

# Newsletter

# No. 85 March 2016



Buckland Bridge Dover, William Burgess (Dover Collections)



# THE DOVER SOCIETY FOUNDED IN 1988

FOUNDED IN 1988 Affiliated to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies Registered Charity No. 299954

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# Contents

2	Editorial		Alan Lee
5	Christmas Lunch 2015		Denise Lee
	OCTOBER MEETING		
6	WILLIAM BURGESS - DOVER PAINTER		
Ū	- A TALK BY JON IVESON		Alan Lee
8	Kearsney Parks Project		
	- a talk by Jon Winder		Terry Sutton
	NOVEMBER MEETING		
10	Policing Dover		
	- a talk by CI Stephen Barlow		Alan Lee
12	Archcliffe Fort in WWI		
	- a talk by Phil Eyden		Terry Sutton
	JANUARY MEETING		
14	The Work of Porchlight		
	- a talk by Fiona Tapley		Alan Lee
15	Invicta Miners – Stories of the Kent Coalfields		
	- a talk by Jim Davis		Terry Sutton
17	Refurbishment Committee		Jeremy Cope
20	Dover Bluebird Heritage Trail		Derek Leach
22	Cowgate Cemetery Jeremy Cope		
22	Remembrance At The Marine Station		Alan Lee
23	Reminder Annual General Meeting		Alan Lee
23	Remembrance At The War Memorial		Alan Lee
24	Registrar and Seneschal of the Cinque Ports Honoured		Peter Sherred
25	Membership News		Sheila Cope
26	The Monarchs' Canopy		Terry Sutton
29	What's On Up On The Downs		Alan Lee
30	Planning Committee		Patrick Sherratt
31	SIR WILLIAM CRUNDALL AND JACK THE RIPPER		Sean Crundall
32	The Knockers of Dover	]	Martyn Webster
35	River Dour Partnership		Jeremy Cope
44	Application Form for Membership		

# 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

First a reminder that the AGM will be held on Monday 18th April. All nominations for elected posts within the committee and any resolutions must be received by the secretary, Beverley Hall, no later than 14 days before the meeting.

The cost of membership remains the same for this year. The last time the subscriptions increased was way back in 1996. This is mainly due to our capable treasurer Mike Weston and his stewardship of the finances.

Please read the programme of events inside of the back cover as this gives details of our outings. These are arranged thanks to the hard work of Patricia Hooper-Sherratt with able assistance from her husband Patrick. If any of the members have any ideas for venues for future visits then please do not hesitate to contact Patricia.

Everyone is reminded that the annual service of commemoration for the Zeebrugge raid will take place on St George's Day, 23rd April at St James' cemetery. For further details please see the local press nearer to the event.

If you know of anybody who may be interested in joining the Society please contact the membership secretary Sheila Cope or the editor for a membership form. There are always forms available from him at all of our meetings.

One final point, as a society we are always in need of volunteers to help with projects, events and articles. If you are interested in helping the society in any way do please contact the editor.

Alan Lee Editor

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### **DEADLINE** for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 86 will be Wednesday 11th May 2016. 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. Copy on computer disc or by e-mail is acceptable. Pictures via e-mail must be as high a resolution as possible in JPEG. 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.

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# Christmas Lunch 2015

#### Sunday 13th December 2015 - Denise Lee

Just before Christmas the Dover Society Jannual lunch was once again held in the Stone Hall. The number of people attending was down slightly on the previous year but all present enjoyed the meal, entertainment and the company of other members and guests. From 12 noon those attending were welcomed with either a glass of tropical fruit punch or mulled wine prior to their meal at 1 pm.

The entertainment was provided by the five members of Quodlibet of Canterbury. They were Dr Peter Giles the director and counter-tenor, Ruth Hoskins - soprano, Jane Farrell - mezzo soprano, Richard Pond - tenor and Peter Cox - bass - baritone. Many thanks must go to Sheila Cope for helping me with the raffle and for the organisation of the event a special thanks to Beverley-Anne Hall. She has already started to organise the meal which will be on Sunday 11th December in the Town Hall.

I would also like to thank the generosity of everyone who donated a prize for the raffle.

I was especially pleased with the amount of money raised by the raffle. Thank you for purchasing so many tickets.



Denise after the raffle



# OCTOBER MEETING

**William Burgess – Dover Painter** A talk by Jon Iveson Curator Dover Museum Reported by Alan Lee



Dover Castle ad 1642, William Burgess1847

W<sup>illiam</sup> Burgess was born in Canterbury in 1805, (the 1851 census



St Martin le Grand, William Burgess [Dover Museum]

gives it as 1806) and died in 1861. He was a painter, drawing master, author and illustrator.

In his early years William was apprenticed to his uncle, a coach and carriage builder. William did a lot of the paintwork and liked to paint in the Egyptian style.

Since about 1818 William had worked with his close friend and artist Thomas Sydney Cooper. In 1827 he persuaded William that they should tour Europe, France in particular. After a year, leaving Thomas in France William returned to England and ended up in Dover. He then married Harriet a girl from Deal. They had a house in Woolcomber Street before moving to 14 Stembrook.

Whilst living here he specialised in paintings that captured events of the day. To supplement his earnings he taught oil and watercolour painting from an address advertised as Shakespeare Place. This was the name of the alley that ran past his property from Castle Street to Stembrook.

He wrote, illustrated and produced his own book. He also travelled around the country painting various commissioned works.

Throughout his talk Jon showed his audience a large number of images to illustrate just some of the many paintings by William Burgess, a very prolific artist. A number of his works are held at the District Council offices and at Dover Museum, while some are on display around the district.

There is a Dover Society plaque on the wall at Stembrook commemorating William Burgess. He was arguably Dover's most famous artist.



Travellers on Country Lanes, William Burgess



Army Wagoners Beneath Dover Castle. William Burgess [Dover Collections]



Militia on the Western Heights, William Burgess [Dover Harbour Board]

# OCTOBER MEETING

Kearsney Parks Project A talk by Jon Jon Winder Reported by Terry Sutton

This summer a decision is expected on a major project to invest more than three million pounds to make Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens even more attractive than they are today.

Details of how Dover District Council, owners of both parks, propose to carry out the major work were given by project manager Jon Winder when he was a guest speaker at our public meeting at St Mary's parish centre on Monday, October 19th.

Jon explained it was time-tabled to make the application in February 2016 to the Heritage Lottery Fund, lined up to finance the project, in round two of the bidding process for the half-promised £3.3 million. HLF's decision was expected in June.

If successful work on the project could be expected to start in 2017 and continue for around four years.



Heritage Photo Trail

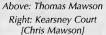
Questioned, Jon revealed that the council's original application had included the adjacent Bushy Ruff in the Alkham Valley but that third area of parkland was rejected by HLF.

Jon, who used to play in Kearsney Abbey grounds as a child, gave a run down on the history of the two parks and how they



Kearsney Abbey Pond







came into the ownership of the local authority. Russell Gardens were originally laid out as the private garden of Kearsney Court, at different times the home of wealthy Dover residents including Edward Barlow the managing director of a local paper mill.

He revealed that an earthquake in 2007 cracked the base of the lake in Russell Gardens but they had been advised by experts not to repair the damage for the sake of wildlife. But siltation had apparently sealed the crack damage, he said.

He reported that to help fully capture the design of the Kearsney Abbey landscape, a camera-carrying drone had been used and Jon screened a selection of the shots taken



Pond dipping - Russell Gardens

from the air.

It was planned to restore the open air theatre in the Abbey grounds and possibly make provision for an outdoor cinema. It was proposed to extend the cafe (at present in the former billiards room of the nowdemolished mansion), making provision for a community area that could be used by schools and other groups.

The plan was to extend the car park (opposite Russell Gardens) to 112 spaces and an application was being made to KCC to provide a pedestrian crossing at that point to link the two parks.

The restoration of Russell Gardens to its original glory, when laid out by landscape designer Thomas Mawson, would include the provision of toilets and the recreation of a mock boat house. Negotiations were ongoing, he said, with the seven residents of Kearsney Court who still owned a slice of the gardens. Kearsney Court was now divided into seven residential units.

When our chairman Derek Leach observed it was his concern that the gardens would be maintained, Jon said the submitted scheme included the employment of three members of staff to look after Russell Gardens.



### First Speaker — Policing Dover A talk by Chief Inspector Stephen Barlow Reported by Alan Lee

Chief Inspector Stephen Barlow, the District Commander Dover District, opened his talk with details of his career before and since arriving in the town. He stated that his aim was to protect and serve the people of Dover.

The area under his control covers 123 square miles and has 20 miles of coastline. It

contains 48,800 households and population of 111,800 people.

With 20 miles of coastline smuggling always has been, and still is, a problem, but the style is ever changing. In previous years it was small boats and gangs landing illicit goods. Then there was a period when cigarettes and alcohol were the main items. Now the major problem is people smuggling.

Today's policing is now linked more closely with social deprivation in most of the district. Stephen stressed that it was a minority, in small areas, that caused most of the trouble.

For the purpose of statistics the wards are broken down into 67 smaller areas. Locally 11 of these are among the bottom 20% of the most deprived areas in the country.

The district receives an average of 90 calls per day. Of these 12 or13 are likely to be



CI Stephen Barlow

emergency calls (a crime in progress or someone in danger of injury). The majority of the reported incidents every year are at the lower level. For example the reporting of missing persons is almost a daily occurrence, about half of these are young people in care. Many are people with suicidal tendencies or who suffer from dementia (they are

a very vulnerable if they go missing). The police work closely with the small Dover District Community Team, Social Services and other social welfare groups.

The financial challenges facing the police are becoming more acute with their much tighter budget. Manpower accounts for 80% of the running costs of the Kent force. Stephen stated that the cost of the money raised via the council rates for the police service averaged £2-77 per week per household.

Owing to these financial restraints it had been planned to merge some of the higher level jobs of the Dover and Shepway forces. Since the talk this has now been put on hold with the announcement of some extra government funding.

After a question and answer session the chairman thanked Chief Inspector Barlow for giving the members an insight into the way the local force operates.



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### Second Speaker Archcliffe Fort in WWI A talk by Phil Eyden Reported by Terry Sutton



Kathleen Bashford

Kathleen Bashford, an 18-year-old typist during World War One, was a very naughty girl. Because of the danger of enemy spies, all photography in Fortress Dover was banned by law. But Kathleen, daughter of a milkman, took her box camera to Archcliffe Fort where she worked and snapped some of the soldiers who were stationed there.

Thanks to her law-breaking, fifty of her rare 180 pictures were screened at our public meeting at St Mary's parish centre on November 16. Displaying the rare photographs was Phil Eyden of the Western Heights Preservation Society who was made a study of the Royal Engineers based at Archcliffe Fort (now the home of the Dover Emmaus community) during the 1916-17 years.



Troops at the Fort

He emphasised how the series of pictures were valuable and of national significance



Motorbike AA-9223

because of the wartime photographic ban. He pointed out that because there were no officers present the pictures showed an unusual informality of soldiers posing in their work and their play. Phil was able to identify by name most of the soldiers depicted in the photographs. This he did by diligently researching photographs and reports published in the Dover Express.

One of the photographs was of the Dover "Terriers" of the Cinque Ports (Fortress) Royal Engineers whose headquarters were in Castle Street and then in Bench Street. There were pictures of Dover's early "Home Guard."

Several of the soldiers wore black buttons on their uniforms showing, unofficially, they had lost relatives in the war.

Another photograph, dated 1915, was of cadets from Dover County School (members of Cinque Ports Fortress Royal Engineers) who carried out part of their training at Archcliffe Fort during the war years. (The ACC at the school celebrated its centenary in 2015).

Several of the photographs revealed buildings at Archcliffe Fort, and other landmarks in the background, that no longer exist. One building, now



Outside Pay Office 3rd Fortress Company Royal Engineers

demolished on the lower slopes of the Western Heights, was of the military hospital which I well remember because I received my "jabs" there in 1948 while on embarkation leave before departing the UK with the Hussars for North Africa.



Parade Ground Archcliffe Fort



Archcliffe Fort Today

# JANUARY MEETING

### First Speaker — The Work of Porchlight A talk by Fiona Tapley – Services User Involvement Co-ordinator Reported by Alan Lee

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Six Wavs

To Wellbeing

10 9.04

Porchlight works with homeless people and for 40 years has been Kent's premier homeless charity. It was set up in 1974 by Tom Giggord motivated by his own experience of being homeless.

At present they have 160 staff % of which Porchlight try to ensure that at least 25% have themselves been homeless at one time. They support about 1200 homeless people on a daily basis.

Fiona stated that statistically 1 in 11 people have been homeless sometime in their life. She then gave the meeting a number of examples, many concerning young people.

There are also what is known as the "Hidden Homeless". These include the "Sofa Surfers" - who rely on friends to put them up for a night or two. Others live in squats or are in temporary B & B accommodation. There are also a growing number living in caravans or cars.

Porchlight also run shared houses and hostels, a mixture of self-contained and shared accommodation. The charity has 115 beds in the Dover/Ashford/Canterbury and Ramsgate area. The Dover area accommodation includes a 9 bed adult hostel and a building in the Tower Hamlets area – which can house a maximum of 7 people for up to 2 years. A number of these people suffer with mental health problems. Within Dover there are another 3 shared houses that accommodate a further 9 people.

The charity runs various initiatives which include:

"Porchlight Adolescent Support Service" – Where 26 staff work in conjunction with K.C.C. Last year they helped 2,000 vulnerable young people.

"Porchlight Primary Care Link Service in Kent" – They have 25 staff who, along with G.P's, assist people with housing, money and life problems that can affect their health.

"Community, Inclusion and Befriending Service" – run throughout Kent. This supports people for 6 months to help them integrate back into the community and resume normal everyday living. This supports about 5,000 people annually.

In East Kent they work closely with the private rented sector arranging accommodation with landlords. Many homeless people find it difficult to get a tenancy agreement as they do not have a regular address or prior place of residence.

"Porchlight Helpline" – this is a 24 hour service, lottery funded, with about 150 staff and 50 volunteers. There are always vacancies if anyone is interested. A dedicated person is employed to help the homeless to return or to start employment. They link with many businesses and education establishments to improve basis literacy, numeracy and life skills.

Jobs, education, training and events have been provided locally thanks to a grant from Dover Big Local. This encouraged youngsters to attend sports and music events in Pencester Gardens. Others have been on sailing ships and courses with West Ham Football Club. These also help to teach community values and working together.

"My Streets" is an initiative started in Canterbury. It includes a tour of the city but also teaches people where they can obtain help, have a wash or a bath when needed.

During her talk it became obvious that Fiona had a great passion for helping the homeless through her work with Porchlight.

### Invicta Miners – Second Speaker Invicta Miners – Stories of the Kent Coalfields A talk by Jim Davis Reported by Terry Sutton

The era when there were 7,000 miners working in the Kent coalfield was recalled when Jim Davis, an expert on the industry, was the guest speaker at our meeting on January 18th.

A number of former Kent miners were among the appreciative audience at the public meeting at St Mary's parish centre.

Jim knows what he's talking about. He worked at Betteshanger colliery for 33 years starting as a haulage hand and finishing his mining career, as the last employee there,



Shakespeare Colliery 1905



Statue of Miner Now Moved From Dover

by filling in the pit shaft when Betteshanger closed. In retirement he went on to become a successful Dover businessman.

Using film and other screened images he told how work on an abandoned Channel Tunnel at Shakespeare Cliff confirmed the belief that there was coal to be found under Kent. Coal had been mined from the same seams under Belgium and France since the Middle Ages, he said.

In the quest for the hidden coal East Kent

was peppered with exploratory boreholes in an area ringed by Dover, Deal and Canterbury. As a result it was estimated there were ten BILLION tons of coal and 200 million tons of iron ore under Kent.

To win this coal it was proposed to sink 17 collieries in Kent with an expected output of 13 million tons of coal a year.

Jim then explained why some 4,000 miners moved to Kent from all over the country, some even walking from Wales and Scotland.

In the 1920s and early 1930s there was widespread unemployment in the country's coalfields elsewhere while there were great expectations in Kent. Many of those out of work miners, a few years earlier in the 1914-18 war, were in the Forces under-mining German enemy defences to blow them up. They returned home to find themselves jobless-hence the march to East Kent.

In Kent they were not always welcome. Newspaper advertisements offering accommodation often stipulated "not for miners." There were also difficulties over the varied dialects.

At that stage it was believed a mining workforce of 147,000 would be required in



Chislet Colliery 1930



Betteshanger Colliery

Kent along with 48,000 iron workers and detailed plans were drawn up for large villages away from the pits. At that stage, Jim pointed out, there were no pithead baths and the miners would walk to their homes covered in black dust to be cleaned up by their wives.

He recalled the expectation that Kent coal would be exported and one port considered was the "secret" wartime port of Richborough (where at one time 20,000 were employed) but eventually the owner



Collier Using A Jigger [Air Pick] 1980



1980 Setting Steel Bars

of Tilmanstone colliery came up with a scheme that carried coal the seven and a half miles from Tilmanstone to Dover docks by aerial ropeway.

This ropeway, with 600 buckets, strode across the green fields of East Kent and

then through a tunnel in the cliffs to a bunker at the end of the Eastern Arm to feed calling ships.

Jim scotched the myth that one or more of the Betteshanger coal seams was mined under the sea.

# Refurbishment Committee Jeremy Cope

 $O_{\text{some of them below.}}^{\text{f}}$  the matters of interest to us I update

First I am very pleased to report the funding cut to Police services has been rescinded. Chief Inspector Barlow will not be moving which, given his work for Dover, is good news. Jenny Olpin and John Cotton will continue to hold regular meetings with CI Barlow to express concerns. If, at time, you have any matters which you believe should be brought forward do please contact Jenny on jenny.olpin@uwclub.net

The replacement of street lights is something, we believe, should reflect the nature of the area in which they are situated. For example Castle Street with its buildings has a particular aspect and changes need to be compliant with that sense. We do recognise that the style of replacements is very much one of taste and also in this day and age of cost. However the more of us content with changes the better. DDC with its recent building on the corner of Castle Street and Woolcomber Street gave the design such consideration and is, to many of us, a happy result.

We have been in correspondence with Tim Waggott, Chief Executive of Dover Harbour Board. Our first concern was for the Jarrett Plaque situated on the Prince of Wales Pier. The plaque is a brass geographer which aligns with Dover landmarks and thus requires correct positioning in any relocation. Our concerns have been noted together with the need for a proper location if it is to "work". The second matter was that in any redevelopment of the Western Docks that the Dour outflow is unimpeded allowing for migrating fish to freely enter and leave the river. We also seem to be attracting seals into the Dour - obviously an increasingly popular place for sea creatures to visit. We received assurance that the flows would be similar to that currently experienced.

Jenny Olpin is now taking up the task of searching for funding appropriate signage to the pathway from the Castle via the Bleriot Memorial to the Cliff pathway. The present signage is fine if you are a walker with the proper maps but not too helpful to most locals and particularly visitors. For those unacquainted with the path it offers a much safer alternative to walking alongside of Upper Road.

If any of our members have any issues or problems with reguard to litter enforcement then please contact Jenny Olpin. Tel: 01304 825011 E-mail: jenny.olpin@uwclub.net

Lastly we are looking forward to a talk in February from Andrzej Kluczynski "AJ" who leads the litter enforcement team. It should be very interesting to hear how the team works, its problems and how the public can help.



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Derek Leach - Project Manager

A tong last the Bluebird Heritage Trail is well on its way. Dover Castle attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, but with this popular attraction requiring a whole day visit, the vast majority do not venture into the town. Way back in January 2014 the newly-formed Port and Community Forum decided upon a joint project to promote the fantastic heritage assets of the town and port in some coordinated way to attract more visitors.

A group was formed to develop the idea and from this was born the concept of a heritage trail linking the many sites, building and monuments of the town and port. Bronze pavement markers would direct people along the route running from the War Memorial by the Town Hall, through the town centre, along the seafront and out to the Gun Turret on Admiralty Pier. There would also be a free guidebook including a route map with details of the sites, plus a dedicated website and a smartphone app.

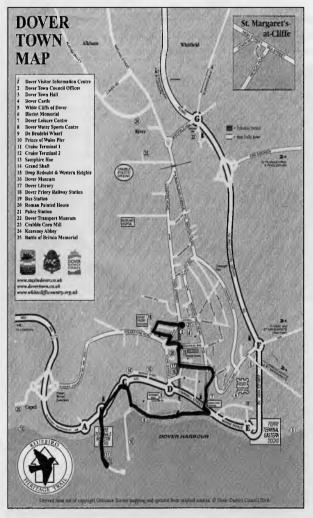
The estimated cost was £64,000, excluding the time of volunteers valued at £29,000. It was clear that most of the funding would have to be from grants and it was felt that a grant application would have a better chance if submitted by a community organisation rather than Dover Harbour Board (DHB) or a statutory authority such as Dover Town (DTC) or District (DDC) Councils. So it was that The Dover Society submitted the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and is responsible for expenditure and successful delivery of the project. We are also providing the volunteer Project Manager and Finance Officer.

Whilst it is forbidden by the Heritage Lottery Fund to start any project before funding is offered, it took over a year to obtain all the necessary detailed information and estimates required to



Dover's Bluebird Heritage Trail takes flight [DHB].

submit a grant application, which was finally submitted in July 2015 for £59,000. DHB had offered the balance of £5,000. We also had to guarantee to maintain the trail for 10 years; DDC and DTC have each offered up to £1,000 a year for 5 years to achieve this and The Society has guaranteed to cover the remaining 5 years – hopefully with some grants. Maintenance



Trail Route 130

costs will include any repairs/replacements to the pavement markers, website maintenance costs, publicity etc.

HLF offered the £59k in September subject to obtaining the approval of the highways authorities to the installation of the route markers. This took up to January 2016 with the need to provide precise locations and

> drawings for the markers. Approval of DHB was also needed since some markers will be on their property such as the seafront. At the time of writing (late January) we are about to order the manufacture of the markers and place the contract for their installation later in the vear. The guidebook has been compiled and designed and is almost ready to be printed. The also includes project community engagement (a HLF requirement) and we shall appoint in February a part time paid worker to deliver number of а community activities. including workshops on building a website. local history research and graphic design. Pupils in local schools and some businesses will also briefed become be to 'ambassadors' for the trail.

> Assuming all goes to plan the public launch of the trail will be marked by a mass inaugural self-guided walk along the route as the first event of the 2016 White Cliffs Walking Festival on Thursday 25 August at 10.30. Come and join us either for the whole route or part of it.

# COWGATE CEMETERY

cemetery continues without too many disruptions, despite the wet weather.

Volunteers welcome - phone me on 01304

What a delight to look at Dover from the Cemetery without one's view The preliminary working party dates (subject of course to the weather) are as followsimpeded by Burlington House. I do hope any replacement improves and does not mar the Dover scene. Our work on the

10110 0 0.		
Month	Thursday	Saturday
March	3rd	12th
1	<b>7.1</b>	101

Jeremy Cope

March	3rd	12th
April	7th	16th
May	5th	21 st
June	2nd	18th
July	7th	16th



211348

### AGM A Reminder to All Members

The Annual General Meeting this year will take place on Monday 18th April. This is also the last of the winter meetings until October. All members are urged to attend.

All nominations for elected posts within the committee and any resolutions must be received by the secretary no later than 14 days before the date of the AGM.

Beverley Hall, 61 Castle Avenue, Dover. CT16 1EZ Tel: 01304 202646 E-mail: bevbov61@hotmail.com

# **Dover War Memorial Remembrance Day 2015**



# Registrar and Seneschal of the Cinque — Peter Sherred —

Following the article in Issue no. 84 of the Newsletter (November 2015, pp.

24

32 - 36) it was a great pleasure to read of (MVO) in the New Year's Honours List. the appointment of Ian Russell as a Member of The Royal Victorian Order



DMIRAL BARON BOYCE Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, Officer of the Order of the British Empire, Constable of Dover Castle, Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports Two Antient Towns and their Members, Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London and Knight of Justice of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem

OL 0: IAN DAVID ARTHUR RUSSELL ESQUIRE MA MSocSe Solicitor

HEREAS the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain hath given and granted to me the Office of Constable of Her Majesty's Castle of Dover with the appurtenances thereto belonging and also the Office of Warden and Keeper of Her Cinque Ports Two Antient Towns and their Members AND by the same Letters Patent hath also given and granted to me the Office of Admiralty within Her Cinque Ports Two Antient Towns and their Members aforesaid TOGETHER WITH full power and authority to make and depute all and singular Officers and Ministers to all and singular Offices to be exercised and occupied in the said Castle

DW out of the good opinion I have of your ability fidelity discretion and industry I DO by force and virtue of the said Letters HEREBY CONSTITUTE and APPOINT you the said IAN DAVID ARTHUR RUSSELL ESQUIRE to be REGISTRAR OF THE COURT OF CHANCERY AND ADMIRALTY OF THE CINQUE PORTS TWO ANTIENT TOWNS AND THEIR MEMBERS AND CLERK OF THE CASTLE OF DOVER aforesaid in the room of Ian George Gill Esquire TO HAVE HOLD AND ENJOY the said places and offices during my pleasure together with all rights and privileges thereunto belonging in as full and ample manner as any other Registrar or Clerk has formerly enjoyed the same

ND for so doing this shall be your WARRANT

FIVEN under my hand and seal this First day of November Two Thousand and Five:-



lan Russell Warrant of Appointment

The Order is given by The Queen to those who have served her or the Monarchy in a personal way. It was founded in April 1896 by Queen Victoria as a way of rewarding personal service to her, on her own initiative rather than by ministerial recommendation and is entirely within The Queen's personal gift.

The Chapel of the Order is The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, a 'Royal Peculiar' but as the number of members of The Order now exceed the available space in the Savoy Chapel, a service for those who have received awards is now held in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle every four years, when members of the Royal Family who have themselves received the award are present along with the many recipients, who include servants of The Queen who have served the Monarchy for many years.

In 2016 Ian will have served the Confederation of the Cinque Ports for 25 years, being appointed Registrar and Seneschal in 2005 by Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL, the current Lord Warden, who succeeded Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother who Ian served as one of the Joint Solicitors to the Confederation alongside Ian Gill the former Registrar (and Town Clerk of Dover) who himself was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS - SPRING 2016 Sheila Cope SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

Subscriptions remain at the same level: £6 for a single member and £10 for joint membership when two people live at the same address. If you will be using the membership form at the end of this Newsletter, please remember to opt for Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer. HMRC adds 25% to the value of your subscription without cost to you and thus provides enough to pay for the postage on your Newsletter if required. There is no need to sign the form again if you have already done so.

If you have needed reminding about your subscription in the past, please consider arranging a standing order. Once set up they are (usually) troublefree, you are in control and they cost nothing to administer. The forms may be emailed or sent by post - just ask me.

We have a membership of 480 which now includes; Mr I & Mrs A Gisby, Mr C Blackburn & Ms J Sanders, Mr C & Mrs H Brown, Mr G & Mrs D Hutchison, Mrs S & Mr R Bradford, Mr M & Mrs J Baker, Mrs W Pollard, Mrs H Wouldham, Mr R Russell, Miss C White and Mr M Coulter. These new members are very welcome.

We send our condolences to his family and friends on the death of our founder member and first chairman Mr Jack Woolford and we also mourn Ms Pamela Taylor, Mrs Linda Leach, Mrs Cynthia Terry and erstwhile members Mrs Jean Tuckwell, Mrs Ursula Cork and Mrs Sylvia Dunford.

#### - Terry Sutton

Top ranking Dover men, defending ancient rights, have been at the centre of brawling at more than one royal coronation. And it's all been over a piece of cloth-with bells on.

By tradition, going back hundreds of years, those selected from the Cinque Port towns to be barons were entitled to carry a canopy

over the monarch as he or she walked to and from their coronation.

Another tradition was that the Barons of the Cinque Ports should sit on the immediate right hand of the king or queen at the banquet that followed the ceremony. That was the cause of much of the brawling among those who wanted to be regarded as "first at the banquet."

I wonder what George III thought of the commotion in 1760 caused when the Dover and other barons demanded to sit at his right hand during the meal following his coronation.

When they received their invite to the banquet they noticed they had been placed down table so they pointed out this was against their ancient privilege. But the Lord Warden, the Duke of Dorset, responded that it was too late to change the place names!

Worse was to come. When the barons arrived at Westminster Hall following George III's coronation there was no table at all for them. They protested strongly to the Lord High Steward who explained that



The Coronation of James II by Francis Sandford, 1687

they were not listed to eat at all in the hall. Observers at the time related what happened next. The Cinque Ports Barons marched into the hall with their canopy and, finding all the tables on the king's right filled with peers and their wives, they crowded around the upper table. And they remained there, bunched together, well into the evening. Apparently with no food.

Still angry, the Kent and Sussex portsmen met next day at the King's Arms in Palace Yard and framed a strong protest to the king via the Lord Warden. "Our rights and privileges have been violated," they wrote to the king and his officials.

Selection of the Barons of the Cinque Ports continues but the ceremony of the canopy has been assigned to history.

It's an example of how the power and importance of the Cinque Ports has waned from the time its seafarers provided what is now the Royal Navy.

But still the Barons of the Cinque Ports, representing their various towns, are invited to coronation ceremonies. And, of course, there's plenty of rivalry in each town to decide who should be appointed a Cinque Ports' Baron.

How the ceremony of the canopy began has been lost in the mists of time although records going back to the coronation of Richard I in 1189 tell of four Barons of the Ports pushing forward to spontaneously hoist on four spears a silk canopy over the king's head. Apparently Richard enjoyed the idea and the tradition was born.

As following kings and queens acceded to the throne the idea became more elaborate until the time came when it was an accepted custom.

The impromptu canopy on spears changed to a gorgeously made portable tabernaclelike structure held aloft on silver-lined poles that became so heavy by the 1861 coronation that sixteen Barons were needed (four on each pole) to bear it aloft.

At the marriage of Henry III and Eleanor of Provence in 1236 the tradition had expanded so that the Barons carried two canopies, one over Henry and the other over Eleanor. By the 14th century the canopy tradition was fully established in the style that continued for many years.

Diarist Samuel Pepys records the Barons carrying the canopy at the coronation of Charles II in April 1661. He was watching from a scaffold structure erected across the north end of Westminster Abbey, after he saw Charles enter Westminster Hall.

"The King came in with his crown on and his sceptre in his hand, under a canopy borne by six silver staves carried by Barons of the Cinque Ports, and little bells at every end."

It was after they all had a hearty meal that trouble started. When it was time to go home the Barons, who by tradition shared the canopy and the bells, were angry when they discovered others trying to carry off their treasures. There was an argument and a tussle before the canopy and bells were restored to the Barons.

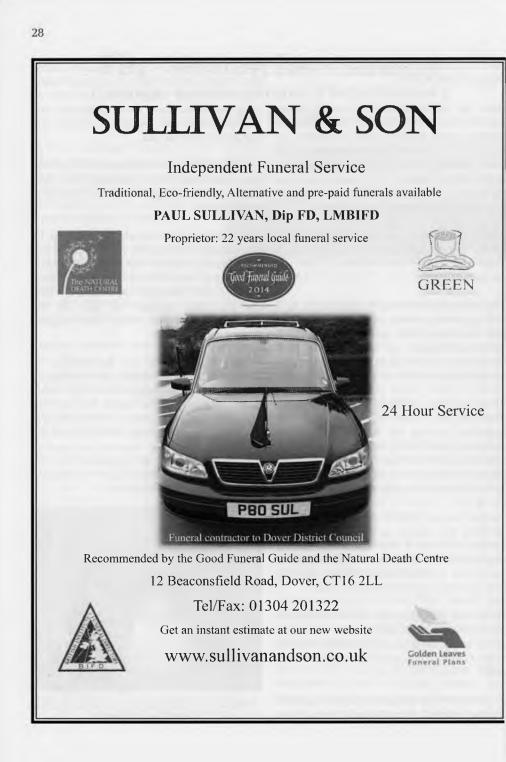
By tradition the Barons from the East Kent area, including Dover, normally gave their share of the canopy to Christ Church at Canterbury.

The last time the canopies were borne by the Cinque Port Barons, when a place was provided for them to dine on the right hand of the king, was at the coronation of George IV. They even had the cheek to ask the king for the state treasury to pay for the colourful robes they wore. That request was swiftly rejected.

Cinque Port Barons are still invited to coronations - but without their canopies. William IV, who reigned for only seven years, did not invite them nor did his successor Queen Victoria in 1837 who was not amused. But Edward VII renewed the tradition in 1902 and ensured they had an honourable place as spectators in the Abbey as have successive monarchs including Queen Elizabeth II.



The Monarchs Canopy Supported by Four Knight of the Garter Queen Elizabeth II.



# What's On - Up On The Downs

### **Training Courses 2016**

#### ••••• Alan Lee •••••

 $F^{\text{REE}}_{\text{wildlife},\text{ archaeology, history and traditional countryside skills in the Dover and Folkestone area.}$ 

This training programme has been designed to provide a flavour of the work of Up on the Downs, the wildlife that we work to protect and the heritage that makes this little corner of Kent so special.

All courses listed in this leaflet are free to attend and require no previous experience. We require a £10 deposit to secure your place which will be returned once you have attended the course. Courses are not suitable for young children. Sorry, no dogs.

#### How to book

Telephone: 01304 872158 E-mail: mike.phillips@dover.gov.uk Online: www.uponthedowns.org.uk/

Course-Booking-Form.aspx For more information about the courses go to the What's On section of the Up on the Downs website www.uponthedowns.org.uk Most courses run from 10am until 4pm but check before booking.

#### Wildlife

#### **Reptile Identification**

Sunday 10th April - Samphire Hoe Find out how to identify and find reptiles in the wild.

#### **Bird Identification**

Sunday 8th May - Samphire Hoe How to spot and identify birds in a variety of habitats.

#### **Tree Identification**

Morning only Saturday 4th June Brockhill Country Park

Get to grips with your oaks, beeches and hornbeams in just one morning.

#### Wildflower Identification

Saturday 2nd July - Temple Ewell Village Hall. Discover the wild flowers of chalk grassland. Chalk Grassland Management Wednesday 6th July - Samphire Hoe How to manage this precious resource. Crickets and Grasshoppers Saturday 23rd July - Samphire Hoe

An overlooked but spectacular group of species. Find out more.

#### Creative

Photographing Landscapes Saturday 16th April - Samphire Hoe Capture the glory of sea, land and sky. Landscapes: Sketching and Watercolours Sunday 5th June - Samphire Hoe. Have a go at capturing the magic of nature. Wildlife Photography

Saturday 9th July - Samphire Hoe Take perfect photos of plants and animals.

#### Archaeology & Geology Archaeology of Up on the Downs

6 weekly 2 hr sessions from Tuesday 3rd May -Dover Museum

Find out about the archaeology of the Dover and Folkestone area from the Paleolithic all the way through to the 20th century.

#### **Coastal Geology and Fossils**

Saturday 21st May - Samphire Hoe Discover the geology of the area and look for fossils at Folkestone Warren.

#### Landscape Archaeology

Saturday 18th June - Samphire Hoe Learn about the archaeological features in the landscape.

#### Traditional Skills Herbal Remedies

Sunday 26th June - Samphire Hoe Collect and prepare some traditional remedies.

# Planning Committee

#### Patrick Sherratt

Putting pen to paper in January as we experience our first cold snap having had so much rain this winter I feel sorry for those who have suffered with flooding. Anyway I wish all members a belated happy New Year and early signs are in 2016 we shall see some building on the St James's (DTIZ) site with Burlington House now down.

The developers have not announced any new names for the DTIZ shops since last September and there is some concern that existing high street names may relocate. At the time of planning application for this project we drew attention this could occur but were reassured with the exception of Marks and Spencer's, all outlets would be new names to Dover. We wait with interest and what action Dover District Council may take if existing high street shops vacate existing locations.

DDC have appointed a new Conservation Officer, in addition the officer now has an assistant. Great news we thought but alas early days with several conservation issues in Dover and the need for a Conservation Area Appraisal as well as Section 215 matters. We see little activity, when challenged "very busy on other matters". This we have taken as "non Dover activities" that we have on many occasions raised with DDC as there is greater action for Deal and Sandwich. A letter to DDC Chief Executive and Leader of the Council has been sent and we await a reply.

Those members with e-mail were sent the response that we made in respect to the "Managing Freight through Kent" consultation". There was a risk that the

Dover TAP (Traffic Assessment Project) that holds traffic on the A20 outside Dover was not being supported by KCC. The KCC Cabinet member for Transport was contacted and made aware that the system, when in operation, eases traffic congestion in the immediate vicinity of the dock area. As an experimental system it has been successful but needs some "tweaking" in particular a variable speed limit rather than a fixed 40mph and traffic to be held west of the Aycliffe estate to reduce noise and pollution to residents. As I write this report indication that the variable speed control will be very soon introduced. There is also initial support from KCC in seeking the dualling of the A2 from Lydden; however I have no doubt this will be a long running saga.

attended the annual Clinical Ι Commissioning Group (CCG) meeting and again sought that intermediate care facilities are introduced at Buckland Hospital. With no beds at the hospital our pressure at the time of the planning application for the hospital was successful in protecting the adjacent hospital land. owned by EKHUT, from being sold. The hospital planning agreement protected this land for five years as designated for "community development", this could provide intermediate care facilities. With only two years left of the five we shall continue to press CCG/EKHUFT and our MP.

Well the Leisure Centre in Dover has been declared "time expired", DDC have their ideas of relocating to Whitfield. I hope there will be a full public consultation and any views you may have please let me know as we shall be making comment at the appropriate time and members views are always appreciated.

Finally, the Dover Harbour Board (DHB) Western Docks scheme has started, see my comments in the last magazine. Dover needs major regeneration and we have always sought to secure quality with any development. Our fear of sacrifice to quality with the Western Docks scheme seems to have some justification based on the latest application (DOV/15/01254). Derek, Jeremy and I met DHB last July and expressed the need for а quality development particularly the replacement pier area. We were given assurance the Marina Curve, this is in place of the historic Prince of Wales Pier, would reflect quality and the steel piling will be cosmetically dressed. Sadly this is not reflected in the latest application and DHB have confirmed to Derek it is not their intention to cosmetically dress the Marina Curve.

I have previously mentioned the full detail of what is proposed for the Western Docks scheme should be made available to the community and not a series of artists' impressions. The Planning Committee is united in the view that challenge will be made on this and any future plans that fail to deliver a development that can provide a legacy for future generations, just as our ancestors provided a legacy (Prince of Wales Pier) for community use for over 100 years.

### Sir William Crundall and Jack the Ripper

#### Sean Crundall

Tam a direct descendant of Albert Edward Bechley Crundall (1862-1950), younger brother of Sir William Henry Crundall.

When a boy I was told a story by my father that the notorious Whitechapel murderer of 1888, dubbed Jack the Ripper, was identified at Dover, and that he was a "Shylock". This information apparently came from Sir Robert Anderson, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Director of the C.I.D. at the time of the murders. Anderson was a close friend of the Mowll family and knew Crundall. Anderson often visited and stayed at Dover.

Anderson, in his 1910 memoirs, "The Lighter Side of my Official Life", claims that Jack the Ripper was identified when confronted with a witness. In 1987 further corroboration of Anderson's claims were provided by the discovery of retired Superintendent, Donald Swanson's copy of Anderson's memoirs in which Swanson elaborates on Anderson's 1910 claims (in pencilled notes), that Anderson's suspect was identified at the "Seaside Home", and that the suspect's name was Kosminski.

My research leads me to believe that this identification took place at Morlev House Seaside Convalescent Home, located at St Margaret's, near Dover, Crundall was on the board of governors' at Morley House; his wife was also a life governess. The Home maintained strong links with the City of London police and Dr Frederick Gordon Brown, Chief Police Surgeon of the City police, was one of the Home's surgeons. Dr Brown also conducted the post mortem examination on Catherine Eddowes, the Ripper's fourth victim, and was involved in the investigation of Mary Kelly's murder, the Ripper's fifth and last known victim.

# The Knockers of Dover

#### Martyn Webster

Knocker is not a family name heard in Dover any more. There are those of the older generation however who may well only just remember its last vestige in the person of Frederick William Knocker (1873-1944), curator of the old Dover Corporation Museum in the 1930s, and latterly as its part in the title of the firm of Castle Street solicitors Knocker, Elwin & Lambert which lasted into the modern era and now known simply as Bradleys. That alas is all.

Yet once upon a time and still within living memory the Knockers would have been instantly recognizable to everyone as the embodiment of a unique dynasty which held sway over Dover's municipal affairs for a record four generations over three centuries. Between the years 1797 to 1935 their members included firstly Jurat and Alderman, then Mayor and lastly and most importantly as three successive Town Clerks to the Dover Corporation. More than that, the procedures and protocols for each and every installation of Lord Wardens of the Cinque Ports put in place since that of Lord Palmerston in 1861 are almost entirely due to the Knockers' revival of ceremony and input to them right up to the present day. The world looks on at this bequest.

In retrospect the Knockers' day to day looming influence over town affairs might by modern standards of judgment be seen as that of part of an overweening coterie of controlling families that would not curry favour to our taste. In the very long term however the impact that they and their travails have had on the development and administration of the town of Dover, as to



Sir E Wollaston Knocker

how we now know it, has been probably unequalled anywhere else in the realm, let alone in Dover.

This achievement nowadays has lost recognition. It is the purpose of this essay therefore to do justice to an extraordinary family and pay tribute to their heritage which all who came after them enjoy even to this very day. For all that these Dover born and resident folk, Freemen of the Borough, did for Dover, it is lamentable that they have now become so totally forgotten and their memorials of burial so neglected.

As a surname, Knocker is unusual. Its provenance and meaning are obscure but what is for sure is that it is rare, and is almost exclusively eastern Kentish in background. It first appeared in Dover in the 1670s. One is therefore given to ponder, for want of any other explanation, whether it and the seemingly related surname Knocke, might

not have some Flemish type connexion perhaps with the town of Knokke in Belgium but this can only be passing speculation. From its Dover origins it spread around the country and to other English speaking countries in the world. Like as not most of those with this surname today all probably descend from the same roots. The only existing annals and family history of the Dover Knockers are to be found in meticulous detail in four booklets produced between 1975-1981 by retired Cdr (RN) W. Robert Knocker (1913-1995). These are deposited with the Society of Genealogists, Dover Public Library Local History Section (in part) and Bradleys of Dover, solicitors. The booklets. in genealogically chronological order, are as follows: John Knocker (1721/2 - 1793) [November 1981] William Knocker (1761 - 1847)

[May 1982] John Bedingfield Knocker (1793 - 1861) [Preface dated September 1975] William Knocker (1795 - 1882) [June 1976]

Much of this material is based on a Knocker family archive compiled by Mrs Paula Irwin (1921-1990) of Southend-on Sea who was a Dover Knocker by descent on her maternal line. This archive is still being actively sought.

There are also excellent fulsome memoirs to be found in the Dover Express editions of 4th January 1901, 27th September 1907 and 9th March 1956 and also during the 1980s when a family vault at Cowgate Cemetery was broken into and resealed. These will be encompassed in later narratives. Similar detail may also be found in related articles in the "Dover Historian" which although admirably extensive do not quite bring the family as a whole all together in one piece.

No overall appraisal of this remarkable

family has therefore ever been attempted. This is very regrettable and somewhat surprising bearing in mind the fact that a father, son and grandson held record continuous office between 1860-1935 as three successive Town Clerks of Dover. during which time most of their life's work was in the day to day execution of every aspect of Government Acts of Parliament affecting local affairs and municipal function thereby bringing Dover into the modern world through such diverse areas as street naming, layouts and widening, drainage, pavement, education, addresses of welcome, reception and departure arrangements for royalty and dignitaries at the pier, electric tramway introduction, gas lighting and a myriad of other vital civic necessities. From the agrarian age to the industrial age, what they actually brought and achieved for Dover is incalculable and without compare. Much of Dover's infrastructure and a whole range of other local aspects are due to them in particular the construction in the 1880s of the Maison Dieu extension in Ladywell and the Connaught Hall therein.

No less important for posterity was the Knocker family's tireless work on and in emplacing of a Dover Corporation muniment cabinet in the Maison Dieu, especially created by them in 1877, as an archive repository for all manner of records of Dover's history as recounted in John Bavington Jones' (former Editor of the Dover Express) book "The Annals of Dover" published in 1916 (now available in reprint). The fate of this is however another story.

Castle Hill House, now a grade II listed building, is probably the one lasting monument to the Knocker family as their family home for many years in the nineteenth and early twentieth century and just as importantly as the office of Dover's Town Clerks until 1911-1913, whereafter it moved to no 69 Castle Street, at the corner with Stembrook, the last shelled buildings of Dover in 1944, subsequently demolished.

Let us therefore begin with the progenitor of Dover's ruling clan, John Knocker (1721-1793). John Knocker was baptised at St Mary's Church Dover on 18th January 1721 the son of Joseph and Susanna Knocker. The trade of father and son was that of barber and peruke (wig) maker, a very profitable line of business in the standards of fashion of the day, possibly but unprovably brought from the near continent. Joseph Knocker was himself Dover born in around 1681 and had been married at Dover St Mary on 15th April 1704 to Susanna Tegge or Teague of unresearched background. They had had a large family some of their sons diversifying into pilotage and seafaring careers but it was their youngest who came to achieve municipal prominence for the family name. Curiously the prominent branch were to almost completely foreswear these origins through into their future thereby creating disparate lines of the same family.

It is recorded that John Knocker was married twice: Firstly to Susanna Dupont at St Dunstan's Canterbury on 30th December 1745 by whom he had four daughters, only one surviving, their mother dying months after the birth of the last unsurviving child, and buried at St Mary's Dover on 30th October 1752 (no memorial). Secondly John Knocker married Mary Stiles at Dover St Mary's on 28th January 1754 by whom he went on to have at least five children, nearly all unsurviving, but the most important of whom for this narrative was survivor son and heir William baptised at Dover St Mary's on 29th March 1761.

By this time John Knocker had moved on becoming Steward to Sir Edward Hales, of Hales Place, Hackington, Canterbury. Perhaps he made his wigs?



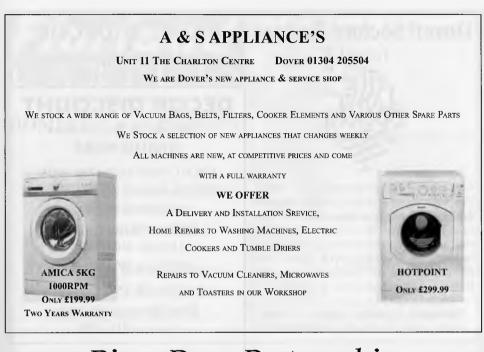
No depiction of John Knocker can now be traced. He died at Folkestone on 15th October 1784. The only tangible evidence of his existence which survives is the badly eroded headstone to him and his wife at St Stephen's Church, Hackington, Canterbury to where his body was borne at the time and which bears the inscription:

"Near this place lie interred the remains of/Mary the wife of John Knocker who/after a lingering illness died 15th October/1784 aetatis 59/Also of the above John Knocker who in the/72nd year of his age departed this life March 24th 1793".

The maintenance of this bricked grave is referred to in son William's last will and testament when he died at Alkham in 1847.

It has also to be said that of the whole Dover Knocker family only one of their municipally officed number, Sir Edward Wollaston Knocker was actually buried in Dover itself.

Thus came about the foundation of this Knocker ruling dynasty of Dover whose astonishing lives and careers will be recounted in the next episode of their story "A Succession of Town Clerks".



# River Dour Partnership

The volunteer clean up parties working under the direction of White Cliffs Countryside Partnership continue to do great work. People often do not realise that work on the river is not permitted in winter. This is the fish breeding season fish can shelter under pieces of rubbish just as well as the cover of river plants, hence, without "clear ups" the greater spread of litter at this time of year.

At our recent public meeting our committee was confirmed, Ray Newsam, Martina White, Deborah Gasking, Anita Luckett, Sue Bradford and myself. Our job is to push for more input into the Dour improvements. We have a new fish pass at Minnis Lane and another to come at Morrison's weir. Funding is from the Environment Agency and Up on the Downs with applications to Dover Town Council and Dover Big Local. Our funding bids will also, we hope, result in new equipment for the volunteers.

Through Dover Big Local we are part of the Dover Coastal Community Team and have included a bid for funding with projects to make a significant impact on the river. This is at an early stage but this could be an important development for the river.

If you have an interest in the Dour and would like to volunteer then you would be welcome. Choices include working on the river, fund raising and writing letters. Please contact me on 01304 211348 or Sue Bradford at White Cliffs Countryside Partnership 01304 241806

# **Dover Society Badges**



The wearing of a Society Badge reminds the general public (who really do have eyes to see) that the Society is a viable and energetic non-political voice for Dover. The beautiful little Lapel and Brooch Badges are available from the Editor in either type for £2 post free.

WEARING A BADGE ASSISTS IN OUR DRIVE FOR INCREASED MEMBERSHIP

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Contact the editor at:

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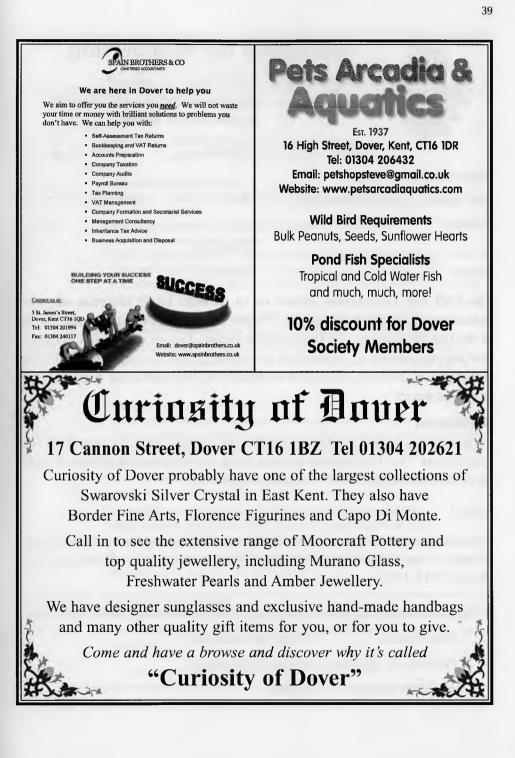
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Phone		Email

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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 2016

Guests are welcome at all meetings except the Annual General Meeting which is for members only. You may pay on the night before the AGM and attend the meeting.

March 21 Monday 7.30	Speakers: Lynda Pearce "The Dover Pageant" Roisin Murray "Dover District Volunteers"
April 18 Monday 7.30	Annual General MeetingSpeaker:Keith Parfitt "St James Area Recent Dig'"
28th May Saturday £27.00	Weald and Downland Open Air Museum – Singleton, Near Chichester, West Sussex Visit to this 40 acre site of Historic Houses and Agricultural Buildings from the 13th century to Victorian times. Rescued from destruction and rebuilt in a magnificent parkland setting, including Café, Museum Shop, Farm Shop and Post Office.
	Pick-up times: The Railway Bell 08.00; Hollis Motors 08.05; Frith Road 08.10; Maison Dieu (Brook House) Car Park 08.15
	To book complete and return the enclosed form, with your cheque, made payable to: "The Dover Society", to Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Castle Lea, Taswell Street, Dover CT16 ISG Tel: 01304 228129
10th July Sunday £43.50	Hampton Court Flower Show The majestic Hampton Court Palace provides the backdrop for the world's largest annual flower show. Sunday is the final day of the show, so there will be the opportunity to make purchases of plants. I need to receive payment in full by 15th April, in order to confirm our booking. Anyone wishing to visit the Palace, may do so. The price for this (payable on entry) is £15.50 if age 60 or over. There is no need to pre-book.
	Pick-up times: The Railway Bell 07.45; Hollis Motors 07.50; Frith Road 07.55; Maison Dieu (Brook House) Car Park 08.00
	To book complete the enclosed form, and return with your cheque, made payable to "The Dover Society" to Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Castle Lea, Taswell Street, Dover CT16 1SG Tel: 01304 228129
11th December Sunday 12.30 for 1.00	<b>Christmas Lunch/Feast</b> The times and date for the next lunch have been confirmed with the meal due to start at 1pm. Details of the entertainment and cost will be in the next newsletter.

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



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