie, but whispered 'nearly' and shouted 11. He got in! Later he became a rover scout as well as a cub and scout master. Throughout the Second World War senior members of the scouts and girl guides met in safety at the Guide Cottage beyond Elms Vale recreation ground, which soldiers and sailors based in Dover with scout and guide connections also attended. They sent out news bulletins all over the world to Dover scouts and guides serving in the forces. It was always headed 'published monthly, shells and other circumstances permitting'. On one occasion the well had frozen. Not to be deprived of their hot cocoa, Joe shovelled snow into the dixie. With cocoa made, he was asked when the shovel had been used last, 'Moving

cowpats off the hockey pitch,' he replied. Despite the war, Joe said that those times spent at the Cottage were the happiest times of his life - not surprising when it was also when he met and courted his beloved Rosa, marrying as soon as the war ended.

Joe was a Christian throughout his life. He attended Buckland Church Sunday

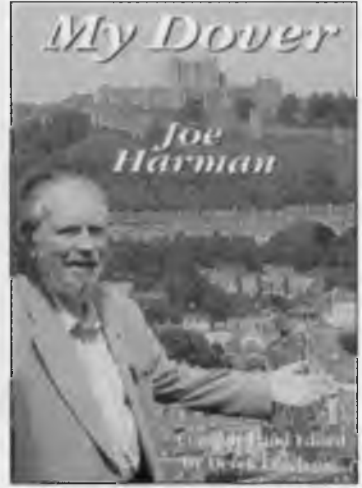
School and was later a server and candle boy at Charlton Church, but courting Rosa from St. Mary's he moved there and stayed for the rest of his life.

Joe and Rosa loved to travel - walking, cycling and later in their old van. This included walking completely round the coast of Kent - in easy stages. But they also managed to cover most of England and Europe long before the days of package holidays.

Throughout his life Joe always took a keen interest in both the history of the town and in what was going on during his lifetime. He was also a keen photographer right from his childhood and always carried his camera with him even when working on the trams and buses. His large collection of Dover photographs was donated recently to the Museum. He researched many aspects of Dover's history doggedly, accumulating a vast, detailed knowledge. I am sure Trish Godfrey thought he was part of the furniture of the reference library as he pored over old borough records or old newspapers. On one occasion when



Joe Harman, Freeman of Dover



Joe Harman's book cover - 'My Dover'

researching Dover's ironworks, he was looking for details of the Stiff family and told the Librarian he wanted to look for Stiffs in St. Mary's Cemetery records, which caused a laugh. It gave Joe enormous pleasure when we produced a book, *My Dover*, based upon his life story and some of his research. Much more remains to be published.

Joe represented Dover on the Kent Federation of History Societies and was one of the first members of the Dover History Society when it was founded in 1971, later becoming its chairman and was also a member of The Dover Society, Friends of the Museum and Dover Castle. But interests were not confined to a love of Dover's history. He belonged to the Kent Archaeological Society, the Police History Society, the Brewery History Society and had a great love of water and windmills. With grandparents living on Romney Marsh he knew and loved it well, becoming an active member of the Romney Marsh Research Trust.

Joe even found time for voluntary work, becoming a founder member of the

Hospital League of Friends in 1955 and remaining an active member for many years, including organising the Hospital Fete for five years. He was on the Road Safety Committee in the 1950s and on the Dover Trades Council. A life long first aider with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, he became a first aid instructor with the Red Cross in 1960 and was still testing guides for their first aid badge at the age of 86.

With failing health, Joe moved to the Old Vicarage Home at Tilmanstone in August 2004. Despite not being able to stand, walk or see for the last year or so, he could still talk and remember well.



Joe Harman at 86

During my weekly visits we would chat about where I had been and what I had seen - he had always been there too - and of course we talked about old Dover. He always responded to my queries about Dover. Now when I get stuck in my research, and it's happened already, I won't be able to think, 'No problem, I'll ask Joe'.

What a man! What a life!

With the passing of Joe Harman, Dover has lost one of its best connections with its past, but has also lost a fine Christian gentleman who was always willing to help others. We shall miss you, Joe.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

November 2006

DOVER PRIDE

A report by Jack Woolford on a talk by Paul Watkins, leader of D.D.C.

Although visibly chuffed by recent victory over the threatened open prison (which reprieved Phase II of the White Cliffs Business Park), Paul Watkins, armed with the latest in desk-top projectors (but hampered by a small and wobbly screen) began with illustrations of Dover's drawbacks: its run-down areas, job shortages, health and educational shortcomings and crime. Consequently Dover Pride, set up in 2003 and with a programme manager in 2005, is a partnership of business, local and regional organizations, and the people of Dover to

improve environment, business, homes, jobs, town centre, schools, colleges and transport. Projects are to create a high quality environment, develop quality businesses and homes, regenerate the town centre, create new jobs and bring in first-class education. These already involve the Dover Town Investment Zone, Buckland Mill, Dover Priory, the Sea Sports Centre, expansion of the port, and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. They would improve Dover's image, improve the way people feel about Dover and raise the town's profile as a visitor destination.

December 2006

CHRISTMAS FEAST

A report by Alan Lee

Held on Saturday 16th December at the Dover College Refectory the Christmas feast of 2006 lived up to all expectations with the largest gathering of society members and, as is now the custom, the Town Mayor joined us.

As is usual on arrival we were greeted warmly and offered either a glass of sherry or a fruit juice. With so many present there had to be a buffet at each end of the hall to ensure that everyone received his or her food within a reasonable time. Many thanks must go to Gerry Heeley and his staff for the food. It was well presented, tasted excellent and, with plenty available, many had second

helpings, especially of the most delicious desserts. All this was complimented wonderfully by the wine chosen by our treasurer Mike Weston.

Once again, Adeline Reidy and her helpers must be congratulated on the smooth running of the raffle and the superb prizes.

The most enjoyable musical entertainment this year was provided by the duo of Mac and Steve with songs from the 60's and 70's, both of them singing and playing the guitar as they worked through their repertoire of songs for the evening.

This was the last feast to be arranged by Joan Liggett who has now stepped down for a well-deserved rest. Thank you Joan for many years of dedicated service. The new Social Secretary is Pat Hooper who has already started planning the events for 2007. We wish her well in her new post.

I hope that everyone left having enjoyed themselves throughout the evening and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped in anyway to make this such a successful occasion.

We would like the views of all the members as to the style of entertainment for the feast of 2007. Please reply to the Social Secretary Pat Hooper or the Editor who can be contacted by mail, e-mail or telephone. Details are inside the front cover. We can then take your views into consideration.



Refectory, 1868



Refectory, May 2001

January 2007

ELEANOR OF CASTILE

A report by Terry Sutton on a talk by Lea Oakley

Lea Oakley, who, with her husband, owns the 16-bedroom hotel Wallets Court at Westcliffe near St Margaret's, made a return visit in January to give a second talk about the links between their ancient property and Queen Eleanor of Castile. Her earlier talk had been about the restoration of Wallets Court.

Queen Eleanor was the devoted wife of Edward I (Longshanks) of England. Born around 1244 in Castile, she and Edward were married in 1254 - so she was about 10 years old - and they had some 16 children of whom only six survived. She died in 1290 at Herdeby near Grantham in Lincolnshire. The queen, reputed to be very pious, and her husband were devoted to each other and she even went on a crusade with him.

Mrs Oakley reminded the meeting that Wallets Court had for years been known locally as Queen Eleanor's Palace but she admitted she would be "grasping at straws" if she claimed that Eleanor had actually stayed there. But it was possible. Documents indicated that the manor of Wallets Court was one of 250 estates owned by Eleanor, who gained a reputation of acquiring as many estates as possible because she needed the income to support her lifestyle. Leeds Castle was just one of her possessions. One document mentioned that the Westcliffe estate was sold to Queen Eleanor in 1284 and it was possible she had a connection with the little church that still stands opposite Wallets Court.

Mrs Oakley, who gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation, recalled that when Eleanor died Edward had 12 crosses

erected at the places where the body rested on its way to Westminster Abbey for burial. Only three of those crosses survive and there remains a replica at the final resting place at Charing Cross, outside the railway station. In another link with history Mrs Oakley showed a document that proved that in 1804 (when England was at war with France) Wallets Court was leased to Prime Minister William Pitt who paid an annual rent of just over £9.



Eleanor of Castile, Wallets Court

DOVERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

A report by Alan Sencicle on a talk by Lorraine Sencicle

Lorraine introduced this well illustrated talk with the announcement that there are around 88 known Dovers around the world. Then, she said that she had spent two very happy years living near Dover.... west of Leigh in Lancashire! From where she lived



Dover, west of Leigh, Lancashire

Dover was just a walk along a branch canal that connects the Leeds and Liverpool to the Bridgewater canal. Why the hamlet was called Dover is lost in the mists of time, but it is believed that the name may have come from our Dover, as the Lords of the nearby manor of Abram, had strong military connections with our town.

A connection with Dover, Tasmania, was provided by Huon Pine imported and used in the construction of Dover Harbour piers including the Prince of Wales Pier. The town's slogan is "Dover ... Naturally Beautiful," and the slides shown confirmed this.

Dover Farm School, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa was founded by an emigre from our Dover, Owen Johnson, at the beginning of the twentieth century. This is now a major education establishment that consistently gets high results compared to the other 905 farm schools in the province. Farm schools

were started in the days of Natal Province on land owned by sympathetic farmers with teachers paid by the Education Department. Thus, the standard of education the children received varied considerably, as did the facilities. In the 1980s the farm manager set about making the Dover Farm School one of the best in the State and hired Siphon 'Tiger' Ndlovu, from Soweto and an activist against apartheid, as headmaster. Together they set about creating the present very successful school whose pupils would welcome contact with schools in our town.

In Scandinavia there is Dovre in Oppland Norway, famous for its musk ox and Dover in Viborg on the Danish Jutland peninsular. Dover in Danish means a ravine, gap, gorge or a crevasse between cliffs. Therefore Lorraine wondered if the name of our town really came from the Danes rather than the Romans as is generally believed. Moving across Europe to Turkey a Dover may be found in Hatay Province in the central south of the country. Part of the film 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade' was made there.



Young schoolchildren in Dover, South Africa



Douvres-la-Delivrande

For those interested in WWII, Douvres-la-Delivrande in Calvados France is situated close to Sword Beach where British troops were landed on June 6th 1944. Lorraine showed several photos of the Normandy landings taken from her father's collection.

She then announced that there are 56 Dovers in the USA!

Dover, Massachusetts is the wealthiest of these. Each home is set in an acre of land. Nonetheless in this town, 7.1% of citizens, over 65, are living below the poverty line!



Dover, Massachusetts

Internationally, the town is known for the *Dover Demon* - a being with a disproportionately large watermelon-shaped head, bright orange eyes, long thin arms and legs with slender fingers. First seen in the town but since has been seen throughout the American continent. The last reported sighting was in 2004 in Chile!

Dover, Morris County is one of two Dovers in New Jersey, visited by our own Mayor, Cllr. Jan Tranter, in September 2006 to re-dedicate the recently restored iron Dover Dogs. The origin of the town and its prosperity rested on its iron foundries and in 1869 their Mayor was seeking to gain town status for Dover. The New York Times took up the story which eventually found its way into one of our local papers. Our Mayor at



Dover, Morris County, New Jersey

the time, John Birmingham, organised a collection from which our town bought two white mastiff dogs which were presented to Mayor Richards. Unfortunately, time and vandals have taken their toll but the dogs have now been restored.

The Dover in Kentucky has a sad story. Once a thriving small community on the Ohio River, with schools, hospitals and the promise of employment from the Dupont Company, which had purchased land and started building a large factory, disaster struck when the town was destroyed by a



Dover, Kentucky

tornado (that destroyed the town) in 1968. Lorraine showed pictures of the town before the tornado, during, its immediate aftermath and now. The reduction in size was clearly visible and she said that these days even though there are homes, there are no schools and only a few jobs. The town is now classified as a 'bedroom community'.

Lorraine then told us about Dover, Pennsylvania, which has been the centre of a national debate in the US over the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution. The theory has to be taught in State schools and no other. In many areas Darwin's theory is rejected and the alternative theory of *Intelligent Design*, which has its roots in Creation Theory, is preferred. In Dover the schools followed the politically expedient course of telling the children that there was the Intelligent Design theory before teaching Darwin's theory. There were objections and a case was brought. In a report, published last year, it was decided that the teaching of intelligent design was against the US constitution.

The talk finished with the macabre story of Ronald Gene Simmons who lived in Dover, Arkansas, and in 1987 brutally

murdered sixteen people, many of whom were members of his family. Following conviction on 10th December 1989, sanctioned by State Governor Bill Clinton, Simmons was executed on 25th June 1990, the quickest sentence-to-execution time in the USA since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

I know that Lorraine has spent many hours undertaking the research for this project. This has included trying to find and then making contact with potential respondents living in the various Dovers. She has constantly found that the respondents are reluctant to furnish her with perceived negative information regarding their communities. This has meant hours of trawling through the Internet and also trying to get third parties to substantiate findings. Although Lorraine's talk was lavishly illustrated, getting the photographs has not been easy. Sometimes high fees have been demanded for relatively poor quality pictures. At other times, although they may have been free, either from the Internet or provided by respondents, they were not of sufficiently good quality. Additionally, although

meaningful to them, they told very little about the town in question as one US main street looks much like another! I have therefore resolved to take a series of quality photos of our town, harbour and castle that I will be forwarding to all respondents in due course.

Lorraine Sencicle has been writing articles on the different Dovers around the world, for over a year. Following publication in the Mercury these are now published on the Dover Society website.



Ronald Gene Simmons

The story of CYRIL EDWIN CURTIS - a Dover Seaman

by Merrill Lilley

How to go round the world for nothing without getting your feet wet. Cyril Edwin Curtis wrote the above quotation in his diary when he volunteered for service in the Royal Navy on 22nd June, 1920, entering as a boy seaman aged fifteen. Cyril was born at 6 St. Andrews Terrace, River, on 18th February, 1905. He attended Barton Road School and teachers' reports described him as ambitious, painstaking and honest, willing and industrious.

After joining up he was sent to HMS *Ganges*, the training establishment at Shotley, Harwich. There, rated Boy 1st Class, he passed all his examinations. These included physical training, seamanship (knots, ropes, and wires), boats under oars and sail, swimming tests, educational tests and field gun training. His certificate for the educational test states that this included 9a) writing an ordinary passage in English to dictation and (b) a simple paper in the first four rules of arithmetic, simple and compound, vulgar and decimal fractions, calculation of averages and making out mess bills.

A year later in May 1921 he was drafted to HMS *Erin* at Sheerness, as a boy seaman, 1st class. HMS *Erin* was a battleship originally built for the Turkish navy and retained at the outbreak of war as a training ship for boys. By July he was transferred to HMS *Dunedin*, a 6 inch gun light cruiser, presented by the people of New Zealand. Training included fire drills, boat drills, signalling, rifle shooting, fleet exercises, gunnery, power boats and search lights. He went on training cruises

to Scotland, Ireland, Finland, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Denmark, Sweden, Portugal, Gibraltar and Morocco.

By February 1923 he was an Ordinary Seaman and drafted to Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham. He was just 18 years old. He continued training on various ships until he joined HMS *Cyclops* which was a submarine depot ship in the Home and Mediterranean fleet. On the *Cyclops* he cruised to Norway, Sweden, the Baltic ports, Gibraltar and the Mediterranean and passed examinations to become an Able Seaman in January 1925.



Cyril Edwin Curtis, China 1927



HMS Wild Swan at sea

In 1926 he joined HMS *Pembroke* where he served until he volunteered for foreign service in China and was sent as a replacement on HMS *Wild Swan*, China Station. He had to wait for a passage to Hong Kong, where, unfortunately, he missed the *Wild Swan*, eventually catching up with her in May 1927. Thereafter he was engaged in river and coastal patrols. 1928 saw him volunteering for river gunboats and joining HMS *Gnat* on the Yangtze, patrolling the river with anti-bandit guards and often returning bandit fire.

By September 1928 he had passed out as a Leading Seaman and he returned to England on HMS *Vindictive* in May 1930 back to RNB Chatham and HMS *Pembroke*. Always on the lookout for new experiences, Cyril next volunteered for

torpedo courses and qualified as a seaman torpedo man. He also completed a course as a heavy lorry driver, before being drafted to HMS *Wolfhound*, working with torpedoes.

Not content with all his achievements so far, in his spare time!! Cyril began a private pilot's course at Lympne and gained early experience as a pilot. He was always looking ahead and volunteering for something new. Next it was off to Australia on the HMS *Sussex*, a heavy cruiser, sailing in 1934 to Melbourne to join in the centenary celebrations with HRH Duke of Gloucester. While in Australia, based in Sydney, Cyril continued private flying lessons in his spare time and fitted in a holiday. In 1935 he was rated an Acting Leading Seaman and cruised all around Australia before the *Sussex* sailed for Malta and joined the Mediterranean fleet. The following year he was confirmed as a Leading Seaman, the *Sussex* returned to England and the crew were paid off.

Back to HMS *Pembroke* and Cyril volunteered again, this time for a course as a naval diver and joined the HMS *Cardiff* as a reserve. About the same time he gained his pilot's licence. In December 1936 he completed his diver's course and was sent in that capacity to HMS *Cairo*, a light cruiser, at the time used as an exercise vessel and gunnery training ship, visiting home ports and Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

Never content in one job for long, Cyril next found himself in Malta as a diver on the HMS *Woolwich*. He worked on the *Woolwich* and the *Sutton* until 1939 when, with war imminent, the *Woolwich* returned, under escort, to Liverpool. Cyril, still on board the *Woolwich*, did some diving work at Scapa Flow on ruined and bombed vessels.

Back at Chatham at the beginning of the war Cyril joined HMS *Mauritius*



HMS Sussex, Sydney, Australia 1934

making cruises to Gibraltar, Colombo, Singapore and Malaya. When the Japanese advanced the *Mauritius* was recalled to Colombo. Cyril was rated as an Acting Petty Officer in 1941, which was confirmed in 1942. He was back in Malta from 1942-43 and performed salvage diver's duties until he returned to the UK in 1944. Due for his pension, in 1945, he returned for the duration of the war and in November went to Dover on HMS *Lynx* where he worked on mine recovery in Dover harbour, lifting controlled mines from the eastern entrance.

Cyril was finally discharged from the Royal Navy in April 1946 after serving for 25 years and 9 months, but this was not the end of his connections with the sea. He continued to work at many other jobs in and around Dover for the rest of his life and he kept a detailed record of all his various activities in a blue-covered school exercise book.

His first was with the Admiralty Salvage Department on the salvage vessel *Swan*, diving around the south coast. He helped remove the block ships from Dover harbour and the Mulberry units on

the Cornish coast. He also worked for Metcalf Civil Diving repairing the Eastern Arm bed. He records his work helping to lift the *Rio de Corne* with a cargo of paper, sunk at her moorings; the recovery of a pontoon sunk in the Camber entrance; the demolition of the wreck of the destroyer *Codrington* and removing her ammunition and of work on SS *Cygnets* broken in half on the Goodwin Sands.

At one stage he worked as a seaman on the tugs *Lady Brassey* and *Lady Duncannon*, then from 1952 he was a crew member on British Rail vessels, *Walmer*, *Deal*, *Canterbury*, *Invicta* and *Maid of Orleans*. Later he worked on a Dover Harbour Board survey launch, *Admiral Douglas*. In 1953 he left British Rail and was back with the Admiralty Salvage Department as a diver and diving attendant, on and off until 1959, when he rejoined Dover Harbour Board as a survey launch seaman again, remaining with them until he retired on pension in 1970.

Cyril was still active for several years in various odd jobs after that, including night watchman, gardener, cook steward and guide and custodian at River Water Mill. He died on July 17, 1991, at the age of 86.

The material for this article was obtained from Marion Short, a member from Deal, who has kept all the photograph albums and notebooks of her uncle, Cyril Edwin Curtis, who was a freeman of Dover.

A shortened version of this article has been published in the magazine 'Sea Breezes'.



Tea Timely News

by Ken Short



Tea is a product which may not, for some, be associated with the hilly plains of Southern Europe no matter how warm they may be. It may therefore come as a surprise to learn that some progress has been made to pilot a scheme for the economic development of the tea industry in the less than fertile plains of eastern Greece.

The Balkan Peninsula is wide and varied in its climatic temperament. In the northern and other mountainous districts there is a long winter with frequent storms and icy rain; but in the sea lapped regions of the south, winter lasts barely three months and March, and sometimes even February, may bring sunny, balmy weather reminiscent of a warm English summer day. Temperatures may rise to over 100 degrees in the plains but over the country generally the summer is rarely unduly hot.

The tea plant, moreover, is not particular about the soil although it grows best where there is plenty of loam and so the combination of climatic suitability and ease with which the crop is managed has persuaded the Greek government with EEC backing to sanction a pilot plantation on the Island of Andros in the Aegean Sea. In 2002, after much ministerial wrangling, a scheme, the brainchild of 37 year old Georgeos Pulvanos, a senior economist at the Greek Ministry of Agriculture in Athens, was launched and now occupies approximately 165 hectares of land near the centre of the island.

It has to be said that the economic advantages of a tea crop which is cultivable in Europe has not been

immediately obvious to the local population. Much cynicism and even hostility has been met by the small group of botanists who have carefully nurtured the young tea sprouts over a period of three years that it takes to establish the adult plant. In 2005 the first modest crop of Aegean tea was harvested and experts from India and China were brought in to establish a commercially viable blend from the, as then, limited variety of strains available. The good news is that it has been exported to Britain in small quantities and is being tested on the British public (worldwide known for their love of the honest cuppa). But the Greek distributors have, in their wisdom, decided that the best way for their statistical control to be effective is for the tea to be available only in bona fide hostelrys where people with no preconceived bias may make a truly objective comparison with the existing popular varieties. Fortunately, for the people of Kent, Aegean tea is now to be found in many of the more select establishments around the county and we may hope that as time passes it may become easily available to all.

I am advised that the tea is best taken without the traditional refinements of milk and sugar so you may find the mellow, fresh taste rather startling but very palatable as it naturally combines the smooth foretaste of spring with the almost bitter aftertaste of autumn with just a hint of lemon. So if you are feeling adventurous why not drop by your local hostelry and ask to try Aegean tea. We think that you will find the taste to be rather refreshing.

The Meaning of the

Part Three

Town War Memorial

Marilyn Stephenson-Knight

ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 1924, the afternoon was fine. Outside Maison Dieu House an immense crowd had gathered, to witness the unveiling of the Town Memorial. Sixteen councillors, contingents from the services, eight clergymen (including the Archbishop of Canterbury), and a hundred-strong choir pressed about the Memorial. Relatives of casualties stood above them on a platform, and higher still, adventurously placed on the roof of the Police Station, were the ex-Servicemen and POWs. Townsfolk hung like garlands from the roofs and windows of every building. Even so many could not witness the ceremony for the throng on the ground stretched back to Ladywell.

The unveiling was the moment when the Material Memorial (the bronze, stone, and surrounding garden) and the Intangible Memorial (how the Memorial is interpreted and given meaning) were publicly joined. There to do it was the then Vice Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, former Commander of the Dover Patrol. Dovorians had lived "on the very threshold of the war", he said, reminding them that they too had heard the guns in Flanders booming, and he called upon the spirit that had won the war to win now the peace by rebuilding a country racked by unemployment, lack of housing, and unrest. He pulled the cords to unveil the Memorial, and, as though to illustrate Sir Roger's words, a bluejacket at once climbed up the Memorial to release a drape that had caught on the bronze figure.

After the ceremony people filed past the Memorial for hours, laying wreaths and flowers. It was a public expression of many private griefs, made visible by the words on

their tributes: *"To our beloved son and grandson, Sydney and William"*, *"To our darling George, Mother and all"*, *"Our dear Daddy, from Ted and George"*, *"To my dear husband, from his loving wife, Clara"*, *"For my dear old pal, Arthur"* The hard stone of the Memorial was cushioned and bright with many colours, the names frozen in bronze warmed by memories from home. From that moment the Memorial became a Place, a space imbued with significance, and that significance has grown until the present day.

Six days after the unveiling was the sixth commemoration of Armistice Day. 3,000 people attended a simple service at the Memorial. The *"Last Post"*, followed by a gun firing from the Castle, began the two-minute silence. More people laid wreaths on top of those already there. Harry Barton was 20 when he died from a single shot in France; his body was never found. His family were among those who returned to the Memorial that day, laying more flowers. The wreaths were symbols of relationships wrecked by the war, washed up on the shores of Cornish granite.

As a Place, the Memorial changed the flow of people (they had to walk round it) and their thoughts (as a focus for Remembrance and marker of renewal). The Memorial could be seen as a Surtsey, a new island parting and breaking a sea of human time, thrown up by the volcanic eruptions of war. Just as an island can only be so if it has water around it, so too does the Memorial draw meaning from its surrounding time. The breadth and depth of that sea of time are key elements in the meaning of the Memorial.

For breadth close to shore, as it were, would be the Armistice Day events in Dover. It was normally a weekday, and just before 11am people would gather by the Memorial for hymn-singing, an address, and the two-minute silence presaged by the Last Post. Thousands attended to share this moment; on a number of occasions the crowd was so dense that it stretched back to Effingham Crescent. Although they joined in enthusiastically with the singing, led each year by bands from the different troops stationed at Dover, many were unable to see or hear the parts of the ceremony conducted by officials. Access and the shared experience were important, without the ceremony irritatingly lost meaning. Amplifiers corrected the sound problem; the other has proved rather more thorny.

Some years were worse than others. In 1949 the memorial was rededicated with an inscription including fallen in World War II. Craning to see past banks of uniforms, the Dover Express said, the public had been relegated to sightseers. As citizens of THE front-line town, it added acerbically,



Traynor, 1949

Dovorians more than anyone "know that medals are not the sole evidence of heroism or fortitude". The next year an enclosure was roped-off for relatives of casualties, to ensure their good view. They voted with their entry tickets, and a slightly snuffy report noted that the enclosure had been full of children. Furthermore, the paper opined, "in a garrison town such as Dover, the absence of military representatives was noticeable". (This perhaps proves the adage that you cannot please all of the people all of the time!)

There were compensations. Wreaths, and later the crosses of the Field of Remembrance, were integral to Remembrance. Each person could claim an individual moment by the Memorial. Bending or crouching to lay a wreath automatically makes an obeisance to the loved one, and they were remembered personally year after year by inscriptions. *"Dick and George, from Dad, Brothers, and Sisters"* (1925), *"George and Dick, from Dad, Brothers and Sisters"* (1926), *"George and Dick, from Dad, Brothers and Sisters, also from nieces Peg and Pat"* (1927). Grief did not fade. In 1928, one of the saddest wreaths was laid for another casualty. *"To dear Joe, from poor old dad."* It holds all the tragedy of war.

Many people experienced the individual moment of wreath-laying. Dover itself also shared a wider experience of Remembrance. The gun at the Castle alerted those unable to attend the Memorial to pause. Schools lined up in their playgrounds, troops at the garrisons paraded in silence. Employees and officials of the railway, often accompanied by passengers, stood silently by the memorial at the Marine Station. So still was the town that in 1926 the maroon from Folkestone, announcing their two-minute silence was clearly heard.

It was a reminder that at thousands of other memorials across the country and beyond, the same stillness was falling. Part



Remembrance 1928

of the meaning of the Memorial depends on the knowledge of the breadth of Remembrance, that it is widespread. Indeed, indeed, in 1924, using an influential precedent, the Council stated that Armistice ceremonies would be "very much on the same lines as those in London" attended by the King. The chimes of Big Ben, transmitted to Dovorians at the Memorial, occasionally accompanied with relayed descriptions of the ceremony at the Cenotaph too, helped this imagination of a national community. In 1939, when national cohesion and courage were again tested by war, practical considerations of safety cancelled the ceremony at the Memorial, though the Mayor did lay a wreath, and instead Dovorians listened at home to the broadcast from Westminster Abbey.

In Dover, before the second war, there was almost a Season of Remembrance. On Armistice Day the Memorial could be floodlit, and a number of churches held special evening services, sometimes then also laying wreaths, as did parading Guides and Scouts. As Armistice normally fell on a weekday, many churches held Remembrance services the Sunday before, and at Buckland a medalled parade and

evensong was inaugurated for ex-Service men. St Martin's held two services for Old Boys, the afternoon one concluding at the school memorial where a wreath would be laid. The Duke of York's held weekend reunions, with a football match and an evening dance for old and current boys on the Saturday. The next morning they laid wreaths at the school memorial, after a solemn chapel service.

Very popular were events at Dover Town Hall. The Friendly Societies on Sunday afternoon and the Salvation Army in the evening both held well-attended services, while the British Legion organised a Festival of Remembrance. It began with religious dedications, but the second half was a themed concert, with tableaux, soloists, and community singing of favourites like *Pack up your Troubles* and *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* that reportedly "almost shook the Hall".

The Memorial also draws on depth of experience, or the passing of time, for its meaning. Immediate roots lie firmly in the Great War. The Rev J Osborne Martin, in an address to the Wesleyan churches on Armistice Day 1924, recalled a communion service in a "shell-riddled orchard" in France on the eve of the Battle of the Somme, 1916. The men had brought to him pocket books, photographs, and letters - memories of those at home. Most of the communicants died the next day. They had left their wills with Reverend Martin too.

Just as the soldiers had remembered loved ones at home, so were they now remembered. In a symbolic reunion, ashes from poppies and crosses placed at the Memorial would later be scattered over graves and battlefields in France and Belgium. Depth - time passing - brings the ability to look both forwards and backwards,

and Remembrance ceremonies derive meaning from their age and a sense of unbroken continuity with the past. Thus is born a tradition. Even during the Second World War, when only a plinth remained, the bronze figure being stored for safety, the Mayor continued to lay a wreath by the Memorial, and in the smaller villages nearby ceremonies and parades were still held. Occasionally, continuity is symbolised by a person, as when the last surviving Old Contemptible in Dover, Mr Archibald Stanley, laid a wreath on the 70th anniversary of the Armistice. A sad symbol of continuity was when Boer and Great War veterans stood with young serving soldiers at the 25th anniversary, in 1943.

World War II casualties are recorded in a Book of Remembrance, dedicated at St Mary's in 1951. Two years before the Memorial had been rededicated, with a new inscription in memory of the casualties of both wars. Nevertheless, the Memorial, with its annual ceremony and permanent visible presence in the town, has a different significance, revealed by a number of requests in the last twenty years for further names from both wars to be inscribed there.

The continuing importance of the Memorial is also revealed by the traditions that have developed around it. Too great a deviation from what is expected will arouse

criticism and may even seem disrespectful. On several occasions the absence of hymns and the national anthem, or music, was deplored, while disturbance of the two-minute silence has often been condemned. In 1930 and for several years afterwards the plea was made for vehicles to stop and turn off their engines. Traffic noise became an unacceptable part of the tradition, seemingly irresolvable. Over four decades later a resident remarked cynically that it might prove easier to stop remembering the Fallen than to stop the traffic.

That is something that I firmly believe must never happen. We must continue to remember. The Memorial and thousands of others like it are now part of our identity. Wherever we go, in Britain and beyond, they are familiar items, reminders of our shared past and silent pointers at paths for our future. When he dedicated the Memorial in 1924, the Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke of those who had "laid down their lives ungrudgingly" and said "they taught us to appreciate the power and possibility of quite ordinary people". The memorials are symbols of great loss and suffering. Embedded within them is death, bereavement, pain, and sorrow. But they tell other stories too, of courage, fortitude, and compassion, of faith and comradeship and enduring love. They are beacons of hope for

the future. Above all, they are the stories of ordinary people. As the Archbishop said in 1924, we should "thank God for those whose monument stands here, for generations yet unborn".

That for me is the Meaning of the Town Memorial.

Post Script →



Remembrance 1955

Post Script

This concludes the short series about the meaning of the Town Memorial - but it certainly is no conclusion to the meaning. The Memorial has different meanings for different people (breadth), and its meaning will continue to build and grow (depth). I hope it will do so for centuries after I am gone.

If you would like to find out more - or have more to tell us - about these ordinary people, those who did extraordinary things, who were loved and lost, and the families that mourned them, visit the Dover War Memorial Project website at www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk. It's updated daily with information about our casualties and much more besides, and there is a forum for discussion. Or telephone 07876 240 701. I would love to hear from you.

And finally - thank you to you, the Dover Society, for your kind hospitality. I have enjoyed very much writing this series and learnt much about our beautiful Memorial. I look forward to meeting as many as possible of you again, on my next visit to Dover.

* * * * *

DOVER SEWERAGE

• • • *by Lorraine Sencicle* • • •

AS THE NUMBER OF HOMES IN DOVER is set to expand, I thought that it would be expedient to look at the story of our sewerage system, and what I found was fascinating.

Up until the Middle Ages human waste was thrown onto unpaved streets where it was left to accumulate. However, by 1582 Dover Corporation's growing concern with the town's cleanliness resulted in Mother Edwards in 1588 given the task of cleaning the town's privy. Given the title of 'town scavenger' she was succeeded by Widow Gill in 1605 and the cleaner was paid 2s 8d (13p) for the privilege. Over the next couple of centuries the number of private and council paid scavengers increased but the cleaner of the town's privy was always a woman.

Towards the end of the 18th century the Government decided to tackle the unsanitary state of towns throughout the country, and introduced the notion of a Paving Commission. Each Commission was made up of forty 'outsiders', appointed by the Corporation to assess the state of the town and make recommendations.

Dover was, by this time, in a very bad way. The streets were narrow and crooked and although the number of scavengers had

increased, the effluent collected was thrown directly into the harbour or the Dour. Rain water ran in open ditches down the middle of the streets, which were also used to empty household sewage by those who could not afford it or refused to pay scavengers to come and collect it.

Following their investigation, the Paving Commission in 1778 recommended that, "*on every Thursday in every weeke the Inhabitants doe sweep and make cleane the streets before their doors, and cast the dirt into an heape on paine of vid. Forfeiture for every offence. And that Mr Maior and the two Chamberlains do yearly agree with a scavenger or scavengers for to carry the same away*". The expense was met by a tax of sixpence on every house, a shilling duty on every chaldron of coal and a toll payable at a turnpike on the London Road and an attempt was made to build a few sewers. Consequently, under the 1846 Public Health Act, Dover's sanitary conditions were again under scrutiny. Robert Rawlson led the inquiry and found that nothing had changed and expressed anger at the botched attempt at a cover up. He finished by warning that there would be "*no escape from the fatal consequences* "



Sanitary map of Dover, May 1849

The Rawlson inquiry found that most of the homes had, for toilets, an open tub under a privy seat, which was emptied during the night into the scavenger's cart. This was then emptied into the harbour. The privies of homes surrounding the harbour emptied directly into it and although there were a few isolated sewers they also ran directly into the harbour. Thus the gases from the harbour *'could be smelt throughout the town especially when the prevailing south-westerly wind blew'*!

Following the publication of the report the Corporation accepted that the construction of proper sewers was imperative. Over the next twenty years, £70,000 was spent and slowly most of the town was connected. The sewers built at this time are the basis, and for the most part, our sewerage system today.

The villages surrounding Dover had to make do with privies at the bottom of the garden, the contents of which were buried periodically until well into the twentieth century. Then cess pits became the norm with many homes today still not connected to main sewerage.



Bay and Foreshore, 1816

As for the town of Dover, the flow is predominantly by gravity towards Western Docks. Indeed, up until the 1990s all the outfall for Dover's sewers actually went directly into the sea near there. The first major modification to our sewerage system was in 1994 as a result of the new A20 being built. The original main outfall near Western Docks was replaced with a 1,500mm diameter concrete pipe. At about the same time a virtually automatic plant sewage treatment plant was built on Broomfield Bank, Farthingloe Valley. This was completed in 1999 at the same time as the pumping station in Elizabeth Street was upgraded to take the town's sewerage to Broomfield Park for treatment.

However, one of the major problems with our system, which still remains, is that it is *combined* - meaning that in heavy downpours raw sewerage could overflow into the streets. With the increased number of homes putting pressure on a system designed for a smaller population that bathed infrequently and did not have automatic washing machines, etc. it is only a matter of time until we have the one downpour which will see our streets running with raw sewerage... that is, of course, unless global warming puts the breaks on domestic/industrial use of water.

Holy Trinity Church, Nice

Fr. Peter Sherred

Holy Trinity Church in Nice is described as an ornate Anglican church and is found near the sea front of this Riviera city in the rue de la Buffa. During the week Mass is said daily, at varying times, with Sunday Mass at 11am.

The area bishop of Nice is the well respected bishop in Europe, **Geoffrey Rowell** of Gibraltar. Bishop Geoffrey was one time Warden of **Keble College** the patron of Charlton Church in St Alphege Road and in such capacity was present in Dover at the induction service of Charlton's last freehold stipendiary appointment when Fr. Nick De Keyser took up his appointment as Rector of that parish. It's a small world!

Among the graves in the adjoining cemetery is one of **Henry Francis Lyte** (1793-1847) who was a British vicar from Devon. He is perhaps principally remembered for writing the song sung at every FA Cup Final, and recognised by many churchgoers, **Abide with me** which he finished just three weeks before dying from tuberculosis in Nice.

The present clergy ministry, for Holy Trinity and a daughter church (St Hugh's at nearby Vence), is provided by an engaging priest, originating from Melbourne in Australia, Fr. Ken Letts supported by his charming wife Isabel. A canon of Gibraltar Cathedral and Acting Archdeacon of France he is spiritually gifted with clear pastoral ability and a good preaching style.

Queen Victoria on her first visit to Nice, whilst on holiday, attended Holy Trinity and when the Excelsior Hotel Regina closed in 1937 the royal coat of arms which had hung above the door of

the hotel chapel (the Queen preferred her clergy or bishop to come to the hotel chapel to conduct a service! No doubt a perk when one is head of the Church!) was moved to hang above the inside door of Holy Trinity. On her last visit to Nice the Queen donated £20 (£1090 at today's prices) for the endowment fund of the church and the incumbent of the time was given a handsome travelling clock.

15th August in France is a holiday and a feast day when the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is remembered. I was invited to participate in the Holy Trinity service on Sunday 20th August 2007 and concelebrate the Mass with Fr Ken as I had in 2005. With my wife Mary and our four children we have attended this beautiful church for a number of



Canon Ken Letts and Fr Peter Sherred



Pulpit, Holy Trinity Church



Banner of Saint Paul



View to main altar

years when on holiday on the Cote d' Azur and it was a privilege to participate in such an important service in a full church with so gifted a priest as Fr Ken. Some readings were in French (the gospel, however, was read in English by me!) and the responses to the intercessions, the Lord's Prayer (Priere du Seigneur) and the blessing were all said in French. It was, in all senses, an impressive and uplifting event and in the context of the most recent document issued by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, (ARCIC), appropriate for such an Anglican church based on the continent of Europe. **Mary: Hope & Grace in Christ** affirmed that *Anglicans and Roman Catholics agree in recognising that Christian understanding of Mary is inseparably linked with the doctrines of Christ and the Church. We agree in recognizing the grace and unique vocation of Mary, Mother of God Incarnate (Theotokos), in observing her festivals, and in according her honour in the Communion of Saints. We agree that she was prepared by divine grace to be the Mother of the Redeemer, by whom she herself was*

redeemed and received into glory. We further agree in recognising in Mary a model of holiness, obedience and faith for all Christians. We accept that it is possible to regard her as a prophetic figure of the Church of God before as well as after the Incarnation.

After the service the congregation adjourned to the garden cemetery for wine or coffee as they do each week. Not only does the church act as a worship centre for ex pats and local people but it is rightly described as an Anglophone cultural centre. One of its most remarkable features is that the church doors remain open all day, without supervision, to enable people to find a church that is welcoming and available for ex tempore worship and prayer. This was a condition of Fr. Ken, fully recognising the attendant risks that may be involved, on his appointment and is in marked contrast to so many churches in England which remain firmly shut and locked for much of the week. Beautiful CD music of various religious styles can be appreciated when sitting in the calm of the church in the daytime. Earlier this

year I had the privilege of being asked by Fr. Ken to cover the parish for two weeks in February while he undertook ministry duties elsewhere, in France and Andorra. I was warmly welcomed by the community and stayed in the adjoining presbytery, dating from 1894, the architect for which was one A Messiah! This visit coincided with the annual Nice carnival seemingly tolerated by local residents but for visitors a must.

Holy Trinity is a must to visit if one is in the area. Be assured of a warm welcome by Fr. Ken and Isabel throughout the year and a very warm welcome from the weather in high summer when fans are a prominent feature inside the church although they do little to remove the heat from celebrants in copes and/or chasubles!



Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Nice 1860-62



Holy Trinity Church, north exterior



Wine and Wisdom 2007 ??

Report from Alan Lee

The Dover Society's annual Wine and Wisdom evening held on Monday, 19th February was once again a resounding success. We must congratulate Clive Taylor and his team Jill and Andrew for ensuring that all ran smoothly. The contest took the form of nine rounds of ten questions with double points for the round when a joker was played, meaning there were 100 possible points available. The fifth round, a selection of Dingbats, were wrestled over by the teams while they enjoyed their refreshments, this year the difficulty of each Dingbat seemed to be set just about right.

Smiths Crisps with a magnificent score of 90 were the winners of the engraved tumblers. Bakers Dozen finished second on 88 with Enigma in third place on 87 points. It was such a close contest that any one of six teams could have won this year.

Better, even than last year, the attendance of sixteen teams of six almost filled St. Mary's Parish Centre. Many thanks must also go to our new social secretary Pat Hooper, her first event, and all her helpers for arranging a most enjoyable evening.

The work of the
PLANNING
 Sub-Committee

Report by
JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

I was wrong! No Dover Open Prison, despite the national shortage of prisons! Marginal Constituency? Proximity to Duke of York's Royal Military (Boarding) School? All-Party Protests? Posters? Marches (Dover Society included)? Who knows? But what a precedent! Marchons! Marchons?

English Partnerships, like SEEDA (which ultimately rescued the Buckland Paper Mill rebuild) is a government agency, which, we are now told, is suggesting mixed housing and leisure development for Connaught Barracks, not Hospital or Dover University Campus as some hoped. Can we do more than wait and see?

Our Town Centre Trees (THANKS, Mr Solley) and planters replanted. The Pencester Skating Park improved. Dover Priory transforming for the forthcoming High Speed Rail Link (but earlier closing - which we are contesting - for the new Ticket Office). A 20kw Wind Turbine to generate electricity for Dover District Council Offices at Whitfield (as if wind there was in short supply). Assurance (which we query) from Dr Mathi Chandrakumar of Kent Health Protection Service, uniquely, that the traffic fumes in Townwall St. are not a danger to health.

As to the proposals for four new berths, with a new marina, hotel and restaurants, etc, thrown in, at the Western Docks, with or without a buffer zone, with

a new Marina and possible new beaches and fishing facilities, we applaud Dover Harbour Board's foresight: but are not convinced that a Wellington Dock without sea access, and a mere single extra flyover to M20 are the best possible solutions. We shall argue on! Meanwhile we support the government's proposal to relieve Operation Stack with a mighty lorry park near the M20.

As to the rash (if not plague) of applications to turn houses and hotels into small flats, from Folkestone Road both to Townwall Street and Buckland Bridge, we approve Dover Town Council's reservations on density and environmental quality but are aware that refusals by the District Council, constrained by governmental dictats, may well mean even more successful appeals and costs.

We have repeated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Prime Minister-in-Waiting) our multiple objections to the Barker Report on the Future of Planning, which virtually abolishes it. We have had no reply, unlike the apology from a Dover District Planning Officer for persistent failures to acknowledge or process a stream of comments and objections. We can't lose them all!

Tea Timely News

Ken Short



This is a spoof news item designed to be published around All Fool's Day on April 1st. I hope that the spoof is not immediately obvious when read silently. If read aloud however, it will be immediately clear that if you order Aegean Tea you will get a gin and tonic (A 'G' and 'T').

SOCIETY PROJECTS

Report by Jeremy Cope

Cowgate Cemetery

Oh dear! What have we done? We have been rained off on more occasions this winter than in any year since that start of our clearance and maintenance work in 2001. We may have angered the gods probably by laughing too much but that will not deter us from continuing the good work, rain or sunshine, wet or dry. Volunteers are always welcome. The dates of our morning work sessions for the rest of the year are as follows:-

Thursday Meetings	Saturday Meetings
5th April	14th April
3rd May	12th May
7th June	23rd June
5th July	14th July
2nd August	11th August
6th September	22nd September
4th October	13th October
1st November	10th November
6th December	15th December

Interested?

Phone Jeremy Cope on 01304 211348 or email jeremycoppe@willersley.plus.com

The River Dour

The spawning season for fish is from October to March is so that there is little to be done by way of clearing the river. I learnt that it is an offence to clear rubbish as litter can be a shelter for spawning fish. If anyone complains about the state of the river, my response is that it is not the river that is dirty; it is the people who foul it up.

Dover Pride is trying to get funding for a walk/cycle path and we have been asked to provide a letter of support. The idea is only a proposal at the moment but if anyone has any thoughts or comments please let me know. If this is to go ahead it will need to take account of and work with the existing walkway recently signposted by White Cliffs Countryside Project. There is outline information and a map on www.sustransconnect2.org.uk

HOW THE STREETS OF DOVER GOT THEIR NAMES

by Terry Sutton

The names of many of Dover's streets give an idea of the date when they were planned and built. Many were named after leading national politicians of the time while others recall monarchs and their supporters' way back in history.

Today, in my view unfortunately, the trend is to name new roads after the wives or families of the developer or after some attractive part of the country.

This occasional feature, however, seeks to explain the historical association of some of the streets of Dover, many in the older parts of the town.

Abbots Walk - on Buckland Estate obtained its name from the Canterbury Tales when, along with neighbouring roads, "New Jerusalem" was laid out. Other roads in the area also took their names from the same source.

Adrian Street - once known as Upwall or later Above Wall - obtained its name from Adrian Gate, one of the gates of the town wall that stood nearby.

Alfred Road - probably after Alfred the Great (849-899). In 886 King Alfred negotiated a partition treaty with the Danes and gained control of areas of West Mercia and Kent.

Ashen Tree Lane - named after a large ash tree that once flourished there.

Beach Street (now part of a lorry parking area near Southern House) stood on what was the Western Beach, now called Shakespeare Beach.

Bench Street - different suggestions but probably after the benches from which merchants sold their wares.

Biggin Street - after Biggin Gate, another entrance through the town's walls that was demolished in 1762.

Bowling Green Terrace - once a bowling green stood where Durham Hill flats now stands - was used by officers of the garrison.

Branch Street - linking Peter Street with Bridge Street - so called because a little footbridge crossed a branch of the river at this point.

Bridge Street - Probably named after a brick bridge, built in 1829 to replace the ford and old wooden bridge.

Cowgate Hill - near here stood Cow Gate through which cows were driven to feed on the foothills of the Western Heights. Another gate in the town wall.

Dryden Road - was probably named after the first poet laureate (1668).

Edred Road - after Edred, King of Kent (reigned 946-955), who died while still in his twenties and was buried at Winchester.

Eastbrook Place - stood alongside the eastern portion of the river that emptied into what is now the harbour.

Edwards Road - the side road off Biggin Street opposite Woolworths, was named after a popular pastor at Salem Church that once backed on this little road.

Erith Street - James Beale, a member of the Society of Friends, who built a large house at the corner for himself, came from Erith.

Ethelbert Road - after Ethelbert, King of Kent (reigned 560-616). He ruled all England south of The Humber. He became first baptised Anglo-Saxon king and made Canterbury the centre of Christianity in southern England. He was buried at Canterbury.

Fishmongers Lane - stood near to what was the Fisher Gate (another gate into the town) where fishermen washed their nets and sold fish.

Five Post Lane - linking Adrian Street and Snargate Street alongside the Trocadero Inn, so named because it was protected by five posts to prevent access to all but pedestrians

Frith Road - leading to Frith Farm at Guston. Previously known by some as Love or Lovers' Lane. The Corporation purchased and demolished the cottages at the end of the road in the 1880's to allow the road to be widened.

Gloster Way - is associated with Shakespeare's King Lear in which Gloster (not as some times misnamed as the Duke of Gloucester) is a character approaching what is now known as Shakespeare Cliff.

Godwyne Road - after Godwyne, Earl of Kent, governor of Dover Castle in 1057 and father of King Harold killed at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Herbert Street - the owner of the land on which Herbert Street was built, near Erith Street, named it after his servant, Herbert.

King Lear's Way - off Old Folkestone Road, gets its name from Shakespeare's King Lear.

Last Lane - now sadly gone. Possibly named as it was the last in a series of lanes off the Market Square. More likely it was after the lasts used by the shoemakers who provided footwear for the Canons of St Martin-le-Grand nearby.

Laureston Place - was built on land owned by banker Fector and it is believed the name was given in memory of his wife Miss Laurie of Laureston, New Brunswick.

Noah's Ark Road - on a steep hill above Astor Avenue, just the place for a modern day Noah to build his ark!

Norman Street - recalls the work of the Norman invaders in Dover.

Odo Road - at Tower Hamlets, gets its name from Bishop Odo, half brother of William the Conqueror, who became Earl of Kent after 1066. He was Constable of Dover Castle and had ideas of becoming Pope.

Oswald Road - King of Northumbria who reigned from 634-642, the first Anglo-Saxon king to be canonised.

Priory Street - recalls its close proximity to the 12th century Priory that ceased in the reign of Henry VIII and now the Dover College complex.

Seven Star Street - another thoroughfare now gone, was named after the hostelry of that name that gained considerable notoriety in the town.

Out and about in the district...



=== **East Kent Road Car Company Ltd** ===

by John Lines

A few months ago, thanks to a Lottery Grant and support from a number of local businesses, the Transport Museum acquired premises of its own at Willingdon Road, Whitfield. These were the old gymnasium and swimming pool for the Old Park Army barracks. Whilst moving we re-discovered the war memorial to the employees of East Kent Road Car Company who had died during the Second World War, either on active service or because of air raids.

With the support of Paul Southgate, managing director of Stagecoach in East Kent, we built a tribute room, the refurbished memorial forming the centrepiece. Paul and the Mayor of Dover, Councillor Mrs. Jan Tranter, opened the room on Friday 27th October 2006 and, with a former East Kent Road Car vehicles display, this was well received. On Remembrance Sunday, Stagecoach employees attended a short service and laid a wreath in memory of their colleagues who had paid the ultimate price.

We realized the affection for 'East Kent' in the District so Sunday 29th April will be *East Kent Day* at the Museum. We hope to have many old buses, coaches lorries etc and some of the modern Stagecoach fleet. All are welcome to this day of nostalgia, browse the displays and enjoy the old buses and coaches. Hopefully some may be able to give trips around the area on some of the old routes of long ago. It will be a GREAT day, especially if YOU are there!

The White Mill

by Alan Lee

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD of *White Mill Rural Heritage Centre*, The Causeway, Ash Road, Sandwich?

When driving by you see only the impressive white windmill built around 1760, even before James Cook discovered Australia. This smock mill was restored between 1960 and 1961 by millwright Vincent Pargeter and still retains most of its original wooden machinery. Although not a working windmill the machinery is kept in top condition and the sails have just been refitted. Visitors are able to go inside and see the actual mill machinery and view displays of agricultural machinery and equipment in the base.

But there is much more to see. The museum is housed in the millers cottage and the original outbuildings that surround the mill. These include the granary, cow shed, forge, grandad's shed, wheelwrights and cobblers shop. There are many photographs which show Victorian farm workers and local people 100 years ago and displays of agricultural and other craft equipment. There are exhibits of farming and craft tools, kitchen and laundry equipment, plus a complete wheelwright's and a blacksmith's workshop complete with forge. There are many rooms set out as they would have been, many giving the visitor a glimpse of a much simpler life and time of long ago.

Run by the *White Mill Rural Museum Trust* the whole enterprise, including maintenance and stewarding, is run by volunteers. If you have never visited it you are missing a real treat and, you never know, you might then like to become part of a great friendly team.

Opening times are:

ALL YEAR
Tuesday, Friday and Sunday
10am to 12.30.

EASTER TO MID SEPTEMBER
Sunday with Bank Holiday Monday
2.30pm to 5.30pm

NATIONAL MILLS WEEKEND
SANDWICH FESTIVAL WEEKEND
HERITAGE WEEKEND

Last entry is one hour before closing time.

A visit to the White Mill will not cost you the earth and is a great day out so why not pay a visit, you will not be sorry. For more information 01304 612076.

Article compiled from correspondence received from Ray Horton - Vice Chairman and the White Mill website.



White Mill, Sandwich

The Western Heights Preservation Society

report from Chris Taft

OPEN WEEKEND AT THE WESTERN HEIGHTS Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June 2007

Now a regular feature that attracts large crowds eager to join in the fun, the annual open weekend, managed jointly by The Western Heights Preservation Society (WHPS) and the White Cliffs Countryside Project (WCCP), helps bring the history of a very important fortress to life. The Heights are a series of forts linked by miles of ditches on the western hilltop above Dover. Construction began during the American War of Independence, continued during the Napoleonic Wars and resulted in one of the most important and impressive forts in Britain, and indeed Europe. Much remains closed to the public but the open weekend allows rare access to some of the more spectacular parts of the fortifications.

The whole weekend will be packed with events and activities for all with, on the Sunday, lots of extra events, stalls and displays from amongst others, nature conservation groups, English Heritage, local groups and organisations and period re-enactors. Refreshments will be available and experts on hand to answer questions.

On both days the Grand Shaft, an impressive 19th century triple staircase, will be free of charge and parts of the Drop Redoubt will be open, with a small charge being made for entry. All money taken helps to preserve the fort and allow future access. The most impressive is the Drop Redoubt, a self-contained gun platform with vast rooms, casemates and barrack accommodation, which was used from the Napoleonic wars to the Second World War. Chris Taft (WHPS) comments that the Drop Redoubt with its sheer size is fantastic and the views from the top are simply a must. This, with the rest of the events during the weekend, means there really will be something for everyone.

Visitors are reminded that this is a historic fortress opened especially for this event. Physical access to the fort is not possible by wheelchair users or people with prams or push chairs. There is, however, plenty to see and do on the Sunday. Appropriate footwear is recommended for anyone visiting the Drop Redoubt or Grand Shaft.





Situated on Military Hill, Dover, just off the A20 above the Western Docks, the Sunday events will take place at the former barracks just below the Redoubt. Limited parking will be available close by; alternatively visitors could park in the town and ascend to the site via the more traditional method - up the 140 steps of the Grand Shaft.

The WHPS who will be funding and managing the open weekend are a volunteer-run Society set up seven years ago to help promote, preserve and make the Western Heights accessible. They are grateful to English Heritage for permission to open the Drop Redoubt site and to Dover District Council for opening the Grand Shaft.

There are plans for a talk, on a related subject, to take place on the Saturday evening in Dover, with many more activities and plans being worked on. For more information see below.

APPEAL FOR MARSHALS FOR THE OPEN WEEKEND

To make this weekend happen we need a team of volunteer marshals, whose principal duties will be to ensure the safety of the visitors. Full instruction will be given. There is no need to be an expert on the history of the site as experts will be on hand if required. If you would like to be involved see address below.

WORK DAYS

After the post-open day lull in which the committee has taken a well-earned break, we are now busy preparing for the open weekend. Work is continuing in earnest and the site of the latrine block is slowly being cleared. Following the successful opening up of the Staff Sergeants' Quarters, it is hoped that this work will help interpret the site further.

Two of our members have been training in the use of herbicides on the site, which will allow us to be more active on the weed-killing front, as the plants are already trying to take over the paths again.

English Heritage has requested that we restrict access to the Caponiers throughout the winter months. As it is a bat hibernation site, we are legally bound to avoid disturbance during the period November to March and could be subject to fines if we knowingly disturb the creatures.

GETTING INVOLVED

The WHPS is actively seeking to expand and develop its committee; the work need not be strenuous and is very rewarding. If you would like to get involved please contact us at the address below.

CONTACT US

More information can be found on the group's website at www.dover-western-heights.org

or by e-mail to

publicity@dover-western-heights.org

or by writing to

WHPS Pox 366 DEAL Kent CT14 9XY



Dover Music Society

The next concert will be held in
Dover Town Hall on Friday 30th March 2007
at 7:30 pm

GREAT NEWS, after trying for over 2 years, we have finally managed to book the internationally famous and outstanding cellist Nina Kotova to perform at our next concert. Currently on a UK and European tour she has kindly agreed to perform in Dover.

Nina is regarded by many as the best cellist in the world and we are really lucky to be able to bring her to perform in Dover. I doubt if this opportunity will arise again and, therefore, do try not miss this concert and please advise friends, colleagues and neighbours.

Born into a family of musicians and scientists, Russian cellist Nina Kotova has been hailed as 'unforgettable', 'passionate and inspiring' and as having 'powerfully expressive energy with a technique of utter mastery'. She represents the third generation of musicians in her family. Her father, Ivan Kotov, (1950-1985) who died after years of cultural persecution, is regarded as a legendary virtuoso double bassist. Nina was accepted by the cello faculty into an adult class of the Moscow Conservatory at the age of seven. She gave her first public performance as a soloist with an orchestra at the age of eleven and at fifteen won first prize at the 'Concertino Prague' International Competition. At nineteen, after graduating in Moscow, she left the Soviet Union and continued studying in Germany and the USA.

Since her Western debut in 1996 at the Wigmore Hall in London, she has

performed as a soloist with top Symphony Orchestras throughout the world and has appeared with many top international artists, including a solo performance for the Imperial Family of Japan.

Her debut CD in 1999 was an instant success and *Elle* magazine named Nina one of the 25 persons to watch in the next century. Her playing has been featured in the Deutsche Gramophone release 'Masters of the Bow' which pays homage to the greatest cellists of the last 50 years. Her latest CD is of the Dvorak Cello Concerto.

Nina is also recognised as an outstanding composer and her Cello Concerto was released on CD to rave reviews. San Francisco Chronicle wrote: 'Kotova stands in defiance of last century's modernism and the new simplicity of so much recent music. Her cello concerto is a complex, gripping affair. Kotova is destined for greatness'. She holds the post of Professor of Composition and Performance at the University of Austin, Texas, USA. and is a co-founder and artistic director of The Tuscan Sun Festival in Italy and the Festival del Sole in California.

Nina Kotova plays two instruments, a 1696 Guarneri cello and the legendary 1673 'Du Pre' Stradivarius.

More details can be found on her website www.ninakotova.com and the music festival's on www.tuscansunfestival.com

Letters to the Editor



Saving Our Traditions

Dear Editor,

I recently moved back to Dover, my hometown, after years of absence; however, for twenty years I kept in touch with Dover affairs. Three matters interest me and on these, I offer fellow members the benefit of experience and future help when needed.

The K6 Jubilee traditional red telephone boxes are fast disappearing all over Britain and the Dover area is no exception. The K6 in St. Margaret's Bay went last year to be replaced by a modern all glass type totally out of keeping with the undeveloped bay and outside Martin Mill station another went recently. About twenty years ago, I had the four K6's 'united' at the old Dover Marine station now the Cruise Terminal. Two of these inside the building are looked after and operational for the public good. The K6 at East Cliff and the one at New Bridge are listed. I am trying to have the K6 on Castle Hill listed as under threat from B.T.'s ongoing review of telephone boxes. The criteria for listing were recently reviewed and at the behest of B.T. has made it more difficult to list one. However, I hope the K6 on Castle Hill may meet even the stricter criteria along with the unlisted old Lodge House next to it. They go well together.

My second interest is street name-plates, again part of our heritage. The old cast-iron ones are part of our old roads but all too often they are replaced by modern inferior types. In an age when little is maintained - just replaced, it is a sad reflection of throw-away Britain. If you have an old Victorian street name-plate near you ask Dover District Council to keep it in place. It is at risk!

My third interest is flags and I enjoy membership of the Flag Institute. Very rarely does one see the Union Jack in Dover. Even the Harbour Board only flies it in the summer. Flag poles do not necessarily require planning permission, so be patriotic: fly the flag.

I am happy to help any member on these matters on mobile number 07941 574901 for voicemail or text.

Yours sincerely,

G. R. Wanstall (Member and Doverian)

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.

Links to other Dover websites are listed on our website and give valuable information about our town.

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

ARCHERY

World Cup and European Grand Archery comes to Dover

31st July - 5th August 2006. The event, open to the public, will be held at the Duke of York's Royal Military School and will see over 400 of the best archers in the world competing. It is expected that during the course of the tournament there will be over 10,000 spectators visiting Dover. If they spend between £12 and £100 each that will mean a total of between £120,000 and £1,000,000.

For more information visit www.dover-archery.net/

DOVER FILM FESTIVAL

This unique, important social history record was viewed by 712 people on 5th and 6th February 2007 at Dover Town Hall. Mike McFarnell's 2006 film of the events that took place in Dover was followed by Ray Warner's 1966 film. The latter was silent so Terry Sutton wrote a commentary which he gave throughout the film. More Ray Warner films held by Dover Museum may soon be available for the public to purchase.

For a fuller report visit www.dover-film.com/

SOME INFORMATIVE SITES

Dover District Council.

www.dover.gov.uk

Dover Town Council.

www.dovertown.co.uk

Dover Civic Pride Campaign.

www.dovercivicpride.homestead.com

Dover Pageant.

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Email: Alan.lee1947@ntlworld.com

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Don't fancy a beer? Try one of our list of 35+ carefully chosen wines, all selected with quality and value for money in mind. And don't forget we're also famous for our range of over 50 single malt whiskies.

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But the port's year did not end there. Dover continued to be 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.

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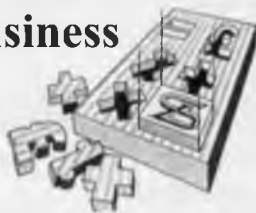
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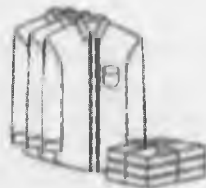
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Signed

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 2007

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

2007

- APRIL 16**
Monday 7.30
Annual General Meeting
Speaker: Bob Goldfield "Dover Harbour Board"
- MAY 19**
Saturday
£13.00
Greenwich. There is much to discover with its astounding museums. From its maritime treasures, riverside views and historic royal connections.
Pick-ups: 0800 Railway Bell; 0810 Frith Road; 0815 Brook House Car Park
- JUNE 6**
Wednesday
12.30 for 1pm
£13.00
The Association Culturelle des Amis du Chateau a Condette will join us for a tour of Dover and take lunch at the Maison Dieu Stone Hall. Those members wishing to join the party for a three course lunch please complete the enclosed form.
- JULY 18**
Wednesday
£13.00
Palace of Westminster. A guided tour of the palace and the Jewel Tower, built around 1365 by Edward III. From 1869 to 1938 it became the home to the official Weights and Measures Office.
Pick-ups: 0745 Railway Bell; 0755 Frith Road; 0800 Brook House Car Park
- AUGUST 16**
Thursday
£10.00
(does not include lunch)
Village of St Peters, Broadstairs. A morning guided tour of the village. The Red Lion public house is booked for lunch.
Pick-ups: 0815 Railway Bell; 0825 Frith Road; 0830 Brook House Car Park
- SEPTEMBER**
Saturday
£26.00 approx
(does not include lunch)
Boulogne - Nausicaa (am) and tour of Old Town (pm). Arranged by l'Association Culturelle des Amies du Chateau a Condette. (More details in next newsletter).
- OCTOBER 15**
Monday 7.30
Speakers: John Clayton "South Foreland Lighthouse"
Richard Sturt "Water Matters"
- NOVEMBER 19**
Monday 7.30
Speaker: Nadeem Aziz "Dover Retrospect and Prospect"
- DECEMBER 15**
Saturday
for 7.30
Christmas Feast. Celebrate the beginning of the festivities in style by attending our annual feast held in the splendid surroundings of the Refectory in Dover College. Price to include sherry reception, a sumptuous buffet, wine, soft drinks and live entertainment.

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