

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 69

December 2010



Remembrance Day, Dover 2010

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THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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



The committee would like to wish all of our members, advertisers and the staff of Adams the Printers a very merry Christmas and may 2011 be a happy and prosperous year for all.

The last four months have been an interesting and busy time in the town.

The weekly market seems now to be well established. The Dover Regatta on the seafront and Heritage Open Days are two of the many successful events that have taken place.

Over the next couple of months we have two important events coming up. First is the Dover Society Christmas Feast, it will be held in the Refectory at Dover College on Saturday 18th December. Details are inside the back cover of this newsletter. The numbers are strictly limited so please do book as soon as possible.

The other major event is the Dover Film Festival, to be held in the Connaught Hall of the Maison Dieu, on 14th and 15th February 2011. For more details see page 31 of this newsletter.

This edition sees the first of two new series of articles. One intends to highlight the listed buildings in the Dover area, the White Horse is the first. The second series of articles will be on local heroes and are by Lorraine Sencicle, a well-known local author of books and many newspaper articles.

The plaque that commemorates the Hippodrome in Snargate Street has been

removed, if any member has heard of any details, or reason for this, could they let the editor know.

Despite requests to Dover District Council the pond at Connaught Park is still empty of water, but has plenty of leaves in it. Apparently, the reason is that the base of the fountain cracked over last winter. Why has it taken so long for the repairs to be carried out? It is anyone's guess. I wonder if, when it is finally repaired, the fish will be returned. Whilst on the subject of the park it could do with a good tidy up, the flowerbeds are now looking very forlorn; all are full of dead flowers.

More trees have been cut down, following DDC cutting down mature trees in Barton Road they have now cut down two of the saplings that have only just recently been planted in Cherry Tree Avenue. I am beginning to despair, this added to the fact that some of the trees were planted directly beneath telephone wires, this could cause a problem in a few years time.

I would like to remind members that they can bring guests to all of our meetings apart from the AGM. This is a good way to introduce someone to the society as we normally have in excess of 40 people at these meetings.

Editor

* * * * *

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 70 will be Wednesday 12th January 2011. 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

Winter 2010

Our numbers have fallen slightly, to 434.

We have an interesting programme of meetings ahead so would urge all members to encourage friends to come along and join us. Sometimes it is also necessary to remind people that to enjoy a borrowed Newsletter is not enough. It needs to be paid for by means of membership if we are to be able to maintain the Society.

We very much welcome our most recent members who are Mr D Palmer, Mrs S Swan, Mr G Beer, Mr H & Mrs C Richardson, Mr I & Mrs D Spinks.

We express our grateful thanks to Margaret Robson of Tilmanstone who has delivered Newsletters to Tilmanstone and Shepherdswell for many years. Margaret has also served on the executive and planning committees and we look forward to her continuing membership of the Society.

Sheila Cope
Membership Secretary

The work of the **PLANNING** *Sub-Committee*

**Report by JACK WOOLFORD,
Chairman**

The Planning Committee has not been idle during my absence. Indeed, Pat Sherratt's initiative against Plan DOV/10/703, to build a detached house in the back garden of 10 Harold Street, was not only echoed by the Town Council, but also rejected by the District Council! A similar solution is desirable for what amounts to another back-garden development at 11 Maison Dieu Rd.

Kent County Council has listed our complaint against the construction of a fence at Castle Rise across a Public Right of Way and Pat Sherratt represents us on the Steering Group of MP Charlie Elphicke's proposal for a Dover People's

Port. It should have equal consideration by the Secretary of State to Dover Harbour Board's privatization proposals. Bill Naylor represents us on the Committee for the 2012 Dover Pageant.

We shall of course participate in the public consultation on the now Adopted Local Development Framework with its proposed 5,750 houses at Whitfield, etc, etc, etc. The prospect of converting the YMCA into flats is very good news. Dover District Council's Scoping Plan, in advance of a planning application for developments at Farthingloe Farm and the Western Heights, is as environmentally rigorous as we could wish - including badgers and bluebells. Ramada's transformation of the Churchill Hotel into Dover Marina Hotel is also good news.

We continue to express our concerns about public toilets, the Visitor Information Centre and - especially - Waste Disposal.

SOCIETY PROJECTS

Report by Jeremy Cope

COWGATE CEMETERY

We continue to make good progress; I don't think we have ever been as up to date, with most of the cemetery mown ready before winter. This is thanks, not only to our volunteers, but also to Paul Willmott, of White Cliffs Countryside Partnership. His hard work last year, when he mowed the cemetery with a reciprocating mower, enabled us to get on top of things. This year we will not need his help. Our winter project is to start to dispose of the large heaps of green waste that have built up over the years. We will transport waste to the area next to the cemetery gates and DDC's contractor will load up the waste and taken for recycling. Removing the whole of the waste is likely to take a little while.

Members are most welcome to join us - come and give it a try.

The next two working party dates are Thursday 2nd December and Saturday 11th December both from 9 am to 12.30 pm.

Phone me on 01304 211348 and I will let you know times, dates and any further details.

* * * * *

RIVER DOUR

The River Dour Steering Group held a meeting in October and you may be interested to hear that the river is doing very well biologically following the work done by the Environment Agency. I am always impressed by their interest and enthusiasm. Apart from the increased amount of river plants there is clear evidence of more fish in the river. At Pencester recently the stretch was checked for the numbers of trout and through the use of momentary stunning 100 odd fish were caught (and of course returned unharmed to the river) with the largest trout weighing about 1½ lbs. Really quite a wonderful result.

The real problem, that always upsets people, is of course the rubbish and litter caused by a small number of could-not-care-less individuals. White Cliffs Countryside Partnership continues to run its volunteer working groups who this year have so far collected over 300 bags of rubbish plus 19 road cones, 18 scooters, 4 bicycles, 3 shopping trolleys, 2 child's tricycles, 2 push chairs, 1 television, 1 ironing board and 1 garden pond. If you would like to do your bit and help with clearances the telephone number for the Partnership is 01304 241806.

OCTOBER MEETING

1st Talk

Renewable Energy in St Margaret's at Cliffe and East Kent

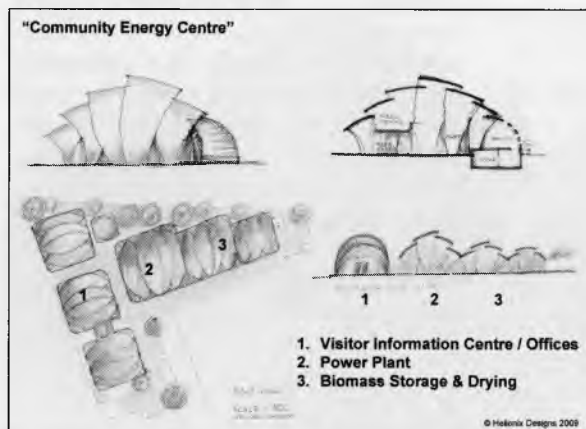
A talk by Alistair Gould, Chairman of St Margaret's Bay Trust
reported by Alan Lee

Monday 18th October saw about 40 members of the Society gather in St. Mary's Parish Centre for the first talk of the winter season introduced by Derek Leach, our Chairman.

Alistair Gould briefly outlined the formation of St. Margaret's Bay Trust by Londoner Fred Cleary, a property entrepreneur. The trust educates and connects with young children at Rippledown and The Pines Calyx. The Pines Garden provides a wide range of learning opportunities, takes its inspiration from nature and aims to educate about the environment. Rippledown is one of only three children's charities supported by the Pearly Kings and Queens of St. Pancras.

Sustainable St. Margaret's will encourage us to spend time to think about the way we live our lives and some of the challenges we all face. With climate change high on the agenda it is a little known fact in Kent there is less water available than in Cairo. By 2016/17 we will run out of landfill sites and at present we send our toxic waste 210 miles north for disposal. Other pressing problems in the village, and in the rest of the country, are the lack of new facilities, affordable housing and employment opportunities.

What can we do? We could do nothing, wait for the government to act or take on some of the responsibility ourselves. This is the most promising approach to adopt. The trust, villagers, local councils and others formed a group with the aim to become self sufficient in energy, waste and water. With this in mind a feasibility study was commissioned and a report produced by the Carbon Free Group. Another initiative is the setting up of a community land trust to acquire land and raise money for the project.



On energy the aim is to become self-sufficient and sell the surplus to the National Grid by 2012. At present in the

village there are about 1370 households and 3000 permanent resi-dents. The electricity consumption is estimated at 8,300,300 kWh/yr. 82% from households, 15% from businesses and 3% from agriculture.

The report from the Carbon Free Group looked at various solutions most are producing electricity somewhere in the world.

Wind turbines

Four 800 Kw turbines mounted on 50 metre masts: Cost £4 million, annual income per household £519.

Two 2.3 Mw turbines mounted on 64 metre masts: Cost £4.6 m, annual income per household £717.

Biomass

4 Mw system - Cost £10 million, annual income per household £3352.

Anaerobic Digestion (AD)

100 KW AD System - Cost £540,000, annual income per household £61.

Voltage Optimisation

Unit installed which results in greater operating efficiency of electrical equipment. Cost £365,000, annual income per household £66.

Micro generation

Could be done by individual households mainly with solar panels, pay back 8 -15 years, investment return 8-12%. Lower investment required.

Tidal Lagoon

With the volume of shipping in the Channel this option was unrealistic. In 1908 George Bernard Shaw said. *If we could harness the tides there would be no need for any Englishman to ever go underground for fuel again.*

Alistair said that he prefers the smaller local systems, as they are less intrusive and less costly. As for funding any local project there are many individuals and companies in the City willing to invest.

The option that St. Margaret's has gone for is for a partnership between the Village Energy Group and Transition Power Ltd. to build a Community Energy Centre and to be operational by the end of 2012. The total cost will be in the region of £16 million. The centre to include

1) Visitor Information Centre/Offices

2) Power Plant

3) Biomass Storage and Drying Buildings

A 4.5 Mw Biomass Electricity Generator fed by a mixture of waste biomass, wood chip, miscanthus (any tall bamboo like grass) and waste agricultural biomass will power the plant. Waste biomass includes old wood, furniture etc. and will reduce demand on the need for local landfill. The estimate for the output of the plant is equivalent to 12% of DDC electrical needs. Emissions from the plant will be very low because of the high heat produced and modern technology.

The plant will be run as an Energy Services Company or a Multiple Utilities Services Company. The village will hold a large stake in either option. The information centre will be run with funding by public and third sector organisations. About 16 permanent jobs will be created by the scheme. It emerged during the talk that the National Grid is one of the least efficient in Europe. The use of a biomass generator is a proven technology with Germany having many similar size, and larger, plants already in operation.

This talk by Alistair certainly gave the audience much to think about.

2nd Talk

20th Century Life in the Constables Tower

A talk by Wendi Atherton reported by Terry Sutton

Life living in the Tower for nearly six years was related to us in the second talk at our public meeting on October 18th.

The tower in question was the Constable's Tower of Dover Castle and our speaker was Mrs Wendi Atherton, the wife of our President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton CBE. He was the 200th Deputy Constable of Dover Castle whose official residence was the Tower.

Wendi, who said it was an amazing experience, told of the benefits and the problems of residing there. One of the benefits was the view but problems involved lack of privacy such as finding Castle visitors such as American tourists accidentally wandering around the flat. Mrs Atherton revealed that she and her husband had to keep a record, and detailed financial accounts, of the official visitors they entertained and one

rule was that no one should be entertained more than once a year. That became difficult when the Queen Mother, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, was visiting! The rule was changed.

She told of the many other guests whom they entertained at Constable Tower including two Archbishops, ambassadors, Cinque Ports' mayors, Clarence House staff and military chiefs visiting the ranges at Hythe. Often this meant taking them on a tour of the castle so she had to swot up on the guidebook. One tradition at the tower is that the drawing room curtains are never drawn, she reported.

One of the problems when they moved in was that the furniture van carrying their possessions was unable to access the castle because of the low headroom of the castle entrances. On another occasion, when out in the kitchen garden, she found herself locked out

because the castle had closed to the public. She managed to squeeze under the huge locked doors. On another occasion they were snowed in at the castle for three days.

One experience, involving the Junior Leaders Royal Engineers, was when Wendi was lowered 278 feet down the ancient well that is located in the castle's keep.



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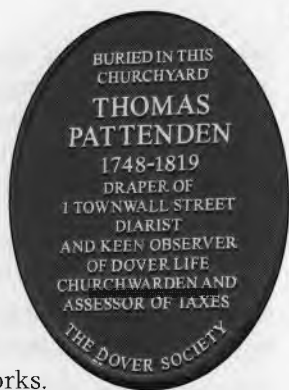
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New Dover Society Plaque

THOMAS PATTENDEN

by Denise Lee



At 10.30 am on Wednesday 20th July 2010, a small group of people gathered at St Mary's Parish Centre to witness Kathleen Hollingsbee unveil the latest Dover Society plaque. This is in memory of Thomas Pattenden, 1748 to 1819, a noted local diarist and respected citizen of the town.

The opening address by Derek Leach and the unveiling speech by Kathleen Hollingsbee are reproduced here in full.

The Society chairman Derek Leach opened the proceedings as follows:

"Welcome on behalf of The Dover Society. We are here to unveil this plaque to Thomas Pattenden. Thomas who? Never heard of him, most people would say. Thomas, born in Dover in 1748, was a draper and stocking seller living at 1 Townwall Street where his wife took in children needing sea air or sea water! Why does he deserve a plaque and why here?"

Thomas became one of the wealthiest and most respected men in Dover, a Freeman (by purchase), an assessor of taxes, a commissioner in the Dover Court of Requests, churchwarden and

doer of good works.

He was well read, sketched, (he drew the illustrations for Rev John Lyons' History of Dover) painted, a keen gardener, collected coins and fossils, but above all was a keen observer of Dover life.

For more than 20 years, beginning in 1797 when he was 55 and only ending with his death in 1819, Thomas Pattenden recorded what he called 'daily remarks and occurrences' about what was happening in Dover, the country and the world. Being English he always mentioned the weather!

He made careful note of ships passing Dover especially great fleets. An eye was kept on the British economy, noting in 1800 that the price of candles and soap had risen sharply because of an expected war with Russia.

During the Napoleonic wars he recorded that volunteers paraded in their scarlet uniforms on the Rope Walk and then marched with William Pitt, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports at the time, to Maison Dieu Fields. He made drawings of the French coast for use by the military. The strengthening of Dover's defences

were recorded in detail as well as troop movements from the town. He also managed to see several sea battles from the cliff tops with the aid of his spyglass. Captured French sailors were kept in the town gaol; Thomas recorded that three of them escaped in a boat, but they were pursued and recaptured way out in the Channel despite a thick fog!

The great celebrations in Dover of Trafalgar and Waterloo are recorded. Thomas was certain that God was on England's side and was punishing France for its wicked ways.

During these momentous times Thomas carried on his business, which sometimes took him to Canterbury. He recorded walking all the way back from Canterbury, leaving at 8am and reaching home at 6pm. When Thomas had to travel to London he either went by coach via Canterbury and Rochester or by boat from Whitstable.

Crime and punishment did not escape his notice. A debtor confined in the castle prison caused him some concern and he delivered personally a pound note from a well-wisher. Thomas gained the release of another debtor by himself paying the £8 owing. The pillory was still in use in Dover in 1800 and Thomas records the crowd pelting some unfortunate. He witnessed a riot when a great crowd demanded the release of four smugglers. Magistrates read the Riot Act and mounted troops quickly cleared the Market Square.

The diary is interspersed with unusual incidents, including the landing of a stranded whale which the public could see for 6d. Later it was cut up and boiled, producing 1000 gallons of oil. On another occasion a pig was buried in a cave by a cliff fall, but was apparently dug out six months later, still alive albeit emaciated!

Thomas recorded local sporting events, attending horse races at Priory Fields, Barham Downs and Buckland Valley as well as watching cricket matches at Northfall Meadow.

Recipes were even included to remedy whooping cough, dropsy, sore throat as well as Dr. Lewis's recipe for making ink!

When he died in 1819 he left a good deal of money, but his lasting legacy is his diary.

A substantial sum was left to St Mary's for the graves of his wife and himself to be maintained, as well as for providing relief to six poor widows of husbands lost at sea. But in 1978, as part of a 'tidying up' by the District Council, responsible for maintaining closed churchyards, a large tree growing in the grave was removed together with the gravestones. Now there is no trace in the churchyard of this remarkable Dovorian, but today we are putting that right!

Kathleen Hollingsbee, here, has agreed to unveil our plaque. It is most appropriate that she should do it since, not only is she a knowledgeable

local historian like husband Bob, but she was a member of a Kent Family History team that transcribed all the remaining, legible headstones of this churchyard in 1991. Kathleen....."

"Thomas Pattenden cared about people and their welfare - his family, friends, colleagues, the poor and those who had suffered injustice. His diaries speak about daily life in Dover, not only its commerce, finances, the military, the navy, but about new buildings, taking tea with his friends, and what Biblical texts were used for the Sunday services at St Mary's.

An apparently quiet and modest man he enthused over fruit and flowers in his garden at No 1 Townwall Street, exchanging plants and cuttings with his friends - and he grew some of the choicest flowers known at that time.

A large burial plot in the North East corner of the churchyard was used for the burial of Thomas's parents. Thomas, a schoolmaster of Dover, buried in 1748 and Sarah, buried 1779. In 1806 the plot was used for Thomas's own wife Ann and for Thomas himself in 1819.

In 1908 the Dover Express published a feature about him. The photograph of the grave and memorial stones in the feature show a large tree growing on the burial plot. Sometime later the tree had to be removed - in doing so the memorial stones were damaged, taken

away and never replaced, despite a large sum of money he left to church for maintenance of the grave.

The site of the burial plot is this side of, and not far from the ornamental cherry tree planted in more recent times by the Queen Mother.

It must be about 100 years now since the name Pattenden disappeared from the churchyard.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the Dover Society, this plaque will remind residents and visitors of the life of this remarkable man."

Kathleen then unveiled the plaque to warm applause.

The Dover Society would like to thank John Hill of John Hill Building Services, 125 Lewisham Road, Dover, CT17 0PA for installing the plaque free of charge. The Society also extends its thanks to everyone involved in the research, planning, and manufacture of the plaque.



Regeneration

* * * *by Jeremy Cope* * * *

The Society's subcommittee continues its work that involves lobbying for upgrading our town, something that requires persistence because rewards are few, particularly at the present time. We concluded our survey of two of the Conservation areas and contacted the Council. We were informed that very limited resources meant little, if any, input could be found for making the best of what should be one of our town's assets. The Society has made representations to Dover District Council on its restructuring following the Government cuts and one idea is that the Council should work with voluntary bodies such as ours on Conservation areas. An important proviso is that volunteers will only make their input provided that there is sensible but effective enforcement. We will be following this up.

Members will all have been concerned with the shutting of public toilets and the protracted discussions between District, Town and Parish Councils over transfer of responsibilities consequent upon the Government cuts. The Society view is that the transfer will come about and we have been making known our concerns to Councils. The Society also believes that the transfer of the work of the Visitor Information Centre to Dover Town Council should also take place because of the importance of tourism

for local employment and businesses. However, we recognise these changes will cost local ratepayers.

The Society's website is changing to a data driven format (please don't ask me to explain - Mike McFarnell is the man) but the change should make it easy for us to create an easily accessible area that records Dover's listed buildings. Joan Liggett is working with Mike to include photographs, brief descriptions and links to more detailed information. It should be very interesting.

Roger Walkden proposed that windows of empty shops would be improved by enlarged photographs of the premises in former times. Most of us find these old views of the Town fascinating. This was taken up with the Town Council, but we have been reminded that absentee landlords just do not reply to requests for help. Still that is something to pursue if the opportunity arises.

Roger Walton of Dover District Council will be talking to the Society's November meeting on the new waste collection system when members will have the opportunity to ask questions and make known their ideas. This will be old news by the time you read this in the newsletter but it is important that the Society does its best to stage such events about something that affects us all every day.

The changes to the approach to Priory Station are really very good. There is one blot and that is the state of the Air Raid Warden's Post, the Society having supported its listing. The Post is not, in itself, a thing of beauty but important in understanding our history. The Society have approached Nigel Collor, the KCC representative and offered to pay £100 and provide the services of our volunteers towards making the most of the Post. To this end, we suggest an information panel

along with clearing the rubbish. Nigel is taking the matter up with KCC.

Finally, Roger Marples is taking up the cause of the footpath around the northern side of the Castle. It should be easy to walk to and from Langdon Cliffs to the Castle - indeed to walk around the Castle. The problem stretch is from Bleriot's memorial to Langdon Cliffs, at one point the path crosses the A2, not quite a user-friendly route.

* * * * *

Letter to the Editor



Dear Mr Lee

I have in my possession a number of photographs taken in the late 1920s of the Mannering family who at that time lived in Abbots Cliff House and owned Crabble Mill in Dover. I inherited these from my Mother (maiden name Mildred Wigg) who was employed as a companion to the daughter of the family, Jean. I understand she had elder brothers John and Guy. These photographs are of little or no meaning or value to myself.

Please, via the Society's Newsletter would you ask if any reader has knowledge of, or contact with, any members or descendants of this, at one time well known, Dover family. If they have and they care to connect me, I will then forward them the photographs.

I trust you do not mind this request, but I know from personal researches how items such as these are often disposed of when they would be valued in other hands.

Yours sincerely

David Hinds

Please send all replies to the Editor



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New Freeman of Dover 2010

This year, for the first time since its inception, the Dover Town Council has awarded the Freemanship of Dover. The honour has gone to three people - a retired businessman, an active environmentalist and a former mayor.

John H Turnpenny

Terry Sutton

John Turnpenny, 87-year-old retired businessman and a long-serving member of The Dover Society, has played a major role in the life of the town over the last 60 years.

He is recognised as a most efficient and very helpful chairman of a number of Dover organisations on which he has served.

Mr Turnpenny, a bachelor living at The Gateway, was a director of the well-respected retail furnishers Turnpenny Bros until the firm closed down in 1984.

He was President of Dover Chamber of Commerce in 1954-55 and again in 1962-63 in the days when the President chaired the meetings. He served as a Dover magistrate from 1967-1993 and was chairman of the Bench from 1988-92.



He was chairman of the Governors of Dover College 1987-1994, and is a former chairman of The Gateway Residents Association.

He was also chairman of the board of visitors at Dover Borstal from 1976 to 1980 while he served on the board from 1959-1981. He was chairman of the St Alphege Trust from

1984-1987, is a trustee of the Dubris Trust that provides finance for deserving Dover students going on to university and was a trustee of the Herald Disaster Fund for two years from 1987. He is a general commissioner of Income Tax and over the years up to 1994 served the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club as honorary secretary, honorary treasurer and trustee. He is a worshipper at Dover's St Mary's Church where he has served on the church council.

Jack Woolford

Patrick Sherratt

There are few people who have been as devoted to the town of Dover as Jack Woolford and it is appropriate that he has been recognised for his contribution to our town and is to receive the status of Honorary Freeman of Dover.

I know that many members of the Society have worked on committees or on other activities with Jack. It was as a Planning Committee member that I first saw Jack at work for the many causes that he has championed. Immediately I could see a man who epitomised the saying *the pen is mightier than the sword* as he tirelessly corresponded with councils etc. pressing home the cause for which he was fighting.

Jack, now 93 years old, was born in Hartlepool, gained a State Scholarship to Cambridge and graduated with First Class Honours in History. After spending six years in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, he came to Kent and Dover, where he was an Adult Education Tutor in History for the Universities of Kent and Oxford until he retired.

He was passionate for Dover and became involved with many



activities, in particular from 1964 as Chairman of the New Dover Group. In 1988 at the start of The Dover Society he became Chairman and remained so for ten years.

He achieved many successes a list which would be far too long for inclusion in this article, but the

following are of significance:

New Dover Group:

- * *Helped to preserve Kearsney Abbey from housing development.*
- * *Initiated archaeological excavations in York Street, preserving the Roman remains of Dover for future generations.*
- * *Pioneered the concept of the Riverside Walk.*
- * *Forefront of the campaign for a Dover bypass (Jubilee Way).*
- * *Dover History Exhibition in the Town Hall.*

Dover Society:

- * *Worked to promote higher standards of planning and safeguard buildings of quality within Dover*
- * *Successful appeal in 1990 to the Ombudsman condemning the action by the Home Office in breach of rules governing Listed Buildings (Western Heights).*
- * *Successful plea to Highways Agency to widen the road at junction of*

Crabble Hill.

* *Attends Dover Town Council Planning Meetings. Where his wisdom and knowledge is accepted at planning application discussion.*

* *Supported fund raising for trees for Dover town centre.*

Jack has also been active with the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies where again he has championed

Dover. At one time, he was chairman and at present, he is the Honorary Secretary.

I am sure the above shows what a committed man Jack is and many would have achieved greatness if they had only delivered half of what Jack has achieved and so from all at the Dover Society.

CONGRATULATIONS JACK.

Royston Joseph Tant

Alan Lee

The third person to be honoured, although not a member of the Dover Society, still warrants a mention in our Society newsletter. Royston, better known to many as Bob, was born in Battersea, London. He first came to Dover in 1946 whilst doing his National Service. It was then that he first met his wife to be, Eileen. They married in Dover in 1951 but went to live in London. In 1953 they returned and set up home in Dover.

Bob has worked for the people of Dover for almost 30 years. He was a councillor on Dover District Council, formed in 1974, and was one of the original members when Dover Town Council was formed in 1996.

He was the Mayor of Dover in 1982 and again in 1988, the same year he



was Speaker of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports.

During his time as a councillor he took a great deal of interest in the care and housing problems of the elderly, working closely with the Royal British Legion.

At one time employed by the East Kent Road Car Company he was, for many years, a union representative for the Transport and General Workers Union.

He is a trustee of the Roman Painted House, but recently has relinquished his posts as a trustee of the St. Edmund of Abington Trust and of Dover Municipal Charities.

He is a man with a wealth of knowledge who has always tried to help others. His award as a Freeman of Dover is a fitting tribute to Bob.

This is the first of a series of articles written by Lorraine Sencicle covering the lives of Dovorians of international renown.

Francis Arthur Cockfield

by Lorraine Sencicle

However much it angered the people of Dover, the creation of a Single European Market, in 1992, is considered as the greatest achievement of the first half-century of the unification of Europe. This would probably have never been achieved if it had not been for an ex-pupil of Dover Boys' Grammar School, Francis Arthur Cockfield (pronounced "Co'field").

Known by his middle name of Arthur, according to his birth certificate, Arthur was born on 26 September 1916, in Horsham, West Sussex. It has been reported in some local papers that he was born on the Clarendon Estate. His father, Lieutenant Charles Francis Cockfield, had been killed the month before at the Battle of the Somme.

Arthur's mother, Louisa - maiden name James - possibly lived in army accommodation on the Clarendon Estate before or after Arthur's birth. By 1923, a local trade directory lists the widow and her small son living in Beaconsfield Avenue. At the age of 11, Arthur gained a scholarship to attend the Dover County Grammar School for Boys, (now Dover Boys' Grammar School). A star pupil, he went on to win a place at the London School of Economics, where he read law and economics and on graduation entered the Civil Service.

This was 1938 and working for the Inland Revenue at Whitehall, he did not expect to rise through the ranks for some time. Therefore, in his own time, he read for the bar and was called to the Inner Temple in 1942. A year later he married his first wife, Ruth Helen Simonis. They had two children. In the meantime, at the outbreak of WWII most of his department was evacuated to Wales but a handful of staff stayed in London, of which Arthur was one. This put him in the spotlight, and Arthur's precise and incisive mind was quickly recognised. His promotion was meteoric serving as Director of Statistics from 1945 to 1952 and as a Commissioner from 1951 to 1952.

A year later Arthur left the Civil Service as he had been appointed finance director of Boots the Chemist, where he went on to become the Company's managing director and then Chairman from 1961 to 1967. During this time, Arthur served on the Council of the CBI and as a stalwart Conservative was appointed a member of the National Economic Development Council (known as Neddy) from 1962 to 1964.

Why Arthur suddenly left Boots is unclear, but in 1967, he started work for the Conservative party as an advisor to Iain Macleod on taxation and economic affairs. He was also appointed President

of the Royal Statistics Society for the year 1968-9. The following year, he and Ruth having divorced, Arthur married choreographer Monica Mudie. That same year the Conservatives were elected to office, but shortly afterwards Iain Macleod died. On the appointment of Tony Barber as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Arthur was appointed adviser on taxation policy and was knighted in 1973.

In March that year the Prime Minister Edward Heath appointed Arthur Chairman of the new Price Commission and Pay Board. Inflation, at the time, was gaining momentum and the emphasis was on controlling pay. By the autumn, Arthur claimed that he had saved shoppers £320 million! The following February Heath called a General Election and Labour was returned to power. Inflation was running at 16% and Harold Wilson, the new Prime Minister, saw the need for controls so retained the Price Commission and jettisoned the Pay Board. Arthur remained in control.

Inflation was to continue to rise peaking at 28% in 1975. Arthur was particularly heavy on companies in both the public and private sector and was earning a reputation for being an authoritarian. However, he met his nemesis with the Post Office and resigned in July 1977. By that time inflation was falling and by the following April, when he was created a life peer, it stood at 8%.

As Baron Cockfield of Dover, Arthur returned as a key member of the Conservative's Economic Reconstruction

Group and following the successful election of Margaret Thatcher in 1979 was appointed Minister of State at the Treasury. Working closely with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Geoffrey Howe, the tax reforming budgets that followed were due to Arthur's influence. In 1982, Arthur was appointed to the Cabinet as President of the Board of Trade until 1983, when it merged with the Department of Industry.

Following the 1983 election, Arthur was made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, a junior Cabinet role with no specific departmental responsibilities. He therefore became a one-man think-tank to the Prime Minister. At the time, Mrs Thatcher, who knew Arthur to be strongly Euro-sceptic, described him as "a natural technocrat of great ability and problem-solving outlook."

In September 1984 his unquestioned loyalty was rewarded by being sent to Brussels to serve a four-year term as Vice-President of the European Commission (EC). His special responsibility was for Internal Market Tax Law and Customs.

Mrs Thatcher had, at the Fontainebleau European Council, the previous June, waved her handbag and "got her money back". With Arthur's appointment, as Vice-President, the Prime Minister was sure that she was going to get something more than budget rebates - and she did!

This, Mrs Thatcher saw as a coup for she knew Arthur as a dour, uncompromising, elderly Euro-sceptic whom she was sending to Brussels to clip the wings of Jacques Delors.

Jacques Delors was the eighth president of the EC and had one aim in mind, to carry the Treaty of Rome to its logical conclusion - a Single European Market (SEM). Arthur was expected to veto this - a weapon that Mrs Thatcher had used successfully thus far. Delors, in order to stop the use of veto, introduced Qualified Majority Voting; he also took the gamble of making Arthur his Internal Market Commissioner. Delors guessed that Arthur, although 70 years old, was nobody's 'lap-dog' and that given the chance he would use his remarkable talents.

Arthur tackled the task given him with his usual thoroughness and intellectual rigour, recognising that previous attempts had failed, as they were bitty and piecemeal. In response, he produced a White Paper listing 283 barriers, which needed to be abolished to create a "frontier-free Europe". Against every barrier, he listed what needed to be done and a timetable for them all to be abolished - all by December 1992. This was in June 1985, only six months after taking office. To ensure the passage of his proposal, it was published two weeks before the European Council met, in order to "give heads of government sufficient time to read the document and appreciate the immense importance of the opportunity being opened up but not to give their officials enough time to pick it to pieces." The paper was agreed.

For the next 3½ years Arthur, used all his energy monitoring, presenting, arguing and negotiating his programme of SEM in 1992. This was to the annoyance of the British, with Mrs

Thatcher accusing him of "going native!" What the other state leaders said about Arthur is not so well recorded, but he did force the French educational establishment to accept foreign teachers working in their schools; the West Germans to accept competition in road haulage and Belgium and Italy to open up their insurance markets.

By 1988 Arthur was well on the way to achieving his objectives in Brussels and with the expectation of a second term when his goal of SEM would be a reality. In June 1988, he announced that Britain would eventually have to drop its veto on a single currency and jokingly said that Mrs Thatcher was, in reality, pro-European, that a statue of her was to be erected on the White Cliffs of Dover with an arm outstretched toward the Continent and an inscription stating, "There lies our future!"

Mrs Thatcher was not amused, and retaliated by asking Arthur to come and see her at number 10 to discuss his second term. That morning an announcement was sent to the media that Leon Brittan was to succeed Arthur in Brussels! Arthur read about his dismissal in the papers, before the discussion took place.

Arthur was deeply hurt by this but the accountants Peat, Marwick, McLintock, asked him to join them as a consultant and adviser on European affairs. He also actively used his position in the House of Lords to speak on Europe. In 1990, Arthur was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Leopold II of Belgium and was also the guest speaker at the Dover Boys' Grammar School.

That year also saw the death of his wife Monica.

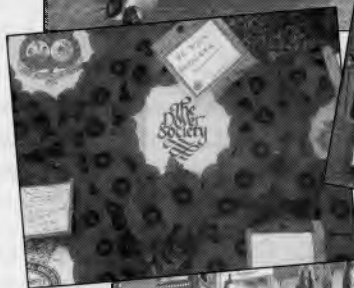
In December 1991, the Maastricht Treaty was signed, taking Jacques Delors vision of a European economic, monetary and political union to the next stage. Slightly over a year later, the first part of that dream came into force - the Single European Market - thanks to a Dovorian. At the time, there were 5,025 people out of work in the Dover/Deal district and it was expected

that a further 1,000 would be made redundant because of the SEM.

Francis Arthur Cockfield, Baron of Dover, died, aged 90, on 8th January 2007. There is no memorial to Arthur in the town not even a road has been named after him.

This article first appeared in the Dover Mercury and the Dover Society would like to thank them for the use of this story.
Editor

Remembrance Day



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Alan Lee

Once again, this year's Heritage Open Days were a resounding success, with many people visiting places that they have never been in before. This year there were two new properties listed, the Maison Dieu and the Roman Painted House. I managed to get to see round both of these and was very impressed with the welcome given to visitors at both venues.

The Maison Dieu



The first building I visited on the Saturday was the Maison Dieu. The Dover Society have been the prime movers in getting this building open and arranging for the guided tours to take place. It is hoped that many more guided tours can be arranged in the future.

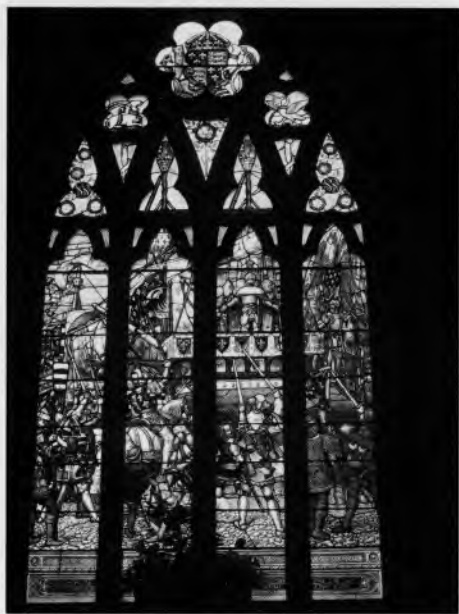
The Hospital of St. Mary, Domus Dei, or the Maison Dieu was founded by Hubert de Burgh, then Constable of Dover Castle, in 1203. Later, in 1227, a chapel was added with King Henry III attending the consecration service. The Square Tower was added in the 14th century.

The Master and Brethren of the hall signed an oath acknowledging the 1534 Act of Supremacy, making King Henry VIII supreme head of the Church of England. In 1544, the building was finally surrendered to the crown and until 1830 it became a military store. The crown used the brew houses, bake houses, barns, stables and land as a supply base for the army and navy.

Between 1830 and 1834 the Board of Ordnance used the building as a depot before selling it to the Corporation of Dover. For the next fifteen years it was used for town council meetings.

In 1858 major restoration work was carried out, managed by William Burges. He also designed the Council Chamber that was added in 1867.

I joined the first tour of the day and our group was met by our two guides, Georgette Rapley and Jennie Olpin. This was also a new experience for the both of them as it was the first tour they had ever undertaken. We started just inside the main entrance in the Stone Hall. We were shown the beautiful stained glass windows,



magnificent paintings, the colours of the Cinque Port Volunteers, arms, armour and many other items of interest. The six stained glass windows, designed by Sir E. J. Poynter, depict six Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports in scenes from Dover's past. The Stone Hall is thought to be the original 'Great Chamber' built in 1254. As we moved through the building we marvelled at the ornate ceilings and panelling in the smaller rooms.

We arrived at the courtroom, a place that I found of great interest. This was originally the chapel built in 1227 and converted into a courtroom in the 19th century. The prisoner restraints can still be seen in the dock. Beneath has been built a gaol to house the prisoners. It would be nice if it could

be reopened as part of any future tours.

The tour ended in the Connaught Hall, built between 1881 and 1883 as a meeting and concert hall for the townspeople. The hall was officially opened with great pomp and ceremony, on the same day as Connaught Park, by the Duke of Connaught on 14th July 1884.

This was a most enlightening tour made all the more enjoyable by both of our guides. I hope that this will be the first tour of many.

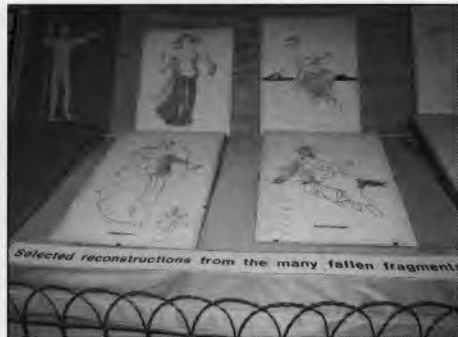
The Roman Painted House

The second new venue for this year's Heritage Open Days was the Roman Painted House in New Street. The entrance fee was waived for this day and they welcomed a large number of visitors, many of whom had never previously visited the Painted House.

This area was first investigated in 1970 and this soon led to the discovery of traces of the Roman shore fort and part of the painted wall of a Roman house. The following year, in August, Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4 were found and then back filled for protection.

In 1972 the fort wall, the bastion and western defence ditch were located. In 1975 Rooms 5 and 6 were uncovered and in 1976 the passage aligned to the north.

The Roman floors were discovered 3 metres below ground level. In all



5,800 tons of soil and rubble were removed by the archaeological team.

Five rooms can still be seen under the cover building of the Roman Painted House. These show thick flint and tile walls, concrete floors and underfloor heating. There are some 122 square metres of finely painted wall plaster. The designs relate to Bacchus the Roman God of wine and revelry.

This building also contains a major exhibition on Roman Dover. Some 30 large information panels and several cases of carefully chosen objects uncovered from 37 years of work by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit.

A scheme was devised in 1975 to preserve the Painted House and an appeal was launched. Soon with the help of some 800 friends, who donated £5 each, plus various grants, about £70,000 was raised. The Painted House Trust was then set up.

When the contractors' bids came in they were over £30,000 above the original estimate. This forced the Unit to become the main contractors, carry

out much of the work themselves and to have to supervise the sub-contractors. They also designed and laid out the display panels and constructed the display cases. In only 404 days they completed all the work and for a cost of £74,000.

In 1976 the scheme was estimated to be worth in the region of £250,000. The building was opened, on schedule, on 12th May 1977.

Between 1977 and 1978 the Painted House gained four prestigious awards. They have also had some 600,000 visitors from 160 different countries. The most famous of these was, in 1986, a royal visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen Mother.

Normally there is a modest entrance fee that is made to cover the running costs of the building.

This is one of the jewels of Dover and well worth a visit, especially if you have not seen it before. The house is closed for the winter but reopens again in April. School workshops are however available all year round.

The White Horse Inn

by Joan Liggett

The White Horse Inn is one of the town's oldest residences dating from 1365. It was built during the reign of Edward III as a dwelling for the Churchwarden of St James Church which stood next door. With the



Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, the church gave up the house. In 1574 it became home to Dover's "ale taster" and for the next 55 years was the home of successive post holders whose duties included checking on the quality of ale and on unlawful measures. He also had the responsibility of reporting anyone who kept a disorderly house. There were various owners and tenants most of whom were involved in checking or making ales and ciders.

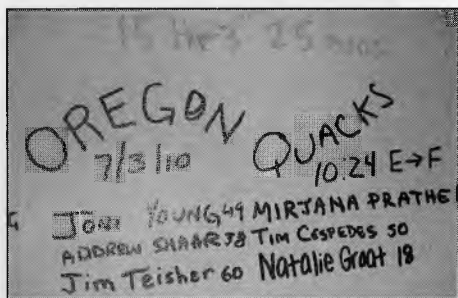
In 1635 a Nicholas Ramsey was granted permission to call the premises *City of Edinburgh*, after an American ship that sank in the Dover Straits. Later in 1652 he was presented to two magistrates at Dover and granted a licence to sell ales and cider from premises adjoining St James Church. Old papers show a line of successive owners and in the 18th century the *City of Edinburgh* became the meeting place of actors and players of the Dover Theatre. Alterations to the pub in 1952 uncovered a programme for the Dover Theatre dated 1809 advertising *Harlequin and Mother Goose*; this programme is still displayed in the pub today.

In 1818 the name of the inn was changed to *The White Horse* and it was about this time that inquests were held there, mainly on bodies washed up from the sea. These are said to have been stored in what is

now the dining area to the rear of the property.

From 1890, until the early part of the twentieth century, coaches ran from St Margaret's-at-Cliffe to the *White Horse* every day except Sunday. It was also in 1890, until well into the twentieth century, that the inn opened at 5am for Dockers and others working different shifts. Today the White Horse still is a local pub dispensing various beverages including, nowadays, coffee. It also records on its walls, ceiling and doors details of many Channel Swimmers from all over the world.

(References: Charles Willett/Dover Express)



Section of interior walls

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

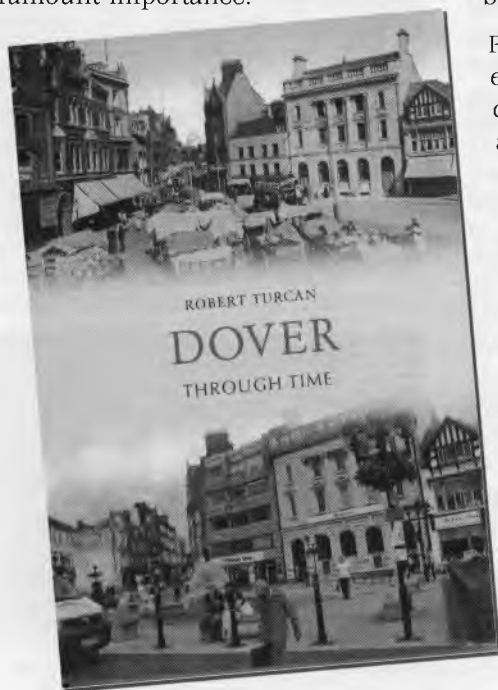
Dover Through Time

By Robert Turcan

Reviewed by Alan Lee

By the skilful use of comparing old and new images, this book covers the many changes that have taken place within the town and port over the years. The author has managed to uncover some old fascinating views of the area. There are pictures of the Promenade pier, long gone and sadly missed. The bathing machines, sat at the water's edge, conjure up a time when a woman's modesty was of paramount importance.

The changes that have occurred in the inner harbour have been many and varied. This book manages to follow a great many of these to give the reader a glimpse of times long ago. The development of the ferries is charted, from the old cross channel paddle steamers to the modern ferries of today. The visit of Sir Douglas Haig, in 1918, attracted a huge crowd along the seafront, as did the King's birthday parade.



Pictures of the town feature extensively, showing how it has developed over the years, not always an improvement, but offering a wonderful look into the many changes that have taken place. The author has ended the book on a humorous note by reproducing postcards from some one hundred years ago, when Dover was a thriving town. This book provides the reader with a very enjoyable nostalgic read.

Obtainable from:

Local bookshops - recommended price of £14.99.

On line from www.amberley-books.com - discount price £13.49, free postage in UK.

Dover in the Second World War

By Terry Sutton MBE and Derek Leach OBE

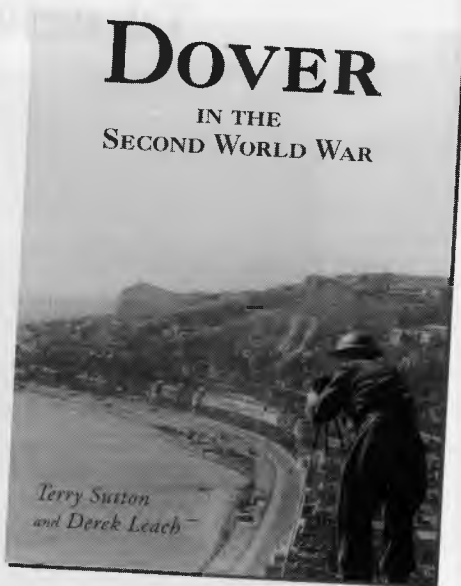
Reviewed by Alan Lee

At last a book that tells the full detail of what the townspeople had to endure in the Second World War. It covers the period from 1938 to 1945 when VJ Day was celebrated in the Market Square. The bonfire was so fierce that it burnt a hole in the tarmac. Another on the seafront caused considerable damage when anything combustible was burnt including the wooden seats.

The authors have managed to uncover details of plans never previously published. They reveal that houses along the seafront were to be demolished; to give the defenders guns a clear field of fire against any invaders. In addition, the plans for thousands of people to be evacuated onboard special trains 800 at a time. Those remaining moving into caves and shelters so that the defenders in Dover Castle and at the Western Heights could fire unhindered on any invaders that made it to the town.

Memories of Dovorians who survived the bombing and the shelling have been faithfully captured in this book. This has added a personal and human touch that gives the reader an insight into what it was like to have been under constant attack.

This book is well illustrated with a great many old photographs that have



never been previously published.

In hardback, these two authors have again produced an extremely well researched and written book. This would make an excellent Christmas present.

Obtainable from:
Local bookshops - recommended
retail price £18.99.

From the authors:
Terry Sutton 01304 820122
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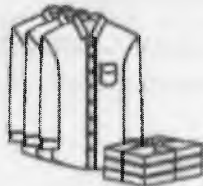
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Application for Membership

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

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Phone

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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 2010/11

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

2010

DECEMBER 18

Saturday

7.00 for 7.30

£22.50

Christmas Feast

This year we will revert back to a cold buffet, which gives a wide selection of food with the addition of hot potatoes. As usual the Christmas Feast will be held in the Refectory at Dover College. A sherry reception will greet you on arrival with free wine on the table. soft drinks are available on request. The entertainment will be by the unique style of "Quodlibet".

To book please contact:

Mrs Patricia Hooper-Sherratt,

Castle Lea, Taswell Street, Dover CT16 1SG

Tel: 01304 228129

2011

JANUARY 17

Monday 7.30

Speakers: Richard Sturt: "The Birds of Dover in 2009"

Nadeem Aziz: "DDC/DTC Services Cutbacks and the effects on the Big Society"

FEBRUARY 21

Monday

7 for 7.30

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

MARCH 21

Monday 7.30

Speakers: David Hannent, Deputy Mayor:

"Plans for creating the Lanes in Dover"

Alan Sencicle: "Sailing"

APRIL 18

Monday 7.30

Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Charlie Elphicke MP

*All indoor meetings are held at St Mary's Parish Centre
Please book as early as possible. Non-members are welcome on all Society outings.*

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