

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 86
July 2016



*Imported German Werra Ware Plate Dated 1614
Discovered during the St James' Area Dig*



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, 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

As is the usual custom our chairman Derek Leach laid a wreath on behalf of the Society at the annual Zeebrugge Day commemoration. Thankfully there was not any disruption from the protests held in the town that day.

Our Social Secretary has arranged a four day outing to Honfleur during May 2017. A departure from our usual outings the full and varied itinerary at £299 represents excellent value for money. Full details are in the one page advertisement within this edition. Early booking is essential. Other outings and events are featured inside the back cover of the newsletter.

Well done to all involved with the organisation of the Dover Film Festival for once again putting on a wonderful show. It is now a firmly established part of the Dover scene.

Events in Dover over the summer include, the free, Dover Music Festival, now at the cruise terminal, on the same weekend as the regatta. The Walking Festival and many other rambles and events have been organised by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership and Up on the Downs. Full details of these and the Green Gang activities for younger people are on their respective websites.

At long last foundations are being laid for the St James' development. An agreement to build a new leisure centre has been reached, the location and start date is awaited. The Western Docks Revival Scheme is underway. Members interested in the upgrading of the Town Hall should keep a lookout in the local press for details of the consultation meetings.

Interested in serving on a committee, helping with projects or representing the Society at meetings. All committee contacts are inside the front cover.

Alan Lee - Editor

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The owners can be contacted by way of the editor.

Tel: 01304 213668 Email: Alan.lee1947@ntlworld.com

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 87 will be Wednesday 7th September 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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* * * * *

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MARCH MEETING

————— First Speaker —————

Dover District Volunteering Centre

A talk by Roisin Murray - Head of Volunteering

Reported by Alan Lee

Roisin began her talk by informing the meeting of her background including the fact that Roisin is an old Irish name meaning little rose.

The Dover District Volunteering Centre (DDVC) is a registered charity, founded in the 1980's by a social worker based in Dover who saw the need of an organisation that could support voluntary organisations and to help individuals to access volunteering opportunities. The two main areas of activity are volunteering and a community transport scheme.

One of only 15 Volunteer Centres in the county they cover the whole of Dover District Council's area. Originally with offices in Deal, Dover and Sandwich, their one remaining office is in Deal. They are in Dover at the Big Local Hub, Charlton Centre every Tuesday 9.30am to 1pm. People can drop in to discuss any aspect of volunteering or volunteers. If they cannot make that day they will always try to see them on another day.

The DDVC recruit and support volunteers, across all age groups and abilities, by advertising and promoting volunteering opportunities and offer support once they have a placement. Advice, support in good practice, promotional materials and taking on volunteers is given to organisations.

Forums are run to share good practice and knowledge. The new Dover forum will

meet quarterly, the next meeting is on 1st June. They attend volunteering and jobs fairs as well as recruitment events. They help promote mental and physical health, build a good CV for those wanting to gain employment and offer an outlet for those wanting to socialise whilst giving something to their community and society. A service is offered as a lead body for DBS (was CRB) checks for organisations.

Any individual or organisation can join DDVC free of charge, this gives them voting rights at the AGM and access to the newsletters and full range of services. A huge range of voluntary opportunities over many areas is covered so they are well placed to help find something to suit everyone.

A community transport scheme has been running throughout the Dover District area for over 20 years. Funding changes over the years mean that only a small grant of less than £5,000, from the South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group, is received so they rely heavily on donations. This service is essential for people who cannot readily access local transport or are ineligible for patient transport. The majority of clients use it for medical appointments. Social trips can be arranged as social inclusion in the life of society aids mental health in all ages. The majority of users are over 70 but there is no age or means limit to the service. Drivers and trips are booked by a "call-

centre" arrangement with a small paid staff and office volunteers who to answer calls.

All the drivers are volunteers, use their own cars and give up their time for free. They are paid (by the clients) 45p per mile for fuel and running costs. This is not a free service but costs are kept down with a low one-off joining fee (£10 at present) and £3 per trip administration fee.

Between 65 and 80 drivers are on the books with about 60 available at any one time. There is no upper or lower limit for the amount of commitment from each driver.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about volunteering or in the transport service the contact details are:

General enquiries tel: 01304 367898 or email office@ddvc.org.uk

Transport enquiries tel: 01304 380513

Website: <http://www.doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk>

Facebook: [volunteeringdoverdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/volunteeringdoverdistrict)

Throughout the District the DDVC has approximately 1600 clients at any one time. The demand for their services is growing, last year 367 new clients signed up for and recently there has been an average increase of 30 per month.

Last year 7 new drivers were recruited but more are always needed. Over the course of last year the drivers made 11,460 journeys which covered 105,363 miles in total. Most were short journeys to local hospitals but some were longer, London and beyond.

MARCH MEETING

— Second Speaker —

Dover's Forgotten Commando Raid

A talk by Phil Eyden

Reported by Terry Sutton

Called in as our speaker at the last minute, Western Heights' researcher Phil Eyden thrilled our March meeting with his talk about the wartime Operation Abercrombie in which Dover-based Commando played the leading role in a raid on the French coast in April 1942.

Phil, a leading member of the Western Heights Preservation Society, researched the Abercrombie raid after it was revealed the Commando unit and a Canadian force prepared for the secret attack while stationed at the Drop Redoubt on the Western Heights.



Lord Lovat Briefing Officers at the Drop Redoubt

As a result of his research Phil (our speaker because of the ill-health of the advertised speaker) has authored and published a new book *Dover's Forgotten Commando Raid* now on sale at £15 for Western Heights' funds. Many of the photographs he screened at the meeting, he said, had never been shown in public before. Nor had many of the details been revealed until his book was published.



Phil explained the Allied raiding force at the Heights consisted of about 100 members of No 4 Commando, under the command of The Lord Lovat and a detachment of 60 Canadians of the Carleton & York Regiment from New Brunswick. They were carried to the German occupied coast at Hardelot by elements of the Royal Navy in various craft including Dover-based Motor Gun Boats (MGBs).

The aim of the raid, he explained, was to put out of action a searchlight unit near Hardelot, to "snatch" a few German soldiers for intelligence purposes, and to check out the sand dunes along that part of the Pas de Calais coast.

Questioned by a member of his audience, Phil accepted that the raid was not a success. The searchlight still worked after the attack (the Commando members were recalled as they began putting it out of action), no German

prisoners were taken but what was learnt during the raid assisted in the planning of future operations.

The Canadian force, in RN craft, was swept by sea conditions away from its landing zone and the Canadian soldiers returned to Dover's Eastern Docks frustrated. While the British Commando unit was ashore there was a fire-fight between Royal Navy and German coastal craft offshore.

As a result of the raid, and a previous attempt, there were four British casualties, all from the Royal Navy. One Commando was shot in the foot but was brought back to Dover. It is believed one German defender was killed. One of the navy men, Able Seaman Angus MacKenzie from a Motor Gun Boats is buried at St James' Cemetery, Dover.



B Troop Commandos Filming With Pathe News After the Raid

Phil, during his research, discovered a cinema propaganda Pathe News newsreel and still photographs which were taken by Reuters during the actual operation.

* Mr Eyden's book reveals that just before the raid military intelligence monitored telephone calls in and out of Dover after two reporters began asking questions about what was being planned.

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APRIL AGM MEETING

The Dover Society AGM 2016

Report by the Chairman Derek Leach

This is my 12th annual report some of you have had to listen to and still you come back for more!

Membership

Our membership has stayed constant (480 at present) defying my goal of 500. It does mean that you have to continue your membership as well as encouraging relatives, friends and work colleagues to join. Is there any business or organisation that can boast of not increasing its charges since 1996? If you are new and want to be actively involved in The Society's work please have a word with me or any of the Executive. We do desperately need some new faces and fresh blood on our committees. Our thanks as always go to our membership secretary, Sheila Cope.

May I invite you to stand whilst we remember all those members who have died in the past year: Pamela Taylor, Linda Leach, Cynthia Terry, Jean Tuckwell, Ursula Cork, Sylvia Dunford, Ignace de Jaegck, Sheila Cope (wife of Bryan Cope).

So what have we been up to?

As always your Executive and sub committees have been very active trying to conserve and promote our heritage, improve the quality of life for those living now and participating in all that is going on to regenerate our town for the future. At long last I think we can be somewhat optimistic about the future rather than despondent. This means that some Executive members are heavily involved representing the Society on various project groups and forums such as the : Port and Community

Forum, Big Local, Town Centre Development Group, Coastal Communities Team, White Cliffs Country Tourism Association and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Planning and development

Regrettably, Patrick Sherratt has resigned as Chairman of the Planning Committee but has agreed to continue for up to a year whilst we find a replacement. He will be a hard act to follow.

The Planning Committee continued to keep an eagle eye on routine planning applications and making representations to DDC when necessary. We have also continued to monitor progress on the various regeneration schemes.

The DTIZ or St James' area scheme has made substantial progress with the demolition of Burlington House and the adjoining buildings. The first buildings were completed – a block of flats on the corner of Castle Street where we were able to congratulate DDC on the quality in this conservation area. We also congratulated them on the quality of the new Bench Street car park where DDC took on board our views. However, we are concerned about the reduction in landscaping in the overall scheme compared to the original plans.

We have also expressed concern over the lack of enforcement action by DDC particularly in conservation areas and regarding conditions attached to planning approvals.

We have offered to do the 'legwork' for DDC to enable it to carry out long overdue Conservation Area Appraisals in Dover.

On the Western Heights we welcomed revised plans with no new buildings on the Heights other than a hotel.

Dover suffered terribly during the year due to disruption to ferry and tunnel operations with Operation Stack in frequent use - 32 days in total. At long last the government has taken notice and money is now available for a lorry park on the M20 for emergency and possibly general use. The Society has expressed its views on the options. In the meantime the local traffic situation has been improved by halting freight traffic at the Aycliffe roundabout when Eastern Docks is full. It is vital for Dover that this scheme is retained even after construction of the lorry park with variable speed limits to overcome the present frustration of 40mph at all times from the M20 onwards. At times, the town has suffered gridlock from desperate lorry drivers finding alternative routes to the docks. In our submissions on the lorry park and the proposed new Lower Thames Crossing we have once again urged the upgrading of the M2/A2 to reduce the traffic along Townwall Street.

Now we face a long period of A20 disruption whilst two roundabouts are converted to smart traffic lights to improve the flow of traffic.

We have lobbied long and hard for the multi-storey car park to serve Dover Priory only to find that its planned capacity has been halved and still no sign of construction!

The new Buckland Hospital opened without any beds, but we continue to press for local intermediate beds on the adjacent land before it loses its present protected status for community use.

We are concerned about the future of The Citadel on the Western Heights once it closes as an Immigration Removal Centre particularly as our application to DDC for The Citadel to be put on the Community Asset Register to guard against any future sale by the government direct to a developer without any local opportunity to secure a future sympathetic to its heritage was rejected.

Whilst The Society welcomes the Port of Dover's ambitious Western Docks Revival plans we are anxious to secure a quality and attractive appearance. DHB submitted two planning applications during the year because of the listed status of the Prince of Wales Pier. The first involved lowering the height of part of the present structure and removing listed furniture e.g. streetlamps for safekeeping and reuse. The incorporation of most of the pier in the new cargo terminal meant its permanent closure to the public. The Society felt unable to support the application unless (on completion of the project) pedestrian access to at least part of the Pier was restored, but it was approved by DDC without amendment. The second application concerned the Marina Curve which will serve both as a retaining wall for the new cargo terminal and as a new pier for public use. Here The Society had concerns that the sheet piling of the Curve would be unattractive particularly at low tide and sought cosmetic dressing to hide it, but it was approved without amendment. We hope that DHB's assurance that with the new East Pier that will be built as part of the Marina extension plus the marina craft and pontoons, it will be an attractive view. A concern for us is the quality of the finished project. With such a large project it will be delivered in stages and there is a lack of detailed plans currently to inform our decisions.

It is fair to say that some committee members are concerned that once the cargo terminal is built (Stage 1), the rest of the project (Stage 2 and 3 – the new marina, the cargo distribution centre and commercial waterfront development) may be abandoned for lack of funding, although we are assured that the whole infrastructure finance is in place.

Two years ago we welcomed the formation of the Port and Community Forum where for the first time we had DHB, the local authorities and community organisations sitting round the same table with the opportunity to coordinate and improve our efforts to regenerate the town. Now we have a second forum formed by DDC concentrating upon Dover Town Centre Development – regeneration and in particular vehicle and pedestrian communications both within the town and getting into and out of the town. Supporting these efforts there is the Coastal Communities Team that has produced a shopping list of projects based upon increasing tourism through improving our heritage attractions. This has been submitted as a grant application of £2-3 million to the Coastal Communities Fund which has £90 million available for coastal towns. The Society is involved in both groups.

We are also involved in the Port and Community Forum which I chair. Here the major items have been the Western Docks redevelopment scheme and frustration over freight vehicles disrupting Dover.

Refurbishment or making the best of what we already have in the town

Our Refurbishment Committee, chaired by Jeremy Cope, continues to make an impact. We continue our monthly meetings with the Dover police inspector and have made known our concerns about the immigration

demonstrations with yet another planned for 23rd April St George's Day when we commemorate the Zeebrugge Raid of 1918.

Jeremy & Co have battled successfully with KCC to make a safe pedestrian route from the Bleriot Memorial to Langdon Cliffs.

We raised concerns about KCC's proposals for the future of public libraries and are urging DDC to site its new Leisure Centre within the town rather than at Whitfield.

We objected to the lack of quality of the new town centre lighting. Several members of the Society are heavily involved in the Big Local project to improve life for Doverians.

Projects

On the heritage front the success of Heritage Open Days in Dover continued with once again 9 properties open free of charge for the September weekend. This time we and Dover Greeter volunteers staffed the Town Hall throughout the 10 days of the Magna Carta Exhibition. Our long term campaign to restore the Town Hall to something like its Victorian splendour in partnership with DDC and DTC made substantial progress with DDC accepting the recommendations of consultants about the future use and management of the Town Hall. A £39K grant has been spent on a building condition survey prior to the submission of a major multimillion pound grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund later this year. Our Town Hall Fund of £10k comprising guided tours fees and donations will be part of the match finding needed for the project. Our gallant band of volunteers continued with guided tours of the building every Wednesday.

Another dedicated band of volunteers led by Jeremy Cope continued to maintain the whole of Cowgate Cemetery with their fortnightly work parties.

The River Dour Group is obtaining funds for fish passes, volunteer river wardens and for publicising the river walk.

Patricia and Patrick have shown great initiative in attracting representatives of the Group and Coach Travel Organisers association to see what Dover town has to offer visitors and this has resulted in 3 groups of organisers coming to Dover during the summer for a taster. Hopefully, this will be the vanguard of many more coach groups visiting.

We are actively supporting the Big Local initiative researching how to improve tourism in the town.

The Bluebird Heritage Trail project has moved into its delivery phase with a launch target of 27 August. The Society's grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was successful and our budget of £64k is fully funded. Now we have a few hectic months left to produce the guide booklet, website, app, install the bronze pavement markers and engage the community (the public, schools and businesses) in workshops and briefings. I shall probably lose the rest of my hair!

More of the same

Now I turn to the regular activities which are part and parcel of The Society and easily taken for granted, but no less important.

Social programme

Our winter series of meetings continue to be well supported and I thank Beverley Hall and her happy band of kitchen helpers for all their work, Mike Weston our wine waiter and Denise Lee our Queen of the Raffle. Our Christmas Feast, held in the Town Hall at lunchtime on a Sunday (the only free date), saw a substantial drop in numbers compared with over 100 the previous year despite an excellent meal and

entertainment. We have had to book a Sunday again for next Christmas. Our summer outings to Portsmouth and Oxford, organised so well by Pat and Patrick Sherratt, were also well supported.

Publicity

Our Newsletter expertly edited by Alan Lee continues to be highly regarded and we are indebted to all the contributors, Jean Marsh our advertising manager, the proof-readers, the envelope stuffers and all our distributors for their efforts. The excellent website, managed by Mike McFarnell keeps members up to date and helps to interest internet browsers not only in the Society but in Dover as well. We also agreed a one year trial of Facebook and Twitter. Terry Sutton's regular press reports also help to keep The Society in the public eye.

Civic Representation

As usual I represented The Society at the moving St. George's Day commemoration of the Zeebrugge Raid and we also laid wreaths at the Remembrance Services at the Town war memorial and at The Society's plaque to the Unknown Warrior at the Western Docks.

Thanks

In my report I have mentioned a number of people, but have not thanked that essential backroom boy, our efficient treasurer, Mike Weston, who will shortly dazzle you with his annual accounts, and Yvonne Miller, who has the thankless task of taking the Executive minutes, and every other member of the Executive for their efforts. You will be pleased to hear, if you are still awake, that that concludes my report of yet another very busy year.

I submit my report for your consideration and approval.



The Dover Society - Financial Report

An extract from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st. March 2016

The following extract from our accounts represents the statement of financial activities and the balance sheet. The supporting notes to the accounts are not reproduced due to lack of space. However, the complete accounts are available for inspection upon request to our Treasurer, Capt. Mike Weston [telephone 01304 202059] or Email [mike@weston71.freeserve.co.uk].

CURRENT ASSETS

Newsletter Binders
Debtors and Prepayment
Shares gifted to Society
Cash at bank and in Hand

	2016	2015
	243	264
	310	252
	3,080	3,080
	<u>63,195</u>	<u>117,019</u>
	66,828	120,615
CREDITORS: Amounts falling		
Due within one year	(1,436)	(1,396)
Money held on behalf of Dover Big Local	(000)	(82,797)
Money held on behalf of "Bluebird Trail"	(24,265)	(000)
Advanced bookings for 2016/17 outings	(405)	(000)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>40,722</u>	<u>36,422</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>£40,722</u>	£36,422
FUNDS	<u>£40,722</u>	<u>£36,422</u>

NET CURRENT ASSETS

NET ASSETS

FUNDS

The Society's Funds are represented by:

The General Fund	24,896
Rolls Memorial Fund	50
Projects Fund	314
Publication Fund	4,033
Town Hall Fund	9,703
River Dour Partnership	1,726

£40,722

Statement of Financial Activities for the year Ended 31st. March 2016

INCOME	General Fund 2016	General Fund 2015
Subscriptions	2,606	2,694
Donations	159	47
Social Events	155	489
Gift Aid attracted by Subs etc to General Fund	561	534
Bank Account Interest	65	44
Surplus on Badges	4	8
TOTAL INCOME	<u>3,550</u>	<u>3,816</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Members and Meeting expenses	60	69
Administrative Expenses	844	771
Newsletter Expenses	1,473	1,448
Other Items [including donations]	141	141
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>2,518</u>	<u>2,429</u>
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES	1,032	1,387
Total Funds Brought Forward	<u>23,864</u>	<u>22,477</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>£24,896</u>	<u>£23,864</u>

Capt. M.H.Weston

APRIL AGM MEETING

St James' Area Recent Dig

A talk by Keith Parfitt

Reported by Terry Sutton

The results of 215 days archaeological work on the acres in the St James' Street area were reported to a packed Dover Society meeting on April 18 by the researchers' site manager Dover-born Keith Parfitt.

Keith worked with a team of 12-20 archaeologists, assisted by about two dozen unpaid local volunteers, in advance of the redevelopment of the Dover Town Investment Zone bordered by Woolcomber Street, Townwall Street, and the river Dour. He explained the developers were meeting the cost of the archaeological work.

A major slice of the acres investigated was cut through by the remains of the line of St James' Street which was the ancient lane linking what was the built town of Dover (originally created by the Romans) and Dover Castle.

Keith told that his team had been able to



Aerial view of the redevelopment area

uncover and locate this route which had now gone and was unlikely ever to be seen again. Yet it was once one of the most important streets in the Dover area going back to around 1075.

He explained that before the Roman invasion the estuary of the river flowed where Woolcomber Street now runs and it was in this haven where Roman Imperial naval ships rode at anchor.

But over the years sand and beach gradually silted up the haven to make it unusable for seafarers and eventually the siltation became thick enough on which to build. It became one of the most packed populated areas of the town until wrecked by 1939-45 bombing and shelling.



Examining Post-medieval levels

Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) received the contract to research the acres, following its earlier work on a Townwall site completed in 1996. Keith told the meeting how his team was assisted

by a 1641 map of the town as well as by the help of a camera-equipped 21st century drone.

He explained how excavations, mostly going down about three metres, were carried out in different sites, one of which was possibly where MP Rice had his mansion. They soon found the foundation of medieval houses that once stood in Arthur's Place, a thoroughfare that proved older than at first thought.

One of the mysteries remaining, following the dig, is the background to a large stone-constructed property, probably built around 1450-1480, that once faced Clarence Street. It must have been the home or property belonging to an important individual.

Further research was needed, he admitted.

One of their discoveries were the bones of a small baby buried beneath an old property. This was because in days of old children were not buried in cemeteries until they had been baptised!

Mr Parfitt said they now had a vast amount of recovered artefacts that had to be fully recorded and investigated while CAT hoped to get consent to excavate a few smaller sites including where Marks and Spencer is to provide a store facing Townwall Street.

The talk, with maps and other images screened, proved to be one of the most interesting of the many public evening events organised by The Dover Society.

Mike McFarnell - Honorary Freeman of Dover

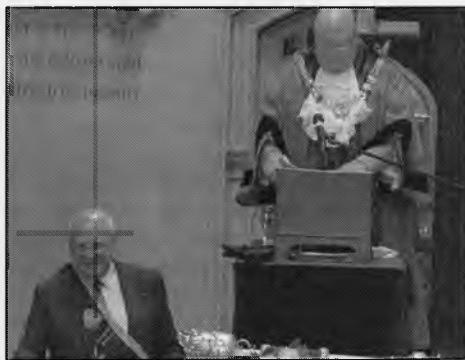
————— Terry Sutton —————

Dover paid its highest honour to another of our Dover Society members when Mike McFarnell was appointed an Honorary Freeman of the town. There are, at present, only four Honorary Freemen of Dover.

Mike, a member of the society's executive committee, moved to Dover in 1979 when he and his wife Anne opened a guest house in the town. Born in South Africa, Mike found the history of Dover fascinating and decided to promote the town. His first venture was the staging of the Dover Pageant at Connaught Park in 1983.

Since then Mike has played a major role in the social life of the Dover, especially with the Dover Film Festival for which he follows the late Ray Warner by producing an annual film of life in the town.

The presentation of the Freedom scroll to



Mike McFarnell Freeman of Dover

Mike was made at the annual meeting of Dover Town Council in May held in the ancient Stone Hall of the Town Hall.

Receiving the scroll Mike spoke of the great honour following in the footsteps of former Freemen including Winston Churchill and Field Marshall Montgomery.

Dover Society Special Meeting Town Hall Update

Terry Sutton

Members of The Dover Society were treated in May to an early preview of the ambition proposals to upgrade our ancient Town Hall. Our chairman Derek is a member of the planning team that also includes representatives of Dover District Council (owners of the Town Hall) and Dover Town Council.

We were told widespread consultations were to be carried out to decide the future of the iconic building, the history of which dates back to 1203, if the Heritage Lottery Fund can be persuaded to spend towards the estimated upgrade cost of up to £13 million.

Consultants described in detail the ideas over future use of the Town Hall which is costing district ratepayers £200,000 a year to maintain. District council officials say it is likely to cost up to £1.7 million to maintain the property over the next 10 years unless greater public use can be worked out.

Ideas under consideration include converting the mayor's parlour block (overlooking Ladywell) to self-catering accommodation, the parking services office to an interpretation centre, creating a cafe in the block (next to Biggin Hall) that until recently was the tourist information centre.

No great changes, except for improvements, are suggested for the Connaught Hall section, the magnificent and ancient Stone Hall or the colourful council chamber and court room block. A "Green Room" could be provided to make life easier for drama societies and groups when putting on plays.

Consultants have discovered there are more



Dover Town Hall 1904

than 150 rooms in the Town Hall, most not used or underused. The consultants were informed by one Dover Society member that a family once lived in the flag tower that overlooks the war memorial area.

Beneath the Connaught Hall, built around 1882 as a concert hall, it is proposed to reconfigure the kitchens to greatly improve catering facilities.

There have already been calls to bring back and restore the Town Hall organ, the cost of which has been estimated at between £250,000 and £1 million. That cost would be in addition to the estimated overall cost of £13 million.

The Stone Hall section of the Town Hall was built in 1253, the adjoining Connaught Hall built by the Victorians between 1881-1883 while the basement to the complex (with

about 50 rooms) is mainly used as kitchens, attraction) is now used for storage with the the Old Town Gaol (once open as a tourist former information centre vacant.

A series of public consultation meetings will take place before a final decision is made. If anybody is interested in attending any of them please contact kate@inghampinnock.com

All meetings at Town Hall

7th July 1-3pm Activity plan meeting for local stakeholders

Design workshops: 7th July 10am -12noon re Stone and Connaught Hall areas

18th July 10am-12noon re former VIC/prison cells, Council Chamber, Court Room and Welcome Centre

25th or 26th or 27th July Mayor's Parlour block re holiday lets proposal

General public consultations in July and August – dates not fixed yet.

Refurbishment Committee Jeremy Cope

Litter and dog fouling manage to get the committee wound up – a feeling that I am sure is shared by our members and the bulk of the population. We had a presentation by Andrzej Kluczynski, "AJ", who is in charge of DDC's litter enforcement team whose responsibilities include prosecuting offenders. In discussion we were aware of the problems of prosecution; how many of us see people offending let alone capture of the evidence that can lead to a successful result? Hence the team's main work is in reaction to complaints which tends to predominate where there is the most footfall. There is an 'Instant Report' scheme which is a black book that details an incident, (say rubbish being thrown out of a car), to which an officer will quickly respond. This would include foreign lorries, if seen. Prosecutions have also taken place of careless householders whose waste leads to litter. We were very pleased to hear that AJ puts emphasis on education of attitudes to litter with talks to local groups. It was disappointing to hear that schools can often be reluctant to allow presentations to pupils.

Litter on highways was one of those areas that DDC has real problems in dealing with. Highways England look after motorways, local authorities other roads. Local authorities

are charged for coneing off nearside lanes to ensure safety for litter pickers. Alan Sencicle is lobbying to secure more practical ways of clearing the highway verges including changing responsibility to Highways England, appropriate with the evidence of litter resulting from port using lorries. He is also putting forward ideas on safe and effective alternatives for roadside litter collection.

Jenny Olpin and John Cotton continue to represent the Society at regular meetings with the Police expressing our concerns. They attended meetings concerned with the recent demonstrations and what was pleasing was the way in which the police managed, once they had learned the lessons of the first event. People should be allowed to demonstrate but not in the riotous fashion that first occurred. Do remember if you have any concerns on law and order matters please contact Jenny on tel: 01304 825011 or jenny.olpin@uwclub.net

Among other matters we continue our work on street lighting – how to keep the traditional form of lamp post where appropriate but with modern LED lighting. Jenny and Mike Weston are working on signposting of the pathway to Langdon Cliffs via Bleriot memorial.

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River Dour Partnership

Jeremy Cope

Work on the Dour is progressing bit by bit. White Cliffs Countryside Partnership continue to both support the Dour Partnership and to run the volunteer working parties who clean the litter and rubbish from the river. Our thanks are due to them for all they do. We must also thank Dover Town Council for funding equipment for our volunteers. This is important in enabling volunteers to be both effective and safe.

The other part of work on the Dour is concerned with projects. South East Rivers Trust together with the Environment Agency support are due to or have installed fish passes at Minnis Lane and Morrisons Weir. In addition you will now be able to see bright metal tubes at Halfords Weir and Lorne Road Weir. These are eel passes. Our target is to see fish passes at Lorne Road and Halfords. Why the emphasis on fish and eel passes? Because of the obstruction to the free passage for fish up and down the river, bio diversity within the fish population is very much restricted. Apart from our natural desire to see this great improvement it is

an aim that will enable the river to reach a good standard under EU environmental rules, something we are committed to.

South East Rivers Trust are also involved with other projects to enhance the river environment and are now trying to get an improvement to the stretch between the Police Station and Age Concern but this will depend on the Environment Agency being convinced that the flooding risk is not increased.

Another matter - who remembers the rather nice railings along the river bank at the junction of Barton Path and Beaconsfield Road? Kent Pathways have the job of repairing the section that supports the railings but not the money to repair and use this rather nice Victorian/Edwardian ironwork. A fund raising job!

Some of what we are involved with. Thanks due to our committee and our volunteers. If you would like to be involved please contact me on 01304 211348 or Sue Bradford at White Cliffs Countryside Partnership 01304 241806.

Presentation To Merril

During the March meeting the Chairman presented Merril Lilley with a card and a bunch of flowers. Merril is moving away from Dover to go to live near to her family, she is one of our longest serving members was for many years the editor of the Dover Society Newsletter. We wish Merril many long and happy years.



2016 Dover Society March meeting Presentation to Merril

The Scandalous Secret of a Lord Warden

Terry Sutton

English Heritage, responsible for the care of Walmer Castle, has carried out research about the role of the castle during the First World War when the war cabinet met there occasionally.

Officials at English Heritage believe it was at Walmer Castle where the decision was made to carry out the misguided 1915 Gallipoli operation that resulted in the loss of so many lives and eventually the fall of the government.

At the time the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports was the William Lygon, 7th Earl of Beauchamp whose official home in that office was Walmer Castle.

It is claimed that, following the death of the previous Lord Warden Earl Brassey, the post was offered to the Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith but declined because of upkeep cost.

Asquith, leader of the Liberal Party, handed over the opportunity to wealthy Beauchamp, a member of the Liberal Party. Asquith made a condition that if he needed Walmer Castle for official purposes he could use it.

Beauchamp's appointment as Lord Warden set in train a series of scandalous events, unknown to most Cinque Ports' people, although he remained Lord Warden for the next 21 years. Few had such a dark secret as the 7th Earl Beauchamp who was Lord Warden and Constable of Dover Castle in the years 1913-1934.

By the time, 21 years later, he handed over

the Wardenship to the Marquess of Reading those in the know were not sorry to see him go. Beauchamp's health was given as the reason for his departure.

The real reason was he was "outed" as a homosexual and in those days such acts were illegal and for which the punishment was severe. It is claimed Beauchamp, when visiting his official home, entertained a number of lovers at Walmer. The scandal only came to light as a result of the hatred by his brother-in-law, the Duke of Westminster, a Tory who in true political spirit wanted to get one over the Liberals who were in power.

Westminster seethed as Beauchamp clicked with the Liberal leader Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (who used to spend holidays in Dover) and when Sir Henry came to power he appointed Beauchamp to a number of high offices.

All this time the Duke of Westminster had been gathering evidence to back up the rumours which, in high places, were being whispered about Beauchamp.

In the very early thirties Westminster, hoping to ruin the Liberal Party, struck. He went to the king with his allegations. Said the horrified king: "I thought men like that shot themselves."

Westminster had already spoken to Beauchamp with an offer. If Beauchamp would separate from his wife Lady Lettice, (Westminster's daughter) without a divorce, and give up his offices, no further action would be taken.

Beauchamp refused to agree to the arrangement and shortly afterwards Lady Lettice obtained a divorce.

With the threat of criminal investigations hotting up Beauchamp resigned most of his offices to avoid a public scandal and fled abroad to Venice. Strangely he held on to his title of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

It is recorded that Beauchamp tried to return to his homeland for his wife's funeral but when the ferry was off Folkestone he was warned by a friend on the pier that he might be arrested. So he remained on the ship and quickly returned to Boulogne. Then, in 1936, he heard the news that his

favourite son Hughie had died in a motor accident. This time the Earl did not care if he was arrested and he stepped ashore at Folkestone, without any interference, in order to attend his son's funeral.

Little more is known of the Earl after that, although there were reports of a threatened suicide. He went abroad again and died of cancer in New York City in November 1938, aged 66.

**It is claimed the Lord Beauchamp, who had three sons and four daughters, was the model for Lord Marchmain in Evelyn Waugh's novel Brideshead Revisited.*

Dover County School RE Cadets

— Phil Eyden —

Under the instruction of the Kent Territorial Association, Dover County School raised its own Cadet Force which officially was recognised by the War Office on the 8th October 1915. The cadets were attached to the RE Territorials and were designated the No.1 Company (Cadets), Cinque Ports Fortress Royal Engineers. Over sixty boys signed up immediately and were issued with service pattern khaki uniform. The school Headmaster, Fred Whitehouse, accepted a commission as Captain and Officer Commanding, teachers Edward Owen-Jones became Captain, Josiah Slater and William Pearce became Lieutenants and the school's Physical Training Instructor, Mr. Frederick 'Paddy' Pascall, was appointed Sergeant Major. All the officers were given military training to assist them in their duties. Captain Mowll granted permission for them to use the Liverpool Street Drill Hall and their 80 rifles on the ranges. The Cadets performed their first parade on



Cadets

14th December in the Maison Dieu Hall to Viscount Duncannon, M.P. for Dover and Lady Duncannon.

By March 1916 the Cadets had reached full capacity of 75 with four officers and had begun to set up their own bugle and drum band thanks to generous donations of instruments by ex-Mayor William Crundall, Dr. Ian Howden of the Dover Anti-Aircraft Corps, Mr. Hugh Leney of the Dover Higher Education sub-Committee and Mr. Morford. The boys were organised in standard RE Company pattern, the Company was divided into four Sections, each commanded by a Sergeant. Each section was divided into two Squads each commanded by a Corporal, so the total number in the Company was four sergeants and eight corporals. Parades took place each Saturday and were accompanied by evening lectures, signalling practice in both semaphore and Morse code, knot tying and telephone operation and at least two route marches per term, frequently on the Deal road.

Territorial officers of the Cinque Ports Fortress RE provided every assistance and staff to complete lectures and assisted the boys in building a practice field telegraph and telephone. Boys were encouraged to attend Archcliffe Fort to observe, learn and assist in duties.

On the 23rd May 1916 the cadets performed an exercise on the east side of the village of Ewell Minnis. The Company was divided into two, attackers and defenders. The defenders set up outposts who reported back to Headquarters information reported by scouts. A flock of sheep were reported back by one scout as "a squad of the enemy approaching from the North-East!" The attack was deemed by the judges as too straggling to succeed

and the defence clearly won. The boys then retired exhausted for their tea.

On June 2nd Frederick Pascall, the PT instructor, received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant.

September 26th 1916 was a nerve wracking day for the Cadets as they were inspected by Colonel Skey, the Commanding Royal Engineer of the South Eastern Defences. Fortunately the veteran Lieutenant T.T. Richards attended the Drill Hall and gave the lads thorough training in etiquette and appearance. Skey was reportedly delighted with the cadets and complimented them drill skills and on their physical training. On October 16th Dover County School was moved from Ladywell to Frith Road enabling the cadets to use the new school grounds to parade in.

Dover's peace celebration march took place on the 19th July 1918. It was a long afternoon procession of marching bands, charitable and civic organisations. All the local RE units took part, following the Anti-Aircraft Defence Command lorry with its 3 inch gun and ammunition lorry, the 3rd Fortress Company drove past with their lorry decked out to represent their functions, mining, carrier pigeons, tunnelling and fighting men. They were followed by a lorry containing a 120cm Anti-Aircraft searchlight and then the lorry of the 600th Company representing electric lighting, telephones, signalling and yet more pigeons. Following them was a procession of cadets from the Dover County School contingent. The 2nd Buffs, Royal Artillery, RASC, RAMC and RAOC completed the army procession.

Sources: Pharos magazine archives, Dover Express.

Planning Committee

Patrick Sherratt

There has occurred so much in the last quarter with decisions that will affect Dover for future generations and we have been active with all items.

Dover Western Docks Revival (DWDR)

I outlined this in my last newsletter and whilst the community has lost the historic Prince of Wales Pier it is important that pier leisure activity is provided in the new scheme. Dover Harbour Board (DHB) has recently submitted application for consent to alter the listed Esplanade Quay to provide access from the New Marina to Wellington Dock, this will be known as "The Cut". We have made comment with regard to the materials as no detailed plans of "The Cut" are provided with the application, also that it should not be constructed until the new marina (under phase 2 of development) is completed, this in order to ensure the marina and alternative pier facilities are delivered before construction of the cargo distribution centre (Phase3). Otherwise, any shortfall of funding could result in the infill of the tidal basin and enable phase 3 to be constructed without providing the new marina. We continue to press DHB for "quality" within the project

Dover Leisure Centre

Consultation of the replacement of Dover Leisure Centre by Dover District Council (DDC) has been underway. The DDC Cabinet had recommended the facility be located at Whitfield and initially no consultation process was proposed. Following public concern this has taken place to seek what facilities the

community want and the preferred location between Whitfield and the former Buckland Mill site, this being included to appease the strong feelings that Dover is losing a leisure facility. A Project Advisory Group was set up and consists of DDC Cabinet members and a community representative who has already publically declared Whitfield as the ideal location.

I have attended both Advisory Group meetings as a member of the public and it is clear from the latest meeting (19th May) that only Whitfield is being considered as summarized by the DDC Director of Environment and Corporate Assets "Remains as Cabinet preferred and consultants are working on this".

The timescales are for DDC Cabinet to have details of proposed facilities for July Cabinet meeting and details of site location in the September Cabinet meeting.

The Dover Society has made strong representation for Buckland Mill location as the only Dover proposed site and also sought that if the "District" Leisure Centre is located at Whitfield the community of Dover, which is over 30,000, should have a similar facility as enjoyed by the community of Deal. In Dover nearly 40% of residents rely on public transport whereas Whitfield is 11%. We emphasise the need for facilities in a town suffering from deprivation and as such require a "local and accessible" facility.

DTIZ (St James Development)

Site now cleared and, as in mid-May, work commenced on the hotel area. No details

of any of the "under offer" tenants of the shopping area. 69% of the site has either been signed up or under offer.

In clearing the site the cobbled street stones have been put in store and we are seeking these be used within the landscaping of the area.

Castle Street

This is possibly the most important street in Dover, a tourist route from Market Square to the castle and regularly photographed and featured in media. Most properties are Grade II listed and sit within the castle conservation area. Formerly a "commercial hub" over the last few years has seen these properties no longer function on a commercial basis as businesses relocate, often to Whitfield.

Recently planning applications to seek change of use from commercial to residential have been submitted and the Society fully supports this rather than see buildings of historical importance fall into disrepair and the resulting eyesore. However any residential use must be for family occupation and not sub-letting through HMO's.

However, all applications are for high density one bed flats. We have opposed this as there is grave concern it will move in the same direction as Folkestone Road with resulting rubbish accumulation and anti-social activities.

Over the last five years I have sought DDC to restrict the development of "shoe-box" one bed flats and Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's) as these are a major contributory factor to the increase of deprivation levels in Dover. Thanet has had these problems and placed such restrictions but sadly DDC ignore this

problem area.

Section 215 of Town and Country Planning Act 1990

We pioneered this in Dover with remarkable success seeing nearly 100 properties improve. We have sought to continue this with DDC but our efforts to date in seeking an update and further action have failed to stir DDC. The small group that I have on this project are, naturally, concerned at the apparent lack of interest from DDC.

Other matters

We continue to press for intermediate care facilities at Dover Hospital, seek improvements to A2 and A20 with support for the third Thames crossing and the introduction of variable speed in the current 40mph area on the A20.

Chair of Dover Society Planning Committee

At the AGM it was announced I had resigned as Chair a decision I had great difficulty in reaching. Since the AGM I have received many calls from members asking me to continue and I have advised the Society Executive that I am prepared to do so. However, the Planning Committee needs another two members and ideally one from River and one from Whitfield so if you can help please let me know.

I have enjoyed my chairmanship over the last six years and shall continue to attempt to deliver the core objectives of the Society as per its constitution, also to recognize and adhere that planning is non-political and must not be influenced by biased pressure and favour.

Sisters of St Vincent - Eastbrook

Lorraine Sencile (Doverhistorian.com)

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul first came to Dover in 1883 and bought cottages on Dieu Stone Lane. Originally known as 'D' Stone Lane, Dieu Stone Lane is an ancient right of way originally running from the Biggin Street side of St Mary's Church to Maison Dieu Road, then known as Back O' Charlton. Dieu Stone Lane marked the boundary between the Maison Dieu lands and the town. A large wool factory was established in the 18th century and the raw wool came from the surrounding area and the Romney Marsh. Continental wool combers had settled nearby giving the name to Woolcomber Street. Between Back O' Charlton and what became Woolcomber Street, was a narrow lane with cottages and a Seaman's' mission called Castle Place. Later the lane was widened and became the seaward end of Maison Dieu Road.

For centuries there was a foot bridge crossing of the Dour on Dieu Stone Lane and this, at the time the Sisters' arrived, was a favourite haunt of young boys who played, what we now call 'Pooh sticks'. There was a wicker gate on what became the Maison Dieu Road side of the river and nearby a large mill stone marked 'D Stone'. It was said that the stone had a 'magical quality' and during the day, local storytellers would sit there, tell the legends of old Dover and collect around them large audiences. In the evening lovers would meet there. Between 1830 and 1835, Castle Street was formed, running from Ashen Tree Lane to Market Square, and Back O' Charlton became of interest to building speculators.

Where Castle Street crossed Back O'



St Vincent Sisters c 1900

Charlton, there was a narrow lane called Maison Dieu Place. The Castle Street promoters widened this and Eastbrook Place was built on the west side between Castle Street and along Dieu Stone Lane. At the time, Eastbrook Place was promoted as being 'open to country breezes.' Back O' Charlton was laid in 1860 and renamed Maison Dieu Road up to Eastbrook Place on the west side. On the east side, it was Maison Dieu Road up to Castle Street. It was not until post World War II (1939-1945) that Maison Dieu Road was extended to the junction of Woolcomber Street but even then, Eastbrook Place retained its name. At about the time the magnificent St James' new Church opened in 1860, across the road from Eastbrook Place, John Jeken lived at Eastbrook House on Dieu Stone Lane. Captain Yates lived next door at 8 Eastbrook Place and by 1881, the villas along Maison Dieu Road that we see today had been built.

The history of the Sisters of St Vincent began with St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660). He was a French priest who dedicated his life to serving the poor and was canonized 1737. The story goes that in 1605, Vincent was on

a Marseilles ship in the Mediterranean that was captured by Barbary pirates following which he was sold into slavery. One of his masters was a famous alchemist and Vincent became knowledgeable in science and medicine. On the death of his master, Vincent was sold to a former Christian, who had converted to Islam in order to gain his freedom from slavery. Eventually, master and slave escaped back to France and by 1609, Vincent was in Rome. That year he returned to France as a chaplain and in 1612 was the confessor and spiritual director to the wealthy Madame de Gondi. She persuaded her husband to endow and support a group of able and zealous missionaries to work among poor tenant farmers and country people in general. In 1617, Vincent founded La Dames de la Charité - the Ladies of Charity - whose role it was to collect funds, for the missionaries.

One of these women was Louise de Marillac (1591-1660), an illegitimate daughter of a wealthy family. Louise had wanted to become a nun but was refused admission into the convents she applied to, probably on the grounds of continuing ill health. Her illegitimacy prevented Louise marrying well but an arranged marriage was made to Antoine Le Gras, a lowly secretary to the Queen Mother and Regent of France, Marie de Medici (1575-1642). The couple seemed to be happy but in 1625, Antoine died leaving Louise and their young son with very little financial means such that she was forced move to a cheaper area of Paris. Her new home was in Vincent de Paul's parish and she joined the Ladies of Charity.

Although the Ladies of Charity were doing good work, there was a need for an organiser - someone who was enthusiastic and educated but who could communicate, organise and teach the poor and sick. Vincent de Paul approached Louise and in 1629, she became that organiser and proved

to be very successful. In 1633, Vincent de Paul and Louise jointly founded the 'Daughters of Charity' (Filles de la Charité) - young, energetic servant women with the right attitude. Most had come from the country to Paris in seek of work and their role, as a 'Daughter', was that of nursing the poor in their own homes and caring for neglected children.

The number of Daughters of Charity quickly grew and they took on the needs of the sick and poor across Paris. From these Daughters, Louise invited four to live with her in order to gain systematic training in the care of the sick at the same time as deepening their spiritual life. These four women were the foundation of what became the Company of the Daughters of Charity or Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul (Societas Filiarum Caritatis a S. Vincentio de Paulo) as they were called when they received official approval in 1655. Unlike other religious communities, the members make annual vows throughout their life, which leaves them always free to leave without the need of ecclesiastical permission.

Known as the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, their work was highly esteemed and Louise and the Sisters were invited to Angers, then the capital of Anjou in the Loire Valley of Western France. Louise was asked to take over the management of St John the Evangelist Hospital that had been founded by Henry II (1154-1189) of England. She instituted a successful comprehensive scheme that included doctors and nurses as well as the Sisters. Louise then went on to expand the service of the Sisters of Charity to orphanages, mental and elderly institutions, prisons and even onto the battlefields. The nuns were popularly known as the 'Grey Sisters' as their habit was based on that worn by Breton peasant women - a grey wool tunic and a large starched cornette (headdress) of white linen. By the time of Louise's death in

1660, there were 40 Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul Houses in France.

Prior to the French Revolution (1789-1799), Roman Catholicism was the state religion of France but on 13 February 1790, all religious orders were dissolved. In November that year the National Assembly required an oath of loyalty to the Civil Constitution by all those who had refused to accept the earlier legislation. A number of the Sisters refused and were guillotined as traitors. In the years that followed, Roman Catholicism partially regained its pre-revolution status and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul were re-formed. As the 19th century progressed, there was a call for the separation of the Church and State and following the French elections of 16 May 1877. Moves were made for this separation and gradual secularisation began.

From 1880, there was a steady substitution of lay nurses for nuns in hospitals and an increasing number of Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul joined other Sisters who already had established a House in London. In 1905, the French Government instituted the separation of the Church and the State, which prohibited the official recognition, payments or subsidies of any religious organisation. In consequence, a large number of religious communities left the country and Edward VII invited them to come to Britain. Other communities settled in and around Dover, including Les Dames Augustines du Frécieux Sang who moved to Kearsney Manor, Les Frères des Ecoles Chrétiennes, monks who moved to St Margaret's and Castlemount, and the Sisters of Ursulines of Jesus, who initially settled in Maison Dieu Road before moving to Castle Avenue. In 1934 Louise de Marillac was canonised by Pope Pius XI (1922-1939), her feast day is 15 March and she is the Patroness of Christian Social Workers.

The first English House of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul was founded in Sheffield in 1858 and a second in Westminster, London a year later. Having escaped the post 1877 anti-clerical laws in France, the numbers increased considerably and some were initially sent to Salford to open a convent there. At that time, there was religious hostility in south Lancashire towards Catholicism (see the story on Reverend Faithorn Green of Charlton Church on Doverhistorian.com) - so the nuns looked for an alternative place to start their work.

Under the guidance of Miss Eyston or Sister Augustine as she was called, on 15 August 1883 the Sisters who had previously been sent to Salford came to Dover. In the Dieu Stone Lane premises, they provided a holiday and convalescent home for children from the poorer parts of London. Soon they were taking in needy local women and girls from London and locally, as well as going into people's homes to provide nursing care. One of the Sisters had been with Florence Nightingale at Scutari, in the Crimea (now Üsküdar near Istanbul). Some of the Sisters also taught at St Paul's Catholic School and in 1886, Sister Cecelia Hill was appointed headmistress.

St Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Maison Dieu Road, was the first purpose built Catholic Church in the town since Henry VIII's Reformation (1529-1536). In 1835, a Methodist Chapel in Elizabeth Street was bought and refurbished by the Catholic community as a church and a school. The London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company acquired the Elizabeth Street premises in 1860 to make way for the Canterbury line and the Harbour Station. The compensation was generous from which the Catholic community purchased the site on Maison Dieu Road and St Paul's Church was built. Archbishop Manning of

Westminster and Dr Grant, Bishop of Southwark officially opened the Church on the 15 May 1868. Two years later work started on building a new school for boys at the east end of the church that opened in 1872. Ten years later a school for girls was built behind the boys' school and an infants' school in 1889. The total number of children accommodated was 170.

George Robinson of Castle Place owned several properties in the area where the Sisters of St Vincent had settled. He was the uncle of Sister Clothilde Robinson who persuaded him to donate 8 Eastbrook Place to the Sisters. Once they moved in, the Sisters took over the attic and the cellar for their own use with the remainder of the building being used for nursing care headed by Sister Augustine. In 1887, and paid for by Sister Hill, the Sisters took over 9 Eastbrook Place and shortly after number 7, paid for by a bequest of Sister Byrne.

The long wing of the house in Dieu Stone Lane was added in 1903 when the Sisters opened an orphanage for boys from the Catholic Children's Rescue Society. From 1907, number 7 was also part of the orphanage when the Sisters started working in conjunction with Southwark Rescue Society and Workhouse Association. These children came from the streets and workhouses of London and many had physical disabilities. The care offered included full time education at St Paul's school and in 1908, the Sisters bought Arlington House, 11 East Cliff. This was paid for by Sister O'Hare and used as holiday homes for poor children from London.

Following the outbreak of World War I (1914-1918), the Sisters decided to remain in Dover and continue with their work. However, the frequency of air raids increased and on 9 March 1916, a German seaplane dropped a bomb that landed on the roof of the convent.

It exploded and one of the Sisters was slightly hurt. Ten days later, when Dover was again under attack from seaplanes, another bomb landed on the building. The place was crowded and Sister Vincent was injured. The decision was then taken to move and temporary accommodation was found in St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. The Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) - the women's branch of the Royal Navy formed in 1917 - required temporary accommodation, so the convent was repaired and they moved in.

When peace returned, the Sisters returned to Dover and they quickly picked up the reins of teaching, running the orphanage and community work. In 1927, in keeping with the philosophy of the time, they created 'open-air' facilities at Eastbrook Place. At that time, the tuberculosis virus was a killer and it was known that the disease was closely linked to poverty and overcrowding. As many of the orphans came from such environments most suffered from the disease. Medical treatment was limited but the philosophy of the open-air schools was that fresh-air, good ventilation and exposure to the outside would help to allay the progress of the disease and could possibly cure it.

By 1934, the number of children being sent to Eastbrook Place was overwhelming the establishment and the Sisters decided on opening a purpose built 'Daughter House' at St Leonards-on-Sea. The Vincent de Paul School, as the new facility was called, was staffed by Sisters from Dover and was both successful for the patients and popular with the authorities. During World War II (1939-1945), the medical treatment for tuberculosis advanced and the need for open-air schools diminished. St Vincent's became a boarding school for 45 girls with special needs, most of which were sent by Local Authorities. However, due to government cutbacks by 1993 there were only 12 girls and that year,

the school was forced to close.

Back in the 1930s, following the transfer of the children from Eastbrook Place to St Leonards, the Dover buildings were refurbished as a convalescent home for women and children from the poorer parts of London. So as not to cause confusion, the Dover Mother House was renamed St Mary's.

World War II broke out on 3 September 1939 and following the Dunkirk Evacuation between 26 May and 4 June 1940, Dover was at the front line of the Battle of Britain - 10 July to 31 October 1940. St Mary's closed and the Sisters moved with the children attending St Paul's school to Wales. All of Dover's children were evacuated and the St Paul's children were sent to Ebbw Vale, Monmouthshire. On Sunday 20 October, St. Mary's Convent at Eastbrook Place took a direct hit by a shell.

Albeit, although Dover was still subject to attacks throughout 1942, the children started to drift back to the town but there were no schools for them to attend. Teachers were reluctantly given permission to re-open schools and in 1943, the Sisters returned to Dover and taught mixed denomination classes at St Paul's school. On Friday 1 September 1944, a shell demolished Whyam House, on the opposite side of Maison Dieu Road from St Mary's and the convent was badly damaged by the blast.

Following the War, the Sisters continued teaching and they reopened the convalescent home for underprivileged mothers and children from London. Gradually, they took in an increasing number of elderly ladies and in 1958, following major refurbishment of the premises, St Mary's was registered with Kent County Council (KCC) as an establishment for the care of the elderly. The Sisters stated

philosophy was to provide a service, 'to all faiths and none' and the small ecumenical chapel was available for use by all the residents.

St Edmund's Roman Catholic Secondary Modern School, Old Charlton Road, was built in 1961 to accommodate 360 children. Seven years later, in 1968, St Paul's Primary School was transferred to the former Saint Ursula's Convent, re-named St Richard's Primary School. The Sisters taught at both schools as well as looking after the elderly at St Mary's, making home visits and were on the roster of the ecumenical soup kitchen. Most of the residents at St Mary's were self-financing although a few were aided by KCC. At the time, two helpers were employed one of whom later became a resident. On 20 September 1964, all the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, including those in Dover, adopted a simple modern dress and blue veil.

A story told by the residents at this time was about an elderly lady who regularly fed bread to the birds in the nearby Pencester Gardens. The Sister Superior asked the elderly lady to stop as the seagulls recognised her and would wait in St Mary's garden or Dieu Stone Lane. The elderly lady apologised and appeared to take notice of Sister Superior but every day she would go for a walk carrying an umbrella - whatever the weather. The seagulls would gather behind her trotting along! When the lady reached the furthest end of Pencester Gardens, she would open her umbrella ... and the birds would have a feast on the food that she had been carrying in the umbrella!

In 1977, stringent health and safety regulations were introduced and the Sisters were forced to comply otherwise KCC would rescind their registration. At the time, there were twelve Sisters and at first, they looked for a more modern building to house the

residents while keeping 7 Eastbrook Place as the Mother House. They put the remainder of St Mary's buildings on the market and went house hunting, but they could not find anywhere suitable.

Finally, the Sisters' took St Mary's off the market and decided to undertake an extensive rebuilding and modernisation programme. In 1979, architects Lee Evans Partnership of Canterbury were called in and for the duration, the Sisters and seven of the residents lived at 7 Eastbrook Place. Two years later twenty-six elderly residents, some of who had returned others new, found a transformation. The St Mary's premises were attractive, adapted to their needs and there were considerably more facilities available.

On 23 July 1983, celebrations were held to mark the centenary of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul having a House in Dover. The Reverend Michael Bowen - Archbishop of Southwark, officially reopened St Mary's followed by a Mass held in St Paul's Church. Guests included Peter Rees MP 1970-1987 and the Mayor,

Councillor Marie Hart.

Some years before, the house at the end of St Mary's garden was bequeathed to the Sisters by an elderly lady and had been used for short stay residents. At about the time that the alterations took place in the main building, the house living rooms were extended and a laundry room was added. The refurbished building was subsequently used for visitors. In 1988-1989, further improvements took place at St Mary's when a TV/video room was built and a larger lift was installed in a new location. The attic, where the Sisters once lived and the basement where guest nuns stayed, were both refurbished. These alterations increased the number of rooms for residents to 30.

The Castle Street Area Society, founded in 1988, helped to realise a promise made by Dover District Council (DDC) to upgrade the area and this included Eastbrook Place. Walker Brothers Civil Engineers started Work in 1990 and about this time the whole of Eastbrook Place was listed as Grade II. In February 2005, with only five Sisters left in

Dover, they announced that they would be leaving the town. Having sold St Mary's as a residential home for the elderly and headed by Sister Sarah King-Turner, Provincial of the Daughters of Charity of St Paul, they said their official goodbye. This was marked by a special Mass at St Paul's Church, with the principal celebrant Bishop John Hine, followed by a reception in St Mary's Church (Anglican) Hall. Since coming under new ownership the care home has retained the name and there is also another reminder of the Sisters time in Dover depicted in a window in St Paul's Church.



St Mary's Convent - 8 Eastbrook Place the Chapel - LS Collection



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Embarrassing Channel Swims

— Terry Sutton —

Each summer scores of long distance swimmers, with their families and friends, descend on Dover ready to swim the Channel. It is estimated they inject about £5 million into the town's economy during their stay.

Around half of those who take on the Channel are successful but I remember the time when a success, possibly one in ten, hit the national headlines.

My close involvement with the sport of channel swimming came in 1950 when, as the official observer, I spent more than a day in an open boat that was piloting the young Yorkshire lad Philip Mickman. He failed on a swim from Dover to France but was in the water for an incredible 25 hours 30 minutes. He was less than half a mile off the French coast when he gave up but an over enthusiastic French journalist on Cap Gris Nez reported he had made it. The BBC and other media reported his great success.

Back on Dover beach, after we had chugged back across the Strait, my fellow reporters on the Dover Express rushed to congratulate Philip and me for an excellent scoop. They refused to believe me when I revealed Philip had failed. His success was being reported on the BBC, insisted my colleagues. I had to explain I was the official observer and my decision was final!

Billy Butlin, the holiday pioneer, financed channel swim races and he flew me to Calais in his private aircraft. There, on the beach at Sirene near Calais, were the swim



*Shirley May France
Unsuccessfully tried to swim the
channel three times the first time
in 1949 when only 17yrs
became an international
sensation for her looks*

competitors lined up being prepared to be covered in protective grease.

One young woman I knew quite well (no, not that well) was all alone. Her support team had failed to arrive. She appealed to me to cover her in protective grease. Eventually I agreed, to be cheered on, under the glare of TV lights and cameras, by my journalist colleagues who took glee in my embarrassment as I discovered parts of the woman's body I never knew existed!

Another embarrassing time was when I worked for the BBC, as a local "stringer", and they wanted a speedy interview with a woman who had just swum the Strait in a record time. With my recording equipment I arrived at the Dover house where she was staying only to be told by her mother she was in the bath removing her protective grease. "Who is it?" shouted the reclining swimmer. "Only Terry Sutton" was the response. "That's all right then, send him in". And with that there was me gazing down at this naked woman as the soapy water crept up her well-developed valley.

You try thinking of clever questions to ask someone in the news when in such a close encounter situation. Anyway she provided me with a good interview which, despite the lapping of bath water, made a few minutes slot on the BBC. And, of course, a good yarn about her swim for the Dover Express. To spare her, and my, blushes I never revealed the intimate details about how the bathroom interview took place.

Joseph Joel Ellis and Westmount

Martyn Webster

It was by and for a man named Joseph Joel Ellis that the mansion later known as Westmount set back in upwardly sloping grounds off the Folkestone Road, Dover was built in 1865. At the time it was called after him as Mount Ellis. He and his wife Marguerite were present at the laying of the foundation stone on 11th May 1865 in a ceremony presided over by Rev Raphael I. Cohen, the locally respected leader of Dover's then Jewish community. A vase was placed in the foundation stone hermetically sealed containing two Hebrew scrolls recording the occasion and coins of the realm. The Ellises lived but a short time at Mount Ellis and their magnificent home was eventually turned over to become Westmount College. It survived for 150 years, latterly becoming increasingly tumbledown, arsoned in 2007 and demolished in February 2016. Efforts to find the vase are, at the time of writing, undergoing, meanwhile plans are afoot to develop the site for regeneration housing development.

But who was this Joseph Joel Ellis?

He had been born Joseph Joel sometime between the years 1807 - 1816 into the sizeable Jewish community of the town of Krotoschin in Prussian Poland. This is now modern day Krotoszyn in the province of Poznan. He was a son of Isaiah, a merchant, and Pessa Joel who subsequently came to settle with their family in Bristol for forty years before moving on to Dublin, Ireland where they were buried in 1840 and 1848 respectively, their grave still surviving in the Ballybough Jewish Cemetery.



Westmount Before Demolition

"Joseph Frederick Joel" as he was named on his marriage certificate first came to the record in 1848 when, described as a jeweller, aged 32 years, resident and in business at 49 The Strand, London he was married on 13th September at 9 Calthorpe Street, St Pancras by the Chief Rabbi, Revd. Dr Nathan Marcus Adler, Marguerite Nathan, twelve years his junior. She was the daughter of Joseph Nathan, a Commission Agent, late of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where she had been born. Contemporary business directories described the business at 49 The Strand as that of a dealer in plate, watches, jewellery and army accoutrements.

In the 1851 Census Joseph Joel was living with his wife Marguerite and their first born son Isidore aged 1 year old at 6 Onslow Square, Brompton, West London and described as a jeweller and diamond merchant.

On 31st October 1855 giving the addresses Brompton Hall and 58 Pall Mall, then having 5 children, Joseph Joel, described as a bill broker, having resided in England

"since he was 4 years old", was naturalized as a British subject.

In the 1861 Census he, his wife and all of their 7 children aged between 1 -11, were living at Brompton Hall (soon after demolished to make way for South Kensington Underground Station). He was described at this point as a banker.

On 19th August 1863 Joseph Joel changed his name by deed poll to Joseph Joel Ellis so that thereafter he, his wife and their children were known by the surname Ellis. It is possible that this name was chosen because Ellis Lane (now Phillipsburgh Avenue) in Fairview, Dublin was where many of Ireland's early Jewish settlers, perhaps including his parents, first lived.

It was at this time that Joseph Joel Ellis had fixed upon Dover to have his house built. It is unclear why he did this but one explanation might be that some of his children were at the Jewish school nearby run by the Revd. R.I. Cohen. Either that or he or his wife perhaps had some local family connexion in the small Jewish community of the town. We will probably never now know. All the same their stay would prove to be all but fleeting and the reasons for this are also elusive.

In the 1871 Census described as a landowner Joseph Joel Ellis with wife and their seven children were living at 102 Harley Street, London. The family cannot be found in the 1881 Census which gives the impression that they were probably out of the country at the time.

It is interesting to note that Joseph Joel Ellis was coy in describing his birthplace in the UK censuses. In 1851 and 1861 he stated he was born in Bristol (which is where he must have spent his childhood from age 4). Then in 1871 he stated he was born in Vienna, Austria, a naturalised

British subject. He must have had his own reasons for this purposeful decoy but his real birthplace of Krotoschin was revealed only at his own declaration in the naturalisation application in 1855 (now lodged in the National Archives).

Joseph Joel Ellis died on 10th July 1885 at 51 Portland Place, London leaving an estate worth £77,000. His will is on record as is an obituary in a contemporary edition of the Jewish Chronicle. His widow Marguerite lived on for a further 14 years and died intestate at 26 Oriental Place, Brighton, her estate of £3,500 being administered by her sons Isidore (colliery manager), Walter Lima (solicitor) and Albert Joel (barrister-at-law), all Ellises.

Husband and wife are buried at London's Brompton Jewish Cemetery where two large tombs mark their graves inscribed in Hebrew and English, in his case the inscription reads "Joseph Joel Ellis late Consul General for Persia who departed this life July 10th 1885 aged 78 years".

Throughout his life Joseph Joel Ellis had his fingers in many pies, was clearly very successful at whatever he put himself to and prospering from his Bohemian Jewish origins he made a lot of money in the process. Not least of which were his colliery and brick making enterprises in Leicestershire where between 1861 and 1865 he started up as owner of the collieries around what became known as Ellistown, named after him and subsequently managed for the rest of his life by his eldest son Isidore. Precisely what motivated this venture so well out of London is also still tantalisingly unknown.

To his many faceted life must also be added that Joseph Joel Ellis had been Honorary Colonel in the 1st Tower Hamlets Artillery Volunteer Corps

(resigned 1873) and had been known to one and all as "the colonel" not to mention his extraordinary tomb inscription "Consul General for Persia". No more illuminating records and reasons for these disparate facets have yet been traced.

His descendants today are widespread and feature well in online family history discussions.

The Ellis family papers are deposited at the Leicestershire Record Office. This potted biography has been drawn from UK Census returns, probate records, National Archives and online family history discussion threads, all freely and publicly accessible. No photograph or painting of him has yet been found.

N.B. Mount Ellis - Westmount

The present main building on the site, is the original Mount Ellis, the brick four-storied mansion of Joseph Ellis referred to earlier and which R.I. Cohen opened in 1865.

Despite the fact that its grandeur was a little decayed, it would have been a substantial and imposing house in its day, befitting a wealthy businessman. The foundation stone that R.I. Cohen helped to lay, could still be found in an outer

buttress wall on the right hand side of the property, near to the frontage. It is below the immediate ground level as part of the lower ground floor. The inscription is much eroded but one can just make out 'LAID [BY] J J ELLIS..' but the rest is almost perished. It seems that after Ellis' death the building reverted back to educational use. By 1898 'Mount Ellis' had become 'Westmount' and was the junior branch of Dover College.

As to Cohen's school, it lay approximately lengthways, across the north-south axis of right-hand side of the present site of West Mount, with its frontage closer to the road than the present Westmount. It consisted of a main building to the front, with a small extension wing to the east, widening the frontage, and with an annex laying across to the rear. There was according to the OS maps, a tree-lined garden to the front, and a play-ground at the left-hand rear corner of the site. The buildings were considerable larger than the other houses in the vicinity as might be expected with well in excess of 50 residents and pupils at the school.

Editor's note

Hopefully by the time the Westmount article appears, the hermetically sealed vase in the foundation stone might have been found!



Westmount Site from Folkestone Road



Remains of Westmount

Guided Walks 2016

WCCP are pleased to be running events as part of the Up on the Downs Big Summer Festival. Only some of the events are shown here. The full programme is available from www.uponthedowns.org.uk contact details are given below.

JULY

Sunday 17th 10.00am Caves, Waves & Braves: Gentle seafront stroll. WCCP 1 mile (2 hrs)

Sunday 24th 10.00am Walking the River Dour: River Dour Partnership (01304 872785). 4 miles (2.5 hrs)

Sunday 24th 2.15pm Tour of Roman Dover: Roman Dover town centre, and the Roman Painted House, Dr Brian Philp, (01304 203279). 0.5 mile (1 hr plus Painted House)

Sunday 31st 10.00am Fort Burgoyne - Dover's Hidden History: Up on the Downs Festival (01304 872785). 1.5 miles (2 hrs) (Please book)

Sunday 31st 5.00pm Picture the Western Heights: Photo opportunities WCCP (01304 872785 or 07773 619121) 3 miles (3 hrs) (Please book)

AUGUST

Saturday 6th 5.00pm Victorian Botanical Ramble (Please book): Celebrate the life of Anne Pratt, artist, illustrator and botanist who lived at 39, Castle Street from 1849 to 1866. Dover Tales for Up on the Downs Festival (01304 872785). 2.5 miles (2.5 hrs)

Thursday 25th to Wednesday 31st WHITE CLIFFS WALKING FESTIVAL: Dover, Deal, Sandwich, and surrounding countryside. For further information please visit www.whitecliffswalkingfestival.org.uk

Thursday 25th 11.00am History & Wildlife of the Western Heights WCCP: for the White Cliffs Walking Festival (01304 241806 or 07773 619121). 4 miles (4.5 hrs including lunch stop)

Sunday 28th 2.00pm History of St. Margaret's Bay: WCCP 5 miles (2-2.5 hrs)

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 4th 10.30am A Gentle Stroll along the White Cliffs of Dover: WCCP 5 miles (4.5 hrs incl lunch stop)

Saturday 10th 2.00pm Whinless Wander: A walk around High Meadow and Whinless. WCCP 2 miles (1.5 hrs)

Saturday 17th 2.00pm (please book) The Hoe Story: A gentle walk, illustrated talk and top notch cream tea £12 pp (please send to WCCP cheques payable to Dover District Council by 1st September). WCCP (01304 225649). 1 mile (2 hrs)

Sunday 25th 2.00pm The Smugglers of Houghham: WCCP 5 miles (3 hrs)

White Cliffs Countryside Partnership c/o Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ. Tel: 01304 241806

Sue Bradford Assistant Partnership Officer (volunteers and events)
Tel: 01304 872066 Email: mail@whitecliffscountryside.org.uk

More events on our website
www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk

Samphire Hoe (open 7 days a week) Off A20
Telephone / fax 01304 225649.
www.samphirehoe.com

Heritage Open Days in Dover

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September 2016

Western Heights North Entrance Road Tunnel Open For The First Time

Once again The Dover Society is coordinating arrangements in Dover for Heritage Open Days, organised by English Heritage nationally every year. This event celebrates England's fantastic architectural heritage by encouraging free access to buildings that are usually closed to the public or would normally charge an admission fee. Dover has a great wealth of historic buildings, but few are normally open to the public such as Dover Castle and are not free. This year 10 buildings will be open to the public free of charge.

1 Western Heights North Entrance Road Tunnel

Access to the North Entrance Road Tunnel on the Western Heights Dover will be possible for the first time to the public for many decades. Built in the 1860s, it provided vehicular and pedestrian access to the military defences from the town of Dover. It was closed around 1967 when a new road was cut through the ramparts and public access stopped a few years later.

Places are strictly limited on these guided tours that will allow you to explore the tunnel, see the huge tanks that fed water to the nearby barracks, view the drawbridge and descend into the gunrooms and casemates that housed guns to fire along the moats 150 years ago. The tours will be free as part of Heritage Open Days. Due to the terrain the tours are unsuitable for prams and wheelchairs, and for young children. Sturdy footwear should be worn. Limited parking will be available on nearly Drop Redoubt Road. Book from 1st August on



Western Heights North Entrance Tunnel 2016

Eventbrite or via website or Facebook:
<http://www.doverwesternheights.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WesternHeights>

Pre-booked guided tours only Saturday and Sunday 11am and 2pm

2 Grand Shaft Staircase

This unique triple staircase was started in 1804 and finished in 1807. It connected the barracks and fortifications on the Western Heights through the 250 foot high cliff to sea level, Snargate Street and the Pier District, enabling troops to move quickly up or down its 140 steps within the cliff plus another 59 into the barrack yard. In 1812 a Mr Leith of Walmer rode a horse up the staircase for a bet. The entrance is in Snargate Street. Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm

3 Dover Town Hall formerly the Maison Dieu

Founded by Hubert de Burgh, then Constable of Dover Castle, in 1203, the primary purpose of the Maison Dieu was to

provide free board and lodging for pilgrims on their way to the shrine of Thomas Becket at Canterbury and later to care for the elderly poor and sick of Dover. A chapel was added in 1227, which was adapted in the 19th century as a court. More buildings were added over the centuries. In 1536 the religious house was suppressed by Henry VIII, becoming the King's property. The buildings became a victualling depot for the navy until 1830 when it was taken over by the Board of Ordnance. Put up for auction in 1834 it was bought by the Dover Corporation. Restoration and adaptation of the impressive 13th century Stone Hall took place between 1852 and 1862. The 19th century stained glass windows in the Stone Hall depict episodes in the history of the town and there are a number of portraits of famous people connected with the town. The Council Chamber was added in 1868 and the adjoining Connaught Hall was opened in 1883.

Guided tours Sunday only 10am to 4pm

4 Maison Dieu House

This fine Jacobean house in Biggin Street is the oldest domestic building in Dover. It was built in 1665 as the Agent Victualler's residence close to the Maison Dieu, which Henry VIII had requisitioned as a store for the Navy Victualling Office following the Dissolution. In 1834 it became the residence of the commander of the Royal Engineers in Dover before becoming a private residence. The Kingsford brewing and milling family and the Mummery family who owned the Stembrook tannery lived here during the 19th century. Bought by the Corporation in 1899, the house became council offices until after the Second World War when it became the public library. Following the move of the library to the Discovery Centre, the premises were purchased and beautifully restored by Dover Town Council for its use. The town's regalia will also be on show.

Saturday 10am to 4pm

5 St. Edmund's Chapel

This tiny cemetery chapel in Priory Road was consecrated by St Richard of Chichester in 1253 in memory of his friend, St. Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury 1234-45, and was probably used as a cemetery chapel for the Maison Dieu close by. Hidden for many years by development around it and used as a workshop, it was revealed again following war damage to the surrounding buildings. The chapel was restored and reconsecrated in 1968.

Saturday 10am to 4pm

6 Dover College

The remains of St. Martin's Priory: built in the 12th century, it was suppressed in 1535 as part of Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries. The site was then leased for farming and most of the buildings fell into disrepair. Fortunately, the grand Norman refectory was used as a barn and survives today. Dover College opened on the site in 1871 when the refectory and gatehouse were restored and the king's hall became the college chapel. Part of the cloister also survives. The entrance is from Effingham Crescent.

Guided tours only Saturday and Sunday 11am and 2pm

7 Church of St. Mary the Virgin

This prominent building in Biggin Street, dating from Saxon times, was built originally by the secular canons of St. Martin Le Grand, but was rebuilt by the Normans. At the Dissolution it was saved from demolition when Henry VIII granted it for use as a parish and civic church. Unfortunately, because of its weak foundations, it was rebuilt in 1843, although its original arches and columns were reinstated. The magnificent tower survived this restoration.

Saturday 10am to 4pm

8 Bell Tower of St. Mary the Virgin

In the gallery of this Norman tower visitors

will see how the bell ringers operate and in the clock chamber they will see the clock workings and various artefacts.

Saturday 1.30pm to 4pm

9 Unitarian Church

This brick-built octagonal church sitting above York Street was constructed in 1820 and its worship area reflects the shape of the building. The origins of the church go back to 1643 to a local community of Baptists who established a meeting house in 1655, but were persecuted following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. In 1692 Samuel Taverner made part of his house available for worship and part of the garden as a burial ground. Freedom of belief and form of worship as a Unitarian Church was agreed by members in 1916. Following Second World War damage, the chapel reopened in 1952. There will be an art exhibition as well as refreshments.

Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm

10 St. Radegund's Abbey

This premonstratensian abbey founded in

1191 was visited by several monarchs. Following its Dissolution in 1538, the great abbey church was demolished and the remaining buildings with its lands were leased to tenant farmers by the monarch. Today the refectory is the farmhouse surrounded by abbey ruins. A gatehouse and a guest house survive.

Guided tours on Sunday only 10.30 to noon and 2.30pm to 4pm

Publicity leaflets

Publicity leaflets are available from the Visitor Information Centre (now located in Dover Museum), Dover Town Council Offices (Maison Dieu House), Dover Town Hall and Dover Library.

To find out about other buildings open in the region call: 020 7539 7921 or visit

www.heritageopendays.org

Local contact for more information:

Derek Leach on 01304 823926 or email derekriverdale@btinternet.com

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - SUMMER 2016

Sheila Cope

Grateful thanks as always to those members who pay their subscriptions by standing order or who pay in March or April. At time of writing I am pursuing late payers and am well aware that illness and other life events may prevent prompt payments. Because most members now provide email address and/or telephone number, the task of issuing reminders is much less onerous than it used to be in the days when letters were the only alternative to telephone messages.

Nevertheless, we still do not have an email address for some members who have email, especially if they joined some time ago. Email is useful, not only for subscription

reminders but also for informing members of imminent events. For the recent extra meeting at the Town Hall on May 16th we informed those with CT postmarks only, but thanks to email we needed to send out a limited number of letters, thus saving trouble and expense. So please inform us via our own addresses inside the front cover of the Newsletter if you think we may not have your email address.

At this time of year it is not possible to give a specific number for membership as it unfortunately dwindles due to non-renewals but we have recently welcomed:- Mr A & Mrs J Rawlins, Mrs R Emms, Miss D Everett, Mrs A & Mr M Edwards and Mrs A Klidzia.

COWGATE CEMETERY

Jeremy Cope

May is that time when we await the summer growth before we mow again July/ August. With the cemetery mown to time over winter the primroses have been a real picture and one of the dog walkers remarked that we had the best show of spring flowers that she could remember. Let us hope that we may see some more orchids again this year. We did little work in May apart from tidying up.

We continue to receive support from our anonymous donor for which we are very grateful. Because of the good offices of Michael Jukes we have also been donated a strimmer by Clamason Industries Ltd

again something which will be most useful in our work.

We welcome volunteers and if you are interested please telephone me on 01304 211348. We work mornings 9.00am until noon and the time table is, subject to the weather, as follows:-

Month	Thursday	Saturday
July	7th	9th
August	4th	13th
September	8th	17th
October	6th	22nd
November	3rd	10th
December	1st	10th

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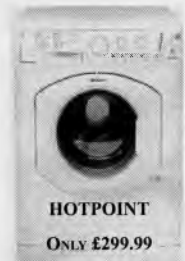
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Dover Society Newsletter Binders

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Contact the editor at:

**8 Cherry Tree Avenue
Dover, CT16 2NL**

Tel: 01304 213668

Email: Alan.Lee1947@ntlworld.com

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New Renewal Joint

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

2nd Name if joint membership

Address

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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.*

2016

Saturday

Sept 24

N.T.

Members

£30.00

Non N.T.

£44.00

Waddesdon Manor

Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild bought Waddesdon Estate, originally nothing but farmland, in 1874. He wanted a country retreat built in the style of a Loire châteaux and soon engaged the French architect Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur. The foundation stone was laid in 1877. The completion of the Bachelors' Wing in 1880 and the main part of the house in 1883. Ferdinand's sister, Alice, inherited Waddesdon on his death, when she died, the estate passed to her Parisian great-nephew James de Rothschild and his English wife, Dorothy. After WWII James began to consider Waddesdon's fate after his death. Having no descendants, and with the end of the era of grand country house entertaining, he decided to leave the Manor, its collections of national importance and 165 acres of garden and park to The National Trust. This trip will include the opportunity to sample two Rothschild wines.

**Pick-up times: The Railway Bell 07.00; Hollis Motors 07.05;
Frith Road 07.10; Maison Dieu (Brook House) Car Park 07.15**

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 by Tuesday 6th September. Tel: 01304 228129

October 17

Monday 7.30

**Speakers: Lucy Hutchings "Managing Dover Castle"
Lynda Pearce "Dover Pageants"**

November 21

Monday 7.30

**Speakers: Brian Flood "Dover's Great War Airfields"
Christine Waterman "St. Margaret's Oral History Project"**

December 11th

Sunday

12.30 for 1pm

£24.00

Christmas Lunch/Feast

Our luncheon is on Sunday this year and will take place in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu. As usual, there will be a three course meal with coffee and mints. A welcome drink is included. Other drinks may be purchased at the bar. There will be musical entertainment and our end of year raffle. Please make sure you complete the booking form with your choice of menu. More details in the next newsletter.

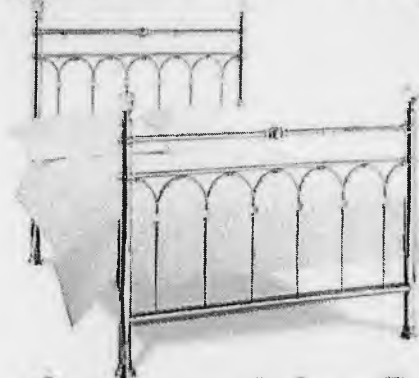
**To book: Complete the enclosed form and return with your payment
to: Beverley Hall, 61 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 01304 202646**

*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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