

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 60

December 2007



IF
£1
SOLD

Can you identify this picture of old Dover? Contact the Editor.

THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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

PRESIDENT	Brigadier Maurice Atherton CBE
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Peter Johnson, Miss Lillian Kay, Mrs Joan Liggett Peter Marsh, Jonathan Sloggett, Terry Sutton, Miss Christine Waterman, Jack Woolford
THE COMMITTEE	
CHAIRMAN	Derek Leach OBE, 24 Riverdale, River, Dover CT17 0GX Tel: 01304 823926 Email: derekriverdale@btinternet.com
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Jeremy Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD Tel: 01304 211348 Email: jeremycoppe@willersley.plus.com
HON. SECRETARY	William Naylor, "Wood End", 87 Leyburne Rd, Dover CT16 1SH Tel: 01304 211276 Email: billnaylor@hotmail.com
HON. TREASURER	Mike Weston, 71 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 01304 202059 Email: mike@weston71.freemove.co.uk
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Sheila Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD Tel: 01304 211348
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Pat Hooper, Castle Lea, Taswell Street, Dover CT16 1SG Tel: 01304 228129 Email: castlelea@tiscali.co.uk
EDITOR	Alan Lee, 8 Cherry Tree Avenue, Dover CT16 2NL Tel: 01304 213668 Email: Alan.lee1947@ntlworld.com
PRESS SECRETARY	Terry Sutton MBE, 17 Bewsbury Cross Lane, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3HB Tel: 01304 820122 Email: terry.sutton@route56.co.uk
PLANNING	<i>Chairman</i> Jack Woolford, 1066 Green Lane, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3AR Tel: 01304 330381 Email: a.woolford2@ntlworld.com
	<i>Committee</i> Mike Bayley, Patricia Jukes, Margaret Robson, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Sybil Standing, Mike Weston
ARCHIVIST	Dr S.S.G. Hale, 34 Church Hill, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3DR Tel: 01304 825670
WEB PAGE	Mike McFarnell Email: mmcarnell@hotmail.com,
RAFFLE	Adeline Reidy Email: adelinereidy@uk2.net
ADVERTISING SECRETARY	Jean Marsh, 31 Millais Road, Dover CT16 2LW Tel: 01304 206123 Email: jean.marsh7@ntlworld.com
CONNAUGHT PARK OFFICER	Graham Wanstall, 24 Park Street, Dover CT16 1EP Tel: 01304 242493

Contents

2	EDITORIAL	Alan Lee
5	PLANNING	Jack Woolford
	SOCIETY PROJECTS	
6	River Dour	Jeremy Cope
7	Cowgate Cemetery	Jeremy Cope
8	THEIR NAMES LIVETH FOR EVERMORE	Michelle Cooper
11	A VISIT TO FRIENDS OF CONDETTE CASTLE	Jack Woolford
12	DOVER SOCIETY WEB PAGE	
13	MEMBERSHIP NEWS	Sheila Cope
14	MAGIC YET AGAIN	Jack Woolford
	SOCIETY OCTOBER MEETING	
15	A Local Lighthouse - talk by John Clayton	Terry Sutton
16	Water Matters - talk by Richard Sturt	Jeremy Cope
	SOCIETY SUMMER OUTINGS	
19	Palace of Westminster	Pat Sherratt
23	A Step into the Past - St Peter's Village	Alan Lee
29	HISTORY THROUGH FICTION	Merril Lilley
33	DOVER MARINE STATION	Terry Sutton
37	WESTERN HEIGHTS PRESERVATION SOCIETY	Chris Taft
38	DOVER BOWLS CLUB	Jeremy Cope
38	REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND	Terry Sutton
44	APPLICATION FORM	

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 committee, editorial and production team would like to extend seasonal greetings to all of our readers and advertisers.

It was a great disappointment but the last summer outing, to France, had to be cancelled due to an insufficient number of members booking. The remainder of the outings have now taken place and proved to be very successful. This was in no small part due to Pat Hooper our Social Secretary and her organisational skills, thank you Pat.

The next social event is our annual Christmas feast. We are limiting the number attending this year, as it was felt that it was getting to large for comfort, so to avoid disappointment please book as soon as possible.

Jean Marsh our advertising secretary continues to work wonders by increasing the number of advertisements in the newsletter a very well done to Jean. When you use any of the services advertised please mention that you saw it in the Dover Society Newsletter.

I would like to thank May, Merril and Pam for their diligence in proof reading each edition of the newsletter, all of the distribution team without whom we could not operate and the staff at Adams for always producing the newsletter on time. Last but not least a BIG THANKS to all who cheerfully provide the refreshments and clear up at every meeting.

The format of the newsletter has changed slightly this time. As we are now attracting more whole page advertisements instead of placing them all towards the back of the newsletter they now appear throughout the publication. I would like your comments, for or against, on the new layout.

To mark the 20 years the Society has been in existence it would be a great help if we could attract more new members. The easiest way is for each existing member to induce one person to join the society. We can then go forward for the next 20 years in a much stronger position.

Editor

Wanted

Volunteers are required to assist in running the raffle, in making and serving the refreshments and with washing up at the Society's winter meetings. We only hold five ordinary meetings, plus one wine and wisdom, at St Mary's Parish Centre. Therefore, even if you can only assist at one or two of the meetings it would be of great benefit and help to the Society. If you are interested in helping out, or you know anyone else who may be, then contact the Chairman or any member of the committee, (see inside front cover of newsletter for contact details).

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 61 will be Wednesday 24th January 2008. 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.

Publication in the Newsletter does not imply the Society's agreement with any views expressed, nor does the Society accept responsibility for any statements made. All published material remains the copyright of its authors, artists or photographers.

EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION TEAM

Editor:	Mr Alan Lee
Proof Readers:	Miss May Jones, Mrs Merrill Lilley and Mrs Pam Taylor
Advertising Secretary:	Mrs J. Marsh
Distribution Organiser:	Mr J. Cope
Envelopes and Labels:	Mr J. Cope
Area Distributors:	J.Betts, M.Burton, J.Cope, E.B.Dudley, J.Fox, J.Francis, M.Goulding, L.M.Hoar, E.M.Johns, M.Lilley, A.Mole, M.Morris, L.O'Connor, J.Owen, K.J.Palmer, M.Robson, A.Sidney-Vassey, C.Taylor.

YOUR LOCAL
PAINT & DÉCOR
CENTRE

*ADVICE, QUALITY,
ALWAYS LOW PRICES*



10% OAP DISCOUNT ALL DAY EVERY DAY!



LARGE RANGE OF CO-ORDINATED
WALLPAPERS & BORDERS!
£4.99 - £14.99 (half book price or less)



COLOUR TINTING -
1000'S OF COLOURS AVAILABLE!



PRODUCTS FOR ALL
YOUR DECORATING NEEDS!



84-86 LONDON ROAD, DOVER
TEL: (01304) 204460

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Report by
JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

It is good to have some good news. Purchase of the Connaught Barracks site by English Partnerships (government-controlled) presumably guarantees that Dover will get its 500 eco-houses (with community facilities) which, provided jobs for their occupants become available, is excellent news. Should the number of greenfield sites required for other projected housing in, for example, Whitfield, be correspondingly reduced, the benefit would be multiplied. Construction of the new Sea Sports Centre seems guaranteed.

Although controversial, construction of the slip road from the Eastern Docks has at last been sanctioned and can scarcely make the traffic congestion problem worse. Meanwhile the impending (and necessary) resurfacing of A20 next year can hardly do otherwise. Cross fingers for good weather and for no French transport strikes, (etc, etc)!

Substantial improvements to the approaches to Dover Priory Station, in addition to the recent internal refurbishment, are now guaranteed and most welcome. We have, however, pointed out that since the coming of the High Speed Rail Link to Dover in 2009 is hoped to increase commuting to London, the provision of a mere 29

parking places is grossly inadequate. Our figure is 200!

Because it is outside the Society's constitutional area, we have not commented on the proposed wind farm at Eniver Down, to which there is so much local opposition on combined environmental and economic grounds. We must do our homework. The breakwater might be the next.

Dover's Town and District Councils continue at odds about developments at Pencester Gardens and the new Sports Pavilion on the Western Heights. The Town Council is to be congratulated for having solved the long mystery of the ownership of the land fronting B&Q and the Dour, and Netto for licensing them to improve it.

Retrospective planning applications continue to increase, suggesting that persistence pays. We have reported an unauthorized development to Dover District Council who referred us to the Highways Authority which has referred us back to Dover District Council. Can "buck-passing" be the name of the game? Meanwhile the White Paper on planning proposes a speed-up of the planning process in favour of development...

SOCIETY PROJECTS

Report by Jeremy Cope

THE RIVER DOUR

A meeting of the Dour Steering Group was held on 10th October at Crabble Corn Mill but prior to the meeting committee members received a guided tour of recent works carried out by the Environment Agency along Barton Path. The Agency has excavated within the riverbed to form a continuous and deeper channel. The resultant gravel has been used to form islands within the river. We now have a section of river whose movement is visually more alive and varied and is much closer in nature to the original Dour. In time the newly formed islands will be covered in natural vegetation, an altogether superior prospect. Committee members were very impressed. Member Joan Liggett had previously told me of her pleasure in the effect created by the new works including the wildlife to be seen, for instance amongst the birds, a heron. I would urge members to go and look for themselves.

At the meeting we received reports by the Environment Agency of similar works carried out at Kearsney Abbey and Pencester Gardens. The agency will also re-examine the work carried out last year when logs were used in an attempt to form a narrower winding and faster flowing waterway. Unfortunately the logs have become a trap for rubbish and hence rather ugly. The formation of the restricted waterway will also take

much longer than this year's method of excavating channels. The Agency has also carried out their annual maintenance work to ensure an unimpeded flow along the river. There was an update on the effects of this summer's flooding and of the liaison with local groups to mitigate future problems.

The White Cliffs Countryside Project has this summer operated its rubbish clearance working parties, Green Gangs and guided walks. They have worked on the signage, a thankless task with river walk notices, which for some odd reason fall victim to lorries. The organisation does not have any funding for its river work so that we must be very grateful for their commitment. If you want to see one result of its work look at the B&Q lake. When I last did so there was minimum rubbish, water birds and a strong growth of rushes and other plants that gave us a little nature reserve in the middle of the town.

The District Council continues with the clearance work of areas under their responsibility. I raised two matters brought to my attention by members, rats and dog fouling, and in both cases these are being addressed, but if you see problems do report these to the Council's environment department.

The Town Council is seeking to obtain a

licence from Netto to allow it to clear the banks of the river particularly around the B&Q lake. There were also reports from the Harbour Board and Folkestone and Dover Water Services. I was impressed by everyone's commitment to the Dour and their recognition of its qualities and potential. It bodes very well for the

future. However, the people of Dover must play their part. The rubbish which so spoils our river and its banks, is dropped or dumped by us and not by anyone else. In addition, if anyone wants to volunteer for the rubbish clearance parties you should contact the White Cliffs Countryside Project on 01304 241806.

COWGATE CEMETERY

With autumn comes the task of mowing the cemetery; of cutting back the growth of spring and summer. The vigour of the growth never fails to surprise me. It makes for a lovely, wild display but this is paid for in our mowing and clearance work. We are making good progress and if anyone is interested in joining our working parties please contact me on 01304 211348.

Over the past few months we have spent a substantial amount on upgrading and repairing our equipment. I am particularly pleased with the two trimmers we have acquired. They are powerful and effective and have rapidly shown their worth. We have also purchased safety helmets fitted with ear protectors and mesh visors. With this upgrading I feel much more comfortable about our volunteers' safety.

This upgrading has been made much easier with the help of Brandon Tool Hire of Holmestone Road. This is the first local supplier who has been consistently reliable, particularly in

repairing our equipment. Brandon's have also recognised the contribution we make without cost to Dover and have been generous in calculating its charges. Our thanks to Brandon's.

We are very grateful for the very generous anonymous donations, towards projects, we have received over the past few years. It means that the overall cost to the Society has been substantially minimised.

Dover Society - Cowgate Cemetery Provisional Working Party Dates 2008

Thursday	Saturday
3rd January	12th January
7th February	16th February
6th March	15th March
3rd April	12th April
1st May	10th May
5th June	14th June
3rd July	12th July
7th August	16th August
4th September	13th September
2nd October	11th October
6th November	15th November
4th December	13th December



Their Names Liveth for Evermore

By Michelle Cooper

On a windy afternoon in November 2006, my husband, a friend and I sailed to Calais to embark on our second weekend of research for the Dover War Memorial Project. On the first occasion we had visited cemeteries and memorials in Flanders and the Somme, including the unforgettable memorials at Arras, Thiepval and the Menin Gate. This time we were heading south to Rouen as we had a personal mission to complete as well as the task of finding and photographing the last resting places of Dovorians whose names had been supplied by Maggie Stephenson Knight.

We set out the next morning to begin our quest. First we visited the British Cemetery at Namps-Au-Val to locate the grave of Corporal G F Street of the 2nd/4th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment. This small cemetery was set in farmland on the outskirts of the village of the same name. Designed by Reginald Blomfield, it has a classical entrance gate of brick and stone. At the start of the German offensive in Picardy in March 1918, three casualty clearing stations came to the village. Most of the burials were carried out at this time but nine graves were brought in at the end of the war from Conty French Military Cemetery. There are also sixteen French graves and one from the Second

World War. With information obtained from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's website (www.cwgc.org.uk), it was easy to find Corporal Street's grave. This time we had brought small cards which outlined the project and gave its contact details. The cards are part of the Dover War Memorial Project's 'Dover Remembers' scheme, and show that someone had visited the grave and the person's bravery and sacrifice had not been forgotten in his native town. We left one here, and on the other graves we visited, in the hope that relatives or anyone with further information on the casualties would make contact.

We drove to Rouen to the St Sever Cemetery and Extension, which contains the graves of casualties from several nations. The war graves are at the far end of this large city cemetery. Whilst there was little combat in this area during the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were set up in the outskirts of the city, together with a base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters. Most of the 16 hospitals and convalescent depots remained in Rouen for the whole of the war. The great majority of those who died in these hospitals were buried in the St Sever Cemetery and it was soon

necessary to begin the extension. The Cemetery contains 8,346 Commonwealth burials of that war. Only ten of these are unidentified as the hospital would have held records of the servicemen being treated. The area served a similar purpose in the Second World War and there were a further 328 burials in the extension. Alongside those of Commonwealth soldiers there are graves of Red Cross workers, French and Polish soldiers, Indian and Chinese labourers and two areas containing the graves of French and Belgian North African Colonial troops buried according to Muslim tradition. These graves are marked by tall metal memorials bearing either a sword or a pillar featuring the star and crescent moon of Islam.

Here, together with those of six



Grave of Private Horace Stokes

Dovorians, we located the grave of Lance Corporal William Cooper of the 9th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment. This man from Longton, Stoke on Trent, who died on 20th May 1918, was my husband's great uncle. We had only found out about him recently, following research work undertaken for the Dover War Memorial Project. My husband had checked the details recorded in his father's family Bible and found them to match. He had never been told about his great uncle and to his knowledge we were the first members of the family to visit the grave. We laid a spray of poppies on it and spent a few moments in quiet contemplation in the wintry sunshine.

Looking at the row upon row of identical slabs of Portland stone in places such as this, it is difficult to appreciate fully the numbers of servicemen laid to rest within the sanctity of its walls. It is much easier to relate to the smaller cemeteries like Namps-Au-Val, perhaps because such large scale loss of life is too much for us to comprehend. Finding individual graves and reading the inscriptions, especially those at the foot of the grave chosen by the family, makes the whole experience so much more personal and gives it a sense of purpose, rather than being just a passive observer. One such grave we found was that of Private Horace Stokes. The inscription at the bottom reads:

*Also in memory of his brother
9535 Private C. Stokes
East Yorkshire Regiment
3rd February 1915. Age 25*

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate. We found his name on our visit there in May. It is difficult to imagine the grief of that family, losing two sons in such a short period. Sadly this is a familiar story; Dover's War Memorial commemorates several sets of family members.

The following day we visited the Ste. Marie Communal Cemetery in Le Havre. Le Havre was one of the ports at which the British Expeditionary Force disembarked in August 1914. It was No. 1 Base and the site for five hospitals and four convalescence depots. Hospital ships and other naval vessels filled the harbour. The cemetery has 1689 First World War Commonwealth burials in



Namps-Au-Val Cemetery

five separate divisions. We had graves to find in three of them. These neat grassed pockets were in sharp contrast to the civilian graves and memorials surrounding them, each forming a small oasis amongst the large dark stone tombs and monuments to French families, some long forgotten and falling into a state of disrepair. Surprisingly, plot 62 was arranged in a different way from the other cemeteries we had visited and we had to abandon our search by grave number and check every headstone. We located two graves but Engine Room Artificer George W P Richards of *HMS P.26* still eluded us. Eventually we found his name on the memorial to those soldiers, nurses and merchant seamen lost when the hospital ship *Salta* and her patrol boat and the hospital ship *Galeka* were mined, and the transport ship *Normandy* was torpedoed. Also in Division 62 there is an area where three rows of graves record the month of death as January or February 1919. We came to the conclusion that these casualties died as a result of an epidemic in the hospitals or ships, probably Spanish influenza that claimed so many lives after the war.

The stories of some of the servicemen whose graves we found can be found on the Dover War Memorial Project web-site (www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk). We feel very privileged to undertake these visits and play our part in recording the histories of Dovorians who fell in the two World Wars.

A visit to... FRIENDS OF CONDETTE CASTLE

By Jack Woolford

On Saturday 11th August, Dover Society members Alan and Lorraine Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Pat Hooper and myself, accepted the invitation to revisit Condette. This is what genial Daniel Dutertre, President of the Friends, (after a champagne aperitif and extended lunch in the Dunes Golf Club) said (I translate). *Dear Friends: A few words to say how happy we are to welcome you, to Condette in the Dunes Golf Club Clubhouse ... I wish to repeat that all our members were delighted with their visit to Dover and Canterbury last June. The reception, in the ancient and magnificent Dover Town Hall, in the presence of our respective mayors, was a very great success ... As I have recently told you, the restoration of Condette Castle, both medieval and Victorian, started this year One remembers that two Englishmen formerly contributed to the safeguarding of this monument: Sir John Hare who became owner in 1848 and Sir John Whitley, founder of the Harelol seaside resort, who bought it in 1906. The castle is to become an Anglo-French cultural centre, principally for young people. We are delighted by this evolution and its inauguration at the end of 2008 will provide for many meetings and exhibitions ... I lift my glass to our two societies ... Long live England and France!*

French hospitality so delayed our departure that we missed our booked ferry ...



Condette



Entente cordial



Getting to know you



The Dover Society Website

www.doversociety.homestead.com

*Please visit our site to view video reports on meetings
and check the programme of events.*

Your comments and observation would be appreciated.

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

The site also contains the latest articles, by Lorraine Sencicle,
on Dover throughout the world.

A free programme for the 2008 Dover Film Festival will be available from the 'Switch On' of Dover Christmas Lights. It will then be available at many locations throughout the town, or you can visit the Dover Film Festival website www.dover-film.com

The Festival of Dover



Every four years events will be given a special boost with extra media exposure through the Festival of Dover. Fridge magnets will be distributed to all households in Dover so events can be displayed on the fridge door. Lists for events for each month will be available free from the Town Council office or can be printed from the website.

www.festivalofdover2008.co.uk

A number of projects are planned to celebrate the centenary of the 1908 Dover Pageant. These include the following:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1 January 2008 | Release of a DVD featuring the 1908 Dover Pageant Collection. |
| 4 & 5 February 2008 | Dover Film Festival at Dover Town Hall. |
| 11 February 2008 | 1908 Dover Pageant Music at Dover Town Hall. |
| 8 June 2008 | Dover Pageant at Dover College. |
| October 2008 | Dover Pageant Period Costume Banquet at Dover Town Hall. |
| February 2009 | Dover Film Festival to include the premier release of a film on the life of L N Parker, the 1908 Pageant Master. |



*Dover Pageant 1908
programme cover*

For further information contact
Mike McFarnell, 4 Harold Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1SF. Tel: 01304 201711
Email: mmcfarnell@hotmail.com
Or any member of the committee.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

If you received your August Newsletter later than usual, we are sorry. The delay was due to three coinciding factors:- unavoidably late publication, the postal strike and the regular distribution organisers going on holiday. However, the day was saved by John and Ann Owen who nobly took on the task of contacting the distributors and/or delivering their bundles. Thank you John and Ann!

At time of writing our actual membership number is 454 but we reached our thousandth enrolment in mid-September with Mr Ernie and Mrs Gill Spratling. Although they have migrated to Folkestone, Ernie was born in Dover and naturally wishes to keep in touch with his hometown. Gill was born in Alkham, tactfully half way. To mark the occasion, our Chairman presented our 999th and 1000th members with a bottle of wine and a copy of Budge Adams' book, *Dover Tribute*, at the October meeting. Will it take almost 20 years to enrol another 1000? Although we "run to stand still" our membership remains fairly steady at about 450 paid-up members and of course we always welcome more, finding that word of mouth recommendation is most satisfactory.

We have been pleased to add, as well as Gill and Ernie:- Ms M Stephenson-Knight, Mr S Chambers, Mrs T & Mr J Eddolls and Mrs G Hinder.

Sheila Cope, Membership Secretary



999 and 1000 members Ernie and Gill Spratling, Oct 2007

Warning! Warning! Warning! Warning!

With Christmas fast approaching it has been confirmed by Royal Mail and the Trading Standards Office that they are making people aware of the following confidence trick:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail fraud originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud Department on 0207 239 6655 or ICSTIS (the premium rate service regulator) at

<http://www.icstis.org.uk/>



Magic Yet Again

Oliver Poole's July 15th Recital

By Jack Woolford



Although the Connaught Hall was cruelly stifling (needing air-conditioning much more than a refurbished organ) and only half-full (perhaps because of the new ticketing arrangements), Oliver Poole's incredible 15-year-old mastery of the keyboard and astonishing maturity of interpretation were even more evident. With beautifully printed programmes replacing the normal programme notes, he again delighted us with a double recital, for which tickets at - say - the Wigmore Hall would have been £25 to £50: though Wigmore could not have out-Connaughted the vigour and volume of heartfelt applause and cries of joy.

Part I began with Mendelssohn's "Variations Serieuses", new (I am told) to Oliver but 75 years old to me, and cherished as a melancholy masterpiece. Serious, indeed, but a far from slow sequence of variously styled variations in melodically linked but harmonically and emotionally contrasting sequences. The climax demands highest technical virtuosity and simultaneous passionate emotional commitment, not to mention fantastic feats of memory in the fingers. Needless to say ...

I have reservations about Liszt. A genius, a super-brilliant pianist, a prolific composer but lacking an unmistakably personal style in every bar (unlike, say, Bach or Beethoven) and inclining to theatrical, not to say melodramatic, showers of notes and triplets galore. However, pianists delight in his pyrotechnics, whispers and thunders, and the Sonata in B Minor certainly tests them to its lengthy utmost. Needless to say ...

Part 2, in fact a complete second recital, was inspirationally but unsurprisingly dedicated to Chopin (1810-39) to whom, as the portrait on the programme revealed, Oliver himself has at least a resemblance in profile. Confronted with myriad mazurkas, polonaises, preludes and waltzes (etc, etc, etc), he chose only two ballades, two scherzi and one étude, all composed before Chopin was thirty (out of 39) but all passionately Polish and characteristically innovative in style, harmony and form, in the service of his uniquely personal gift of melody. Apart from the Op 25 Étude in C sharp minor, played with the most delicate, lightning, fairy-like touch I ever heard, Oliver revealed to perfection the tragic intensity of the already fully-matured composer's genius. Thanks, Oliver! It was more than magic. It was a miracle.

Brahms next?

OCTOBER MEETING

A Local Lighthouse

Reported by Terry Sutton

JOHN CLAYTON, the former director of planning and technical services with Dover District Council, was the first of our two speakers at our meeting at St Mary's parish centre on October 15th.

John, who is chairman of the St Martin's Emmaus centre in Dover, is a National Trust volunteer guide at the South Foreland lighthouse, on the cliffs between Dover and St Margaret's Bay, which was the subject of his most interesting talk.

Looking back at the history of lighthouses in the area he said that in 1367 a hermit called Nicholas de Legh,

who lived in a cave, provided a light on the cliffs to guide shipping around the coast. Local landowners helped finance his work, apparently to gain forgiveness for their sins.

This was followed in 1635 by an enterprising Scot, named John Meldrum, who persuaded Charles I to allow him to build lighthouses at the South and North Foreland and to collect a fee (one halfpenny a ton) from passing shipping. His lighthouses were made of wood with a fire on top!

In 1832 Trinity House took over responsibility for the South Foreland lighthouse and ten years later the existing building was constructed. It ceased operating in September 1988.

Mr Clayton explained why there are two lighthouses at South Foreland (one is on the cliff top and in danger of falling into the sea). The original aim was for both to be lit so that passing shipping could line them up and in that way navigate away from the dangerous Goodwin Sands.

At one stage whale sperm oil was used to provide the fuel to create the light but that proved too expensive, so a switch was made to crushed rapeseed but that caused too much smoke.



South Foreland Lighthouse

In 1858 Trinity House introduced the use of electricity, making it the first lighthouse in the world to be powered in that way. It was installed by Michael Faraday (1791-1867) but its use continued for only six months when there was a return to oil. Generators were brought into use in 1872 to provide the electricity to create the revolving light.

He urged those who had never visited the lighthouse to do so and learn the fascinating history that included Marconi's first ship-to-shore radio message in 1898 between the East Goodwin lightship and South Foreland. Even more impressively the following year he exchanged the first international radio transmission between Wimereux near Boulogne and the lighthouse.

Water Matters

Reported by Jeremy Cope

I WAS VERY IMPRESSED by the talk given by our second speaker Richard Sturt on, "Water Matters". Richard spoke from his experience as Southern Region Chairman of the Consumer Council for Water. He surveyed our water supply scene, its problems and some of the potential solutions of a subject that is of fundamental importance to anyone living in this area. A serious shortage of water involves rather more than a hosepipe ban and we should not take comfort from this year's wet summer.

First our deteriorating supply.

It came as no surprise that the Romans sorted things out using aqueducts to bring in the water that enabled them to use 600 litres per day per person. The comparison with our situation was highlighted by pictures of Bewl Water which supplies 17% of Kent's needs; the first when full, the second well nigh empty, each the result of seasonal variation. In Dover we rely almost wholly on water from the chalk

aquifers. Across Kent we consume 160 litres per day, just over a quarter of the Roman figure and we currently have water shortages from time to time.

Second our increasing demand.

Oh dear - the picture gets worse when we look into the future. Population predicted to grow by over 10%, growth in single households which use water less efficiently, additional demands from climate change and a forecast reduction in supplies from abstraction from aquifers. The net result, a potential deficit of around 30% by 2030.

Lastly possible long-term solutions.

What can be done? First if we use more domestic metering, water saving campaigns, more efficient distribution systems and more effective appliances within the home we will still find demand rising.

What of new sources of supply? Bewl capacity can be increased by raising the dam height; building Broadoak

Reservoir would make a substantial contribution. Reservoirs have advantages as environmental and recreational resources. The output from Abingdon via Thames would be a major source but the problem of transport has to be resolved. Both desalination and reuse of effluent require major use of energy and are unlikely to form a major part of the solution. We can use reed beds to purify used water but this requires extensive space although nature does the work for us.

At the end of Richard's talk there were several questions and I think that most of the audience left with something to think about. My own feeling was that there needs to be proper thought given

to what is a very fundamental matter and this includes the growth in Kent. We in the Dover area face a very substantial increase in households, particularly at Whitfield and this in the face of inadequate water supplies. There does not appear any logical planning and co-ordination; no countrywide approach to the problem. Does our town planning need a major overhaul so that we only build efficient housing and think through our town layouts? How can we build homes where there is an adequate and sustainable infrastructure? But any answers are only valid if there is proper research and we are all given the right to take an effective part in the decisions.



River Dour, 1906

ANDY'S OF DOVER LTD ERIC ROAD GARAGE

Tel. 01304 207206



**Cambelts • Clutches • Brakes • Welding
MOTs • Major Repairs Undertaken
Fast Fit Exhaust Centre
Tyres • Puncture Repairs
Computer Diagnostics
Free Estimates**

Summer Outings

Palace of Westminster

by PAT SHERRATT

After days of rain, the sun shone on the righteous as we were blessed with a sunny day.

A well-behaved group of 39 members returned to their schooldays of queuing up before assembly, yes a couple of naughty boys hid round the corner for a quick cigarette. Anyway, at the appointed hour we were admitted appropriately through the "Royal Entrance" at the Victoria Tower.

We were then split into two groups each with a most knowledgeable guide. Our guide was Scottish and retired from a lifetime of working in the Palace of Westminster. All questions posed were answered and an informative tour ended in Westminster Hall, the current Palace of Westminster being rebuilt following the destruction by fire in 1834. Little remains of the original building. The Great Hall (Westminster Hall) was originally built as the Palace of Westminster, for William Rufus, in 1097-1099 and remodelled in 1394-99 by Richard II.



Our tour included a visit to the House of Lords, but as it was Prime Ministers question time (no doubt some of our members would have interesting questions for the Prime Minister to answer if given the opportunity!) we were unable to visit the House of Commons. As we passed through the Palace the magnificent furniture, carvings and fittings by Augustus Pugin

abounded and supported the gothic style architecture created by Charles Barry.

On the tour was an interesting exhibition marking the Act of Union in 1707. This traced the events from the two crowns of England and Scotland in 1603, through the civil war and the Glorious Revolution, to the signing of the Articles of Union in July 1706. What a privilege to see such important historical documents on display.

Passing through the Central Lobby with its four arches depicting the four Saints of the United Kingdom, our guide told us that St. Patrick was placed over



the arch nearest to the exit from the Palace of Westminster as Irish members had the furthest to travel, St. George over the arch to the House of Lords as all Englishmen aspire to the Lords, St. David over the arch to the House of Commons as all Welshmen wished to be great orators, whilst St. Andrew was above the arch leading to the Members Bar.

In Westminster Hall there was an interesting exhibition on the abolition of slavery.

After the tour of The Palace of Westminster, many of us enjoyed lunch in the restaurant, at reasonable prices, before leaving to enjoy many other

aspects of London.

Several members crossed the road to enjoy the history of the Jewel Tower, which is one of only two buildings from the medieval Palace of Westminster surviving to the present day. It was built in around 1365 by Edward III to house his personal treasure and wardrobe, in which function it continued until 1621. From this date it was used to store the records of the House of Lords, a stroke of good fortune which ensured that these survived the great fire of 1834 which consumed the rest of the Palace with the exception of Westminster Hall. From 1869 until 1938 it became home to the official Weights and Measures Office.

Today the Jewel Tower is administered by English Heritage and houses an exhibition, Parliament: Past and Present, an account of Parliament's history and its workings today.

Others visited the Royal Festival Hall, Churchill's War Rooms, Westminster Abbey, the London Eye and St.



Margaret's Church, where in the grounds an American college had a two-part band, one part Brass and the other Jazz. Others took themselves off to Trafalgar Square, the National Portrait Gallery, the Museum of Florence Nightingale, a trip on the river, Whitehall, Davenport's, just walking along the embankment or just sitting by the river enjoying the sunshine. A most enjoyable walk through St. James's Park, where there was a display in flowers celebrating Le Tour de France which started from London this year.

Once again this was a very successful visit to the ever-popular Palace of Westminster.



Some interesting facts

The Palace of Westminster

Area of site:	8 acres
Staircases:	100
Length of Passageways:	Approx 3 miles
Number of Rooms:	1,100
St Stephen's Hall:	95ft x 30ft
Westminster Hall:	240ft x 68ft
Height of Clock Tower	
(Big Ben):	316ft
Height of Victoria Tower:	323ft

The Great Clock (Big Ben)

Minute hand (copper):	14ft
Hour hand (gunmetal):	9ft
Glass panes in each face:	312
Pendulum:	14ft 5in
Weight of Big Ben:	13 tons

BLAKES OF DOVER

Under new ownership

Peter and Kathryn Garstin, new owners, with Kevin Raine, Bar Manager, and David Manuel, Head Chef, welcome you to eat, drink or stay in traditional style at Dover's premier watering hole.

Come for breakfast or morning coffee, lunch or dinner. All ingredients used in the kitchen are fresh and sourced wherever possible from local producers and local businesses.

Or drop in for a pint or three of one of our excellent and ever-changing range of real ales from artisan brewers all over the UK, particularly Kent and Sussex.

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.

Monday to Friday we're open from 7am until 11pm,
Saturdays 11.30-11pm and Sundays noon-10.30pm.

Breakfast and lunch served Monday to Friday,
dinner Monday to Saturday (6 to 9pm).

The Bar opens at 11.30 Monday to Friday.

And on Christmas Day we're open from 10am until 2pm for drinks only
(closed Boxing Day)

52 Castle Street,
Dover,
CT16 1PJ
Tel: 01304 202194

A Step into the Past

ST PETER'S VILLAGE

by ALAN LEE



Provost Marshal

95th Rifles. The tour, which was less than a mile of flat walking, consisted of meeting costumed characters of olden times who would bring the past to life.

Commencing our walk we entered the flint and stone church that dates from 1070. After a brief talk by the guide we

After a coach journey of just under an hour we arrived at the attractive and lively village of St. Peter's near Broadstairs. We gathered outside the parish church of St. Peter the Apostle, which gives the village its name, and were greeted by our tour guide and a Provost Marshal of the

moved into the vestry where Richard and Mistress Culmer awaited us. Richard was a prominent local landowner, farmer and shipwright who died in 1495.

As we were leaving the church we were stopped by Brother Thomas, a Canterbury monk, who drew one of the earliest existing maps of Thanet in 1414. The original is on loan to Trinity Hall, Cambridge. As we moved through the churchyard, one of the longest in England, certain graves were brought to our attention. Amongst these were the oldest grave, that of William Norwood buried in 1623, Emma Fagg, a noblewoman who served as a nurse under Florence Nightingale in the Crimea War, Isaac Watts who designed HMS Warrior the first of the 'ironclad warships' and 'The Kentish Samson' a local smuggler who performed great feats of strength who died in 1742. After greeting two ladies dressed in their Sunday best we were accosted by a soldier looking for French spies. He pointed out the lookout in the



Richard and Mistress Culmer



Brother Thomas



British Soldier



Reverend John Wesley

Around the corner on the village green the famous Reverend John Wesley was waiting, close by the local supermarket. This building still retains the original external characteristics of the old barn, part of Mockett's Farm, that was used to garrison soldiers during the Napoleonic Wars. Crossing the green we met two ladies who told us about Richard and Sarah Mockett and their house. Built in 1682 and known as the 'Old Farmhouse', their initials are still visible above the front door; it is now owned by the present Mayor. At the far end of the green stood



The Old (Mockett) Farmhouse

church tower and explained that during the Napoleonic Wars the tower was used as a signalling post, always manned by an officer and ratings from the Royal Navy. In recognition of this St. Peter's Church still claims the right to fly the white ensign.

the village policeman by the stocks, which can still be used legally as the Act of Parliament has never been repealed; this is also a popular place for wedding photographs. Next to this is the village sign, a winner of a Daily Mail competition inspired by a speech in 1920 concerning the revival of village signs, given by the Duke of York, later King George VI.

We then entered the local hall for a very welcome refreshment break of tea/coffee and biscuits.

Heading down the High Street we arrived at Nuckell's Almshouse and met Ann Nuckell and Thomas Wall, who had



Village Policeman



Ann Nuckell and Thomas Wall

been the master of the old workhouse. In 1805 this was demolished and a new one erected by Thomas Brown, at his own expense, to accommodate 47 inmates, some of whom made an appearance from around the end of the building. In 1834 Ann provided the sum of £700 for the Reverend John Hodgeson to purchase the property and convert it to an almshouse for 10 widows. One of these ladies, the worse for drink, was pursued across the lawn by an overseer.



Nuckell overseer with an inmate

Leaving this turmoil behind us we moved on to the Coves, probably so named



Miss Olive Raven

because of the caves, in the garden, cut out of the chalk and once used by smugglers. The lady of the house, Miss Olive Raven, could not stop long as she was on her the way to send a letter.

Turning into Ranelagh Grove we paused at the memorial on the site of where, in 1952, an American USF84 Thunderjet had crashed killing the pilot and three local people.

As we walked down the street we were accosted by a woman speaking with a very strong French accent. We had found the spy. My daughter Denise, ever helpful, pointed down the street to a soldier and said they are looking for spies. With a hurried 'thank you' the woman disappeared.



Denise with the French spy

As we neared a flint cottage, once at the entrance of Ranelagh Gardens, Charles Newbolt and his wife were in the garden talking to another lady. In 1818



Charles Newbolt with his wife and friend

Newbolt, the landlord of the Red Lion, purchased several acres of land from John Mockett and had constructed a bandstand, pavilion, refreshment tents and walkways. At the time this proved to be

very popular, attracting as many as 800 people for breakfast and 400 for the evening entertainment. The Reverend John Hodgeson later purchased the Assembly Rooms and part of the grounds to establish Lovejoy's Boys' School. This took its name from the school for the poor started by Elizabeth Lovejoy in 1694.

We were then accosted by Necromancer, a French conjurer, who performed a couple tricks whilst Miss Pearce, an opera singer, was standing on



Denise with Necromancer



Miss Pearce

her doorstep nearby taking the fresh air.

Halfway down Tippeddore Lane a German nun, Sister Benedicta, told us how she came to the area after she had been forced to leave Germany. She purchased Minster Abbey in Thanet and had it renovated. She then directed us into the garden of Blagdon Cottages where the head housekeeper, Mrs Lawrence and James the groom were waiting. Within a few minutes they were joined by Joss Snelling, a smuggler, who had a barrel of rum for them. These cottages used to accommodate the servants who worked in the large house next door. One feature in the garden was a large wooden barrel, now used to store water. It would originally have contained 100 gallons of rum from the West Indies.

Saying our farewells we made our way to the rear of



Sister Benedicta



Mrs Lawrence, James the groom and Joss Snelling

the Red Lion and saw Doctor Raven and two nurses who were soon joined by a female mortician. The current inn dates



The Mortician with Dr Raven and two nurses

back to 1876. Before that it was a single story with a thatched roof. This had been used as an isolation hospital for smallpox.



The original cellar, which still exists, as well as storing barrels was used as a morgue and was home to a number of cadavers awaiting burial, these being lowered through a trap door in the floor.

Across the road stands the Baptist



Overseers of the poor

Church. This was opened by the Reverend John Wesley as a Wesleyan Chapel on 28th November 1788 but was taken over by the Baptist Church in 1797.

Crossing Vicarage Street we returned to the parish church and on entering the vestry, the old seat of local government, we were met by three of the Overseers of the Poor, a man and two women. For centuries the vestry was also where the churchwardens met to discuss highways, public amenities and collected rates. They also organised the destruction of vermin and - believe it or believe it not - a rat ran across the floor closely followed by the rat catcher.



The rat catcher

Before we left the church we admired the wonderful ceiling and visited the children's corner. This had been refurbished in the 1960's by Mollie Blake in memory of her mother Annette Mills of 'Muffin the Mule' fame.

We then moved off to the Red Lion where we enjoyed a most welcome pub lunch and a drink. Returning to the coach we all agreed that very many thanks must go to Pat Hooper for organising such a wonderful and enjoyable day out. I must find out how she managed to arrange for the sun to shine the whole day!

PS There are now 110 people involved in putting on the tour, all of whom are volunteers. The first tour of 2008 will take place on May 15th. More information can be found on the web site <http://www.villagetour.co.uk>



Want a fast moving estate agent?

Established . . . yet *Progressive*

Professional . . . yet *Relaxed*

Articulate . . . yet *Friendly*

Focused . . . yet *Approachable*

Call us now 01304 202173 or 01797 364600

27-29 Castle Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1PT e: dover@tersons.com
72 High Street, New Romney, Kent TN28 8AT e: newromney@tersons.com

the voice of experience

www.tersons.com

History Through Fiction

Some thoughts on re-reading 'Dover Harbour' by Thomas Armstrong

By Merrill Lilley

I have a feeling that my view of many of the most important events in history is coloured by my reading of historical fiction. Certainly I remember more historical facts from reading novels than from reading history books.

To give one example. I must have read several novels which included detailed accounts of the Battle of Waterloo (1815) obviously told from the point of view of characters in the novel. Therefore my impressions of the battle come from the pens of Georgette Heyer, Cynthia Harrod-Eagles or Bernard Cornwall. Here are the dashing young officers who attended the ball on the eve of the battle then, following the Duke of Wellington, left early to prepare for the battlefield, many of them to die there. Here are the society ladies who followed the army to Brussels, attended the balls and later nursed the wounded. Here, too, are the battle plans, the strategies, the mistakes and the triumphs. The Duke of Wellington inevitably appears somewhere in the narrative.

It is a joy to explore the Elizabethan court with Philippa Gregory, the Peninsular War with Bernard Cornwall or the Anglo-Saxon world of Boudica with Manda Scott to name but a few notable series. However, one of my favourite books is 'Dover Harbour' by

Thomas Armstrong. The story opens in 1789 and ends in 1809. In this period the reader learns a great deal about the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars from the viewpoint of the characters in the novel. At the same time one absorbs a lot of information about the town of Dover; the Harbour Commissioners; the problems of the silting up of the harbour and the plans to remedy this; the constant efforts of the smugglers to evade the customs officers; but overall a picture of what the town was like in those times and the lives of people who lived there.

The main characters are the members of two families, the Faggs, who live in Townwall street and the Rocheforts who live in Snargate Street. John Fagg is a ship owner and merchant, who has a profitable sideline in smuggling. Henry Rochefort is a banker with interests abroad. It is through them that the reader learns about the town. They attend the church of Saint Mary the Virgin for services of weddings, funerals or memorials. The bells of St. Mary's sound high above Peter Monin's clock. The church is also used for the Jurats of Dover to elect their Mayor and for the poll of parliamentary candidates. The novel starts, appropriately, with a memorial service at St. Mary's for five

young men, two sons of the Rochefort family and three from the Fagg family, who perished when a ship, caught in a sudden squall, was cast on the rocks below Archcliffe Point.

Most of the important townspeople attend the service, among them the Mayor, a crowd of Jurats, the Clerk to the Paving Commissioners, the Collector of Customs, the Agent Victualler, representatives of the Town Guilds, Loadmanage men, Captains of Mail Packets, the Town Clerk; in fact, all those with connections to the town and harbour.

Thomas Armstrong soon has his readers absorbed in the story and, with his skill and experience as a novelist, gradually expands our knowledge of historical fact with details of the town and the people. The garden of the Fagg house slopes down to the ropewalk and the children play there, digging channels in the shingle. John Fagg, setting out for the South Pier, passes the ruins of the ancient St. Martin-le-Grand, the old Guildhall, the gloomy jail, the Almshouse Hospital, and takes the narrow Last Lane into Snargate Street, which has a plaque indicating that the Snar gate once stood there. Beyond is the Pent and ahead Custom House Quay, the wharf which fringed the Basin. Towards the end of the South Pier stands the Pilot's Look-out from which can be seen ships proceeding towards Dungeness, the shipbuilding yards below Archcliffe Point and the earthworks of Townshend's battery. At low water the Tidal Harbour is dried out and he can see a twelve-foot-high



Old map of Dover

accumulation of shingle between the pier heads. This problem of the shingle is a concern throughout the novel. Mr Fagg then proceeds via Crane Street and Strond Street to Elizabeth Street, where his warehouse is located. His morning's walk has provided the reader with a mental map of the dock area of Dover. In his storehouse are tubs of tobacco from Bristol, boxes of bellows from Kings Lynn, cases of clay pipes from Poole, bales of woollens from Yorkshire, glassware from Newcastle and violin bellies from London.

In the same way the writer reveals, little by little, knowledge of the furniture and the dress of the period and the way of life of the townspeople. When Susan Fagg wishes to walk into town to go to the Albion library, Townwall Street is thick with mud and she sits on a gilt chair to put on clumsy iron pattens to protect her shoes from the mud. When Mrs Polly Fagg takes tea with her friend, Mrs Elizabeth Rochefort in the drawing room of her Snargate Street house the servant girl announces that Teakettle Tom is at the door and her mistress takes from her reticule a

penny to buy enough water for their afternoon brew from the Ladywell, set in the wall of the Maison Dieu. A pedlar calls frequently at their houses and sells broadsheets, pamphlets, ghost stories, ballads, love songs and fairy tales for the children.

When Susan walks into town she wears a cambric bonnet and a glossy, wadded silk mode coat with a pretty muff to match. John Fagg on one occasion is clad in a long green coat which comes down to his worsted stockings and 'he wore his hair plain, not so much for better cleanliness but because he felt that some gesture was needed against Mr. Pitt's tax on hair powder'.

Social events and assemblies were held in the Royal Oak Rooms. Guests arriving by carriages or on horseback could find space in the cobbled yard of the inn or through the market place in the nearby Antwerp Stables. The assembly rooms included a ballroom and card rooms, where the gentlemen played loo, quinze, vingt-et-un or whist.. Supper would usually be served about midnight. In the winter children had dancing lessons there.

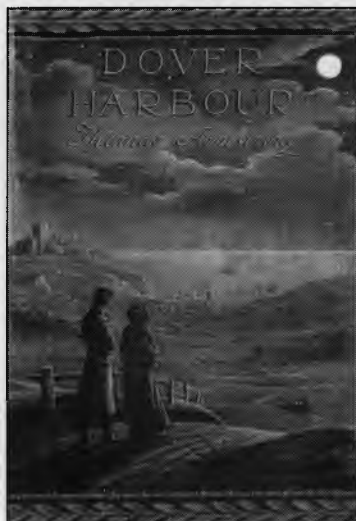
Dover had a market weekly on Wednesday and Saturday. Stalls were put up under pillars of the old Guildhall and overflowed into the Market Place, selling fish, vegetables, game,

fruit and poultry. French traders mixed with the Kentish dealers and a strange mixture of French and Kentish dialects could be heard.

The story has everything, deaths and marriages, smugglers and customs men, fishermen and bankers, treachery and loyalty, everyday folk and historical figures. William Pitt and the Duke of Wellington play their parts. The Napoleonic War rages and its battles claim their victims. The parents age and the children grow up.

The main road out of Dover to London passed Buckland Bridge, which, on the boundary of the town was the place where the townspeople gathered to welcome distinguished visitors. Towards the end of the novel Charles Fagg elopes with Caroline Rochefort and when they return to Dover a married couple the whole town turns out to greet them at Buckland Bridge and escort them into the town. It is 1809 and Charles Fagg has to return to his regiment in the Peninsula. The reader is left with the family in Dover, wondering what their future will be.

Thomas Armstrong, writing in 1943, researched the period with his usual acute perception and attention to historical accuracy and gave his readers a glimpse of the Dover of the early nineteenth century. We are left wishing he had written a sequel.



Cover of book of Dover Harbour

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

Over 13 million passengers, two-and-a-half million cars and 100,000 coaches passed through the port on its ferry services to Calais, Dunkerque and Boulogne in 2005. Added to that, over 2 million freight vehicles used the port's freight services to Calais and Dunkerque.

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

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



DOVER HARBOUR BOARD • HARBOUR HOUSE • DOVER • KENT CT17 9BU
TELEPHONE 01304 240400 • FAX 01304 240465 • WEBSITE www.doverport.co.uk

DOVER MARINE STATION

A Talk by Terry Sutton

When a Tenterden-based holiday company, Travelux, wanted someone to talk about the history of Dover Marine Station (now the port's cruise terminal one) they sought the help of The Dover Society. Our former chairman Terry Sutton was 'volunteered' for the task and this is part of what he said:

This magnificent building, Cruise Terminal One, has played a major role in Great Britain's modern history. Once, this building was Dover's Marine Station and through these portals have passed kings and queens, visiting heads of state, diplomats and millionaires.... and quite a few international crooks.

More than 150 years ago, around 1850, the Admiralty built a huge pier, Admiralty Pier, to shelter ships of the Royal Navy.

In 1909 this pier was widened, using chalk infill cut from the famous white cliffs of Dover and in 1913 work started on the construction of this Marine Station on the widened pier.

Then came World War One and construction work was speeded up so that the station could be used by ambulance trains carrying the wounded from the Western Front in France to hospitals in the UK.

Between 1915 and the end of the war in 1918 more than 1.2 million wounded men were landed here, with up to 20 ambulance trains departing every day.

The station was eventually opened for civilian use in January 1919 and between the wars the station was used by the famous Golden Arrow service between London and Paris. Many a time the station's platforms and quays were the scene of state welcomes to visiting monarchs from

around the world.

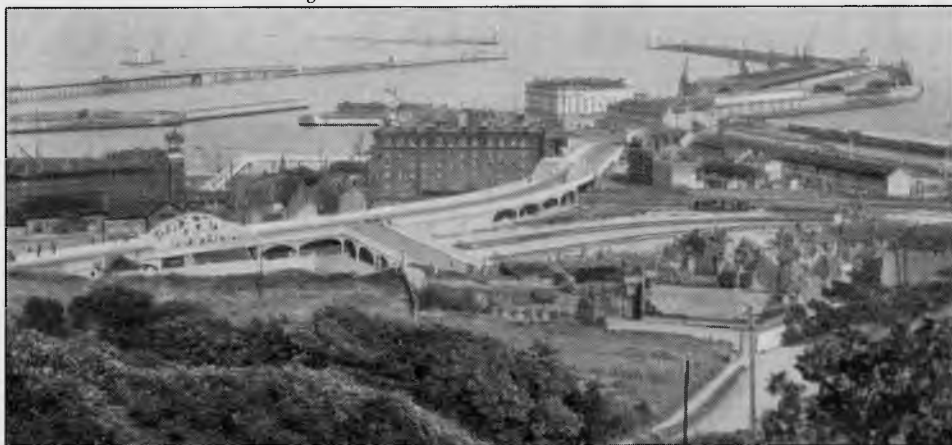
With the outbreak of World War Two the station was again pressed into military use and during the Dunkirk Evacuation in 1940 it was here where nearly 200,000 British and Allied troops were landed from destroyers and scores of other craft.

The exhausted troops brought home with them scores of dogs and other pets, regimental mascots, which all had to be put down by the RSPCA to prevent disease spreading. The authorities had enough on their hands at this dangerous time.

During the 1939-45 war Dover was bombarded by bombs and shells - the shells being fired from gun emplacements on the French coast 21 miles across the English Channel. One never knew when one was coming to crash down on the town or the harbour installations. 2,226 shells fell on Dover, more in the harbour waters plus around 400 bombs - not a pleasant experience for anyone in the area. No wonder it became known worldwide as Hellfire Corner.

During the bombardment this station was badly damaged and one bomb penetrated the roof and made a large crater out there in the car parking area.

After the war the rich and famous continued to pass through the station. I remember interviewing and photographing stars here including Humphrey Bogart,

Dover Harbour from the Western Heights

Lauren Bacall, Bob Hope, Bridget Bardot and Rex Harrison. Here I witnessed the state welcome to the French president soon after World War Two.

I believe, but I am not too sure, but I think the Olympic torch was landed here in 1948 when Britain last hosted the games. It was brought across the Channel on a British destroyer, H.M.S. Bicester, landed at these docks, and then carried through the streets of Dover by a Dover runner Sid Doble on its way to London.

I was at this station to witness the arrival of the first refugees from the Hungarian uprising against the Russian invasion of their country in October 1956. It was quite a theatrical occasion with an attractive Hungarian girl in riding breeches, sporting a bloodstained bullet head wound, carrying the Hungarian flag at the head of a weary collection of freedom fighters.

However, gradually air travel took over and, with the opening of the Channel Tunnel in 1994, the railway company handed the station over to Dover Harbour Board.

The port authority, diversifying, decided to attract cruise liners to Dover and spent around £10 million restoring this property, a Grade 2 listed building. Because it is listed the railway track is still retained beneath the existing internal car parking area. For the same reason the war memorial to railwaymen killed in WW1 remains in situ.

As you can see great care was taken to recapture the features of this former Cathedral-style station, the platforms of which once bustled with international travellers.

At the main entrance hall to the cruise terminal, on a wall, you will find a plaque that commemorated the landing here of the body of the Unknown Warrior of World War One. His remains - who he was no one knows - were collected from a battlefield, along with others, and his were then selected to represent all those other unknown British soldiers who died on the Western Front. His body was rested in a castle at Boulogne and then brought across the Dover Strait with an escort of British and French warships to be landed here, just

outside these windows, before being taken by train to Westminster Abbey where it remains. The Dover Society, which I represent today, played the major role in placing the plaque on this building.

When you arrived at this terminal you might have seen a large building on your right. This was the former Lord Warden Hotel, now offices owned by Dover Harbour Board. Over the years the hotel welcomed many distinguished guests including Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray and others waiting for calmer weather to cross the Channel. It was at the Lord Warden Hotel that Napoleon III was re-united with his wife, the Empress Eugenie and their son the Prince Imperial. This was after his defeat in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. He was made a prisoner of war and only released on condition he abdicated and went into exile. He chose England and went to live at

Chislehurst in Kent. After his death Eugenie had a fine old time, according to the gossips of yesteryear.

Because of the popularity of Dover as a cruise liner port (it is the second busiest in the UK after Southampton), a second purpose-built terminal (Cruise Terminal 2) has been constructed seawards of this property.

Dover remains the busiest ferry port in Europe and the third busiest port in the UK for the import of fruit, mostly bananas (20 billion this year) and pineapples.

Dover Harbour Board is now planning to spend an estimated £300 million on the provision of a second ferry terminal, with four berths, just over there at the Western Docks. And there are proposals to extend the berthing facilities at the two cruise liner berths to meet the requirements of the bigger cruise liners that are now coming into use.



Admiralty Pier, 1910

SULLIVAN & SON

Independent Funeral Service

- Licensed & qualified
- Free home calls
- Serene chapel
- Pre-paid funeral plans
- Full disabled access
- 24 hour personal service

PAUL SULLIVAN, LMBIFD
Proprietor, 15 years local service



12 Beaconsfield Road, Dover, CT16 2LL

Tel: 01304 201322

www.sullivanandson.co.uk



The Western Heights Preservation Society

report from Chris Taft, WHPS Publicity Secretary

Plans for Next Year

Already plans are underway for next year's Western Heights open weekend. The current plan is for the open weekend to take place on the 31st May and 1st June 2008. Planning is at a very early stage although some changes are being considered, so if anyone wants to get involved in helping to plan and manage a big event now would be the time to get in touch, (details below). To find out more watch this space, the WHPS website and the local press, or better still help drive the changes and get involved.

Extraordinary General Meeting

In order to make some changes to the constitution the WHPS plans to hold an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) at 2pm. on Saturday 8th December 2007 in the Education Room at Dover Museum. Further details will be released as they become available on the Society website at www.dover-western-heights.org

2008 Events

In April 2008, the WHPS is planning to host a presentation combined with a special event to allow members and non-members to meet the committee and to ask questions about the Heights. Again, at this early stage the plans are still being developed, but if you think you may be interested do please get in touch.

Publicity and Funding

To help further the aims of the WHPS much development is needed in terms of publicising the Heights, the Society and in helping to raise money to continue the work. In the recent past the Society have been successful in a number of grant applications but to move forward the group needs extra commitment in this area. The Society is currently hoping to recruit more members to become involved with publicity and funding. If you think you could spare a little time on a voluntary basis to help with this please contact the Publicity Secretary at the address below.

Getting Involved

The Society is also actively seeking to expand and develop its committee. If you would like to get involved please contact the Publicity Secretary at the address below for more details or to have an informal chat about what may be involved. The work need not be strenuous and is very rewarding.

Contact Us

WHPS, Pox 366, DEAL, Kent CT14 9XY
publicity@dover-western-heights.org

Dover Bowls Club

By Jeremy Cope

A commonplace of living in a town like Dover is the fact that always there are anniversaries of one sort or another. I am sure local historians could find something to commemorate on most days of the week. However it is a very considerable achievement for a club, or for that matter, any organisation, to survive continuously for a hundred years, an event which should be recognised. Sheila and I represented the Society at such a particularly friendly event, the Dover Bowls Club Centenary, being welcomed by Chairman Peter Greenfield and Secretary Barry Late. The Club bowling green and clubhouse are situated beside the Dour close to the Town Hall. The Dover Institute took on the green from Dover Town Council in 1907 and formed the Club.

The Society awarded £50 in recognition of the centenary and this was used for trophies for a special tournament. The game was without handicaps so that the best person won. The winner was Sheila Swinard and the runner up Malcolm Bessant.

Our Society has been in existence for only twenty years and has a long way to go to catch up but I invited the club to make a presentation to us in eighty years time, perhaps to celebrate the demolition of Burlington House.

I would strongly recommend anyone wishing to take up bowls to consider membership of the club. Sheila and I were made very welcome and were both struck by the affability of members and the happy atmosphere.

Remembrance Weekend

By Terry Sutton

On Friday November 9th, ringed by the standards of ex-service organisations, our chairman Derek Leach laid a wreath at the plaque commemorating the Unknown Warrior.

It happened at the conclusion of the annual service of remembrance at the former Marine Station (now Cruise Terminal One) when members of the port community pay homage before the huge memorial at the station to railwaymen who died in two wars. The service was much bigger this year and attended by more than 200 people.

With the ending of that ceremony, our chairman, headed by a bagpiper, walked to the cruise terminal's reception area where the Unknown Warrior's plaque is situated. There, Derek explained how the body of the Warrior was selected in France, rested in Boulogne and carried across the Channel to be landed at that spot at Dover before being carried by special train to London to be buried at Westminster Abbey.

Before laying the wreath he also told us how in 1997, with the approval of Dover Harbour Board, the Dover Society had provided a plaque to mark the spot where the body of the Unknown Warrior was landed on British soil in 1920.

The initiative of the Unknown Warrior wreath laying ceremony resulted from a suggestion by society member David Atwood who was instrumental in the idea of placing the wall plaque in the first place.

Castle Computers

74 LONDON ROAD

DOVER KENT

01304 201686

FOR ALL YOUR HOME
AND BUSINESS NEEDS

NOT THE BIGGEST...
...JUST BETTER

Curiosity of Dover

17 Cannon Street, Dover CT16 1BZ Tel 01304 202621

Curiosity of Dover probably have one of the largest collections of Swarovski Silver Crystal in East Kent. They also have Border Fine Arts, Florence Figurines and Capo Di Monte.

Call in to see the extensive range of Moorcraft Pottery and top quality jewellery, including Murano Glass, Freshwater Pearls and Amber Jewellery.

We have designer sunglasses and exclusive hand-made handbags and many other quality gift items for you, or for you to give.

Come and have a browse and discover why it's called

“Curiosity of Dover”

REGENCY

independent financial advisers

'The Confident Future Solution™'

Financial Planning brought into the 21st Century

Obtain affordable and truly independent financial advice by subscribing to one of our Confident Future™ programmes

Includes advice on
Investments, Pensions, Life Insurance, Savings, Mortgages

Proprietor: Barry Williams Cert PFS

Tel: 01304 213902

Fax: 01304 216270 Email: advice@regency-ifa.co.uk

15, Effingham Crescent, Dover, Kent CT17 9RH

Regency IFA is an appointed representative of IN Partnership, the trading name of The On-Line Partnership Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority



GL Services Appliances

56 London Road, Dover

01304 208042

www.GLServicesAppliances.co.uk

White Goods Retail and Rental

**Washing Machines ~ Tumble Dryers ~ Cookers
Fridges ~ Freezers ~ Dishwashers ~ Televisions**

☆ *Competitively Priced* ☆

Rentals Start From £5 per Week

Free Local Delivery





Britannia Coaches

**BRITANNIA HOUSE
HOLLOW WOOD ROAD
DOVER CT17 0UB**

Tel: 01304 228111

Fax: 01304 215350

**8 - 16 seat
Luxury Minicoaches**

**Wheelchair-accessible
Vehicles available**

Mowll & Mowll

S O L I C I T O R S ■■

Residential & Commercial Property
Wills Probate & Trusts
Elderly Client Advice
Civil & Commercial Litigation
Company & Business Law
Family
Personal Injury Claims
Employment
Charity Law

Telephone 01304 873344

Fax 01304 873355

www.mowll.co.uk

Trafalgar House Gordon Road Whitfield
Dover Kent CT16 3PN

The Dover Osteopathic Clinic

42 Townwall Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1JP

www.osteopaths-dover.co.uk

OSTEOPATHY • SPORTS INJURIES • REFLEXOLOGY

AROMATHERAPY • BODY MASSAGE • PILATES

ACUPUNCTURE • HYPNUTHERAPY/NLP • REIKI

Paul Strutt Bsc. (Hons) Ost. Med. D.O. Registered Osteopath

Penny Strutt Dip. Aestheticienne VTST Dip. Mass

Gaynor Wooldridge M.chs HPC Reg Minst ChP MAR CoBC (Acu)

Tel/Fax 01304 214686

HaberDashery

Alterations,
Repairs,
Braid, Ribbons,
Threads and Beads,
Sequins,
Wool, Dyes,
Needles, etc.

—◆—
18 High Street
Dover CT17 9QR
Tel: 0779 687 1021

THE TROPHY SHOP

Engraving Specialists

Medals ~ Awards ~ Glass ~ Sports Supplies
32 London Road, Dover
Phone: 01304 210586
Fax: 01304 205856

Dover Society Newsletter Binders

are now available at £4.50 each

Contact the editor at
8 Cherry Tree Avenue
Dover, CT16 2NL
Tel: 01304 213668

Email: Alan.lee1947@ntlworld.com

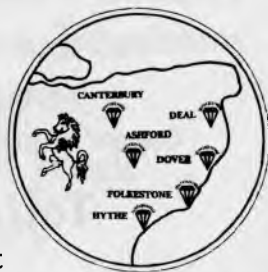
A. Simmonds

The Jewellers of the South East

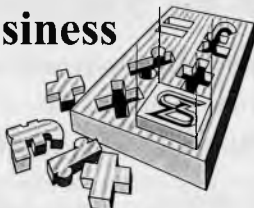
**SERVING THE SOUTH EAST WITH TRADITIONAL,
CONTEMPORARY & UNIQUE JEWELLERY, WATCHES & GIFTS**

Platinum & Diamond rings at unbeatable prices!

DOVER	01304 203326	53 Biggin Street
ASHFORD	01233 650907	26 Park Mall
FOLKESTONE	01303 257950	94 Sandgate Road
DEAL	01304 361108	60 High Street
HYPHE	01303 266429	85 High Street
CANTERBURY	01227 769842	27 St Margaret's Street



Fit for business



5 St James's Street, DOVER CT16 1QD
Tel 01304 201994 Fax 01304 240117
E-mail: dover@spainbrothers.co.uk

S SPAIN BROTHERS

the chartered accountants with connections

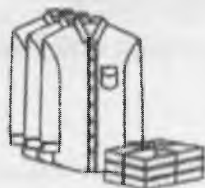
Count us in your plans for growth,
reorganisation, mergers, acquisitions,
financing and tax planning

You don't have to change your accountants
to talk to us

The practices which comprise Spain Brothers & Co are registered to carry on audit work and regulated for a range of investment activities by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Phillips-And-Drew

**Men's Outfitters • Workwear
Sportswear • Formal Hire,
Children's Uniforms
& Embroidery**



**48 High Street, Dover
Kent CT16 1EE
TEL/Fax: (01304) 204057**

White Cliffs Gallery

(Inc. Dover Arts & Picture Framing)

**Originals, limited edition
prints, posters and
a large selection of
local and fine art cards**



*A very high standard of
picture framing and advice
is offered to all our customers,
so please do call and see us*

16 Cannon Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1BZ
Tel: 01304 241405
andrea@whitecliffsgallery.wanadoo.co.uk

❖ C.C. Taylor A.R.I.C.S. ❖

Chartered Surveyor

- Planning & Design Service
- Extensions & Conversions
 - New Buildings
 - Refurbishment
 - Structural Surveys

Please call:
(01304) 822217
91 Lewisham Road,
River, Dover,
Kent CT17 0PA





Application for Membership

Membership: Individuals - £6 annually
 Joint membership - £10 annually
Payable on 31st March

New Renewal Joint

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

2nd Name if joint membership

Address

Postcode

Phone

Email

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

Declaration

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

Signed

Date

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

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

Social events Writing for newsletter

Projects e.g. clearance, surveys, photography

Any other interests or expertise

PROGRAMME 2007 - 2008

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

2007

DECEMBER 15
Saturday
7 for 7.30
£19.00

Christmas Feast. Celebrate the beginning of the festivities in style by attending our annual feast held in the splendid surroundings of the Refectory within Dover College. Price to include sherry reception, a sumptuous buffet, wine, soft drinks and live entertainment by Elspeth Robertson, winner of the 'Marlow Young Musician of the Year' award. **Please note that this year the numbers will be limited to 100 to ensure your comfort.**

2008

JANUARY 21
Monday 7.30

Speakers: Lea Oakley "Weimar and Dresden"
Alistair Gould "Pines Garden and Calyx"

FEBRUARY 18
Monday
7 for 7.30
£4.50

Wine and Wisdom with Clive Taylor. A light-hearted quiz. Price to include refreshments and soft drinks. Free wine will be provided on each table. Prizes for first and second places.

MARCH 17
Monday 7.30

Speakers: Nathan de Thaubrew "Dover Transport Museum"
Ian Humpheries
and Clare Munday "Environment Agency and Dour"

APRIL 21
Monday 7.30

Annual General Meeting
Speaker: Terry Sutton "Lords Warden at Walmer Castle"

MAY 17
Saturday
£14.00

Trip to Eltham Palace. A 1930 Art Deco Mansion, a masterpiece of 20th century design, surrounded by 19 acres of beautiful gardens which both 20th century and medieval elements. Entry costs are:
English Heritage Members: FREE
Adults: House & Garden £7.90 Garden only £4.90
Concessions: House & Garden £5.90 Garden only £3.70
Children: House & Garden £4.00 Garden only £2.50

JUNE 21
Saturday
£28.00

Bletchley Park. Price to include a guided tour. Arranged following the successful talk by Aubrey Wind in March. More details in next newsletter.

JULY 19
Saturday

To be arranged. Details in next newsletter.

AUGUST 16
Saturday

Battle and Battle Abbey. Details in next newsletter.

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

Florland CARPETS

DOMESTIC & CONTRACT FLOORING

Please come in and browse
or telephone for
further information

**62 London Road, Dover
Kent CT17 0SP
Tel: 01304 240071**

*One
Off* chartered architect
and art services

Flint House, 53 Church Hill, Shepherdswell,
Nr Dover, Kent CT15 7NR
Tel: 01304 830330



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

FIELD'S SECRETARIAL SERVICES

18 Castle Street, Dover

**DESIGN AND PRINT
PHOTOCOPYING
INKJET REFILLS & REPLACEMENTS
CANON LASER COLOUR
AO PLANS & DRAWINGS
LAMINATING TO A1**

**FULL PRINTING SERVICE · WEDDING STATIONERY · BINDING
FAX BUREAU · RUBBER STAMPS · T-SHIRT PRINTING & MUCH MORE**

**Tel: 01304 215761 Fax: 01304 213072
Email: fieldsecretarial@btconnect.com**