



Newsletter

No. 89

July 2017



Market Square and Cannon Street



THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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

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Contents

2	Editorial	Alan Lee
	MARCH MEETING	
4	Port of Dover – Delivering for Britain and Dover - a talk by Tim Waggott	Alan Lee
5	Court Halls and Market Crosses - a talk by Jon Iveson	Terry Sutton
	APRIL MEETING - AGM	
6	Chairman's Report	Derek Leach
9	Membership News	Sheila Cope
10	Financial Report	Mike Weston
12	The Royal Marines Heritage Trails – Deal and Walmer - a talk by Bill Butler	Alan Lee
15	Cowgate Cemetery	Jeremy Cope
15	River Dour Partnership	Jeremy Cope
16	Planning Committee	Patrick Sherratt
18	Succession of Town Clerks (1) Edward Knocker F.S.A.	Martyn Webster
24	Honfleur Outing	Shelia Cope, Derek Leach, Jeremy Cope, Marguarita Waite and Maureen Morris
30	Dover Dérive	Christopher Burke
31	Around and About	Sydney S (Glyn) Hale
33	Book Review Dover in the Great War by Stephen Wynn	Alan Lee
34	Widening of Biggin and Cannon Street	Terry Sutton
36	Tantalizing Patchwork Thoughts Provoked by Memories of Leyburne Road – Part 1	Clyde Binfield
41	Heritage Open Days 2017 in Dover – Free!	Derek Leach
44	Application Form for Membership	

The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

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

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

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

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

Editorial

Our chairman Derek Leach laid a wreath, on behalf of the Dover Society members, at the annual Zeebrugge Day commemoration service. The weather, once again, was very kind to those who attended. An early reminder. Next year is the centenary of the raid so please try to attend and make it a memorial occasion. This and the ceremony at Dover Town Hall will also form part of the opening of the Royal Marines Heritage Trails - Deal and Walmer.

On the 15th July will be the Whitfield Village Fayre, on 29th July is the Alkham Summer Fete and on 27th August is the Dover Regatta. There are many more of these events that will be taking place over the summer both in town and in the surrounding villages. They are well worth visiting and make a good day out. Keep a watch on the local press for details.

An important reminder for all our readers is that the old £5 notes are now not legal tender but you should still be able to change them at a bank. Do not forget that the old £1 coins will be withdrawn on Friday 15th September so this is the last day that they can be used. The Bank of England will always take old bank notes but not coins as they are issued by the Royal Mint.

If anybody has any ideas for future summer outings then please could you contact either the Summer Social Secretary Patricia Hooper-Sherratt or the Editor Alan Lee? Contact details can be found inside the front cover.

Our first indoor meeting will take place on Monday 16th October. If you have not attended the pre-meeting meal and would like to be notified of the details please send your contact details to the editor.

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 90 will be Wednesday 13th September 2017. 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 to be submitted in JPEG and not imbedded in the text of the article and must be in as high resolution as possible. 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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* * * * *

DOVER GREETERS

Dover Greeters are volunteers greeting visitors to Dover. We love doing it and invite you to come and try it once!

Tel: 01304 206458

MARCH MEETING

————— First Speaker —————

Port of Dover – Delivering for Britain and Dover **A presentation by Tim Waggott, Chief Executive Port of Dover**

Reported by Alan Lee

Along with Tim Waggott in attendance, to help answer questions, were Jack Goodhew, General Manager Special Projects and Richard Christian, Head of Communications at the Port of Dover.

Tim commenced with a broad outline of the Dover Western Docks Revival and the reasons for initiating the scheme. Then he gave some key statistics for the port. It handles £119bn of trade - 17% of the UK's trade in goods. Has on average 60 ferry sailings and transports up to 10,000 trucks per day. Five million vehicles a year use the port which handles the equivalent of 4 million containers of freight per year. This is more than Felixstowe - the UK's biggest container port? All these use Kent's strategic road network.

Freight increased by 30% between 2013 and 2015. 2014 and 2015 were record years then the uncertain future of post-Brexit trade, 2016 set another record. Together the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel handles £220bn of trade, 30% of the UK's trade in goods, over 4 million freight vehicles. Over 16,000 freight vehicles per day travel on Kent's roads. Dover is the 5th busiest terminal for passengers in the country and the 3rd for all passenger and freight movements behind only Heathrow and Gatwick.

By 2020 predictions are of a 40% growth in traffic with over 20,000 freight vehicles daily moving through Kent. The traffic must be kept moving, with the M2/A2 upgraded and a large investment put in infrastructure.

This will be essential to maximise the benefits of trading with Europe and to minimise the negative impacts of being a gateway county. This will ensure the prosperity of Dover and the nation as a whole. Government must remove all existing bottlenecks, the Dartford Crossing is partially or fully closed over 300 times a year and Kent always has major congestion issues with half of the nation's traffic heading to/from Dover getting stuck.

Tim is very concerned about the damage to trade that could be caused by Brexit and would like to maintain a frictionless border, have a long term IT solution and easy transitional arrangements. If we can solve Dover then other parts will be ok.

Tim expressed his annoyance at some of the obscene postings on line about the dredging of the Goodwin Sands also at some of the misinformation. He then said that 99.7% of the sands will be untouched and they have been dredged on numerous occasions since WWII. The aggregate will be from a very carefully selected site and collecting it there will have the least environmental impact. If collecting aggregate from the Goodwin Sands is not allowed it will cost £millions more, cost time, delay delivery of the Dover's regeneration and may mean an unfinished waterfront.

To end Tim stated "All of this opposition is driven by a group who live in Deal and have no interest in Dover. Our community must not be let down; please support us!"

MARCH MEETING

————— Second Speaker —————

Court Halls and Market Crosses

A talk by Jon Iveson

Reported by Terry Sutton

Following the 400th anniversary in 2016 of the death of William Shakespeare there was a growing interest in the life and career of the poet and playwright. One of many questions was did Shakespeare visit Dover and if he did where did he perform?

It was a question asked of historian Jon Iveson, Dover District Council's museums' curator who is also the council's senior officer responsible for tourism. Jon had to admit he did not know but to try to solve the conundrum he began a detailed research.

At the end of it, as he told our members at our March public meeting, he still cannot give a definite answer backed up with proof. But his research proved very interesting as described in Jon's illustrated talk entitled Court Halls and Market Crosses.

Jon believes if Shakespeare performed at all in Dover it would have been at, or possibly at the foot of, the town's Guildhall or Court Hall. Shakespeare had a managing role in a group of theatrical players who were first called The Lord Chamberlain's Men and later, following the crowning in 1603 of James I, they were renamed The King's Men. Research shows they performed in Dover at least three times between 1597 and 1610. Was Shakespeare with them and did he take part in their shows? Jon is not sure. But it is possible.

Jon's next line of research was to locate the town's Court Hall and this he did with the use of a series of ancient maps dating back to 1541 which Jon displayed on a screen. These maps

indicated the Court Hall was somewhere in Bench Street, probably near the present corner with Queen Street. It was here, says Jon, where the first performances took place, probably sponsored by the Corporation.

In 1605 Dover Corporation decided to replace the old Court Hall in Bench Street with a new one bang in the middle of the Market Square. Contemporary artists' impressions show the new hall was built with arches underneath and steps leading up to the room above. It seems probable that at one stage, for a short period, there were two Court Halls in the town.

By 1737 additions had been made to the Market Square Guildhall to make it L shaped and another artist's work in 1850 showed it was still there with a market in progress in the arches underneath.

But in 1861 an advertisement appeared in the Dover Express offering for sale parts of the Guildhall that had by that time been demolished.

"So", said Jon to the meeting, "After all that research we still do not really know the answers to the questions posed."



The Court Hall 1822 with the market underneath by John Eastes Youden Courtesy of Dover Museum

APRIL AGM MEETING

The Dover Society AGM 2017

Report by the Chairman Derek Leach

This is my 13th annual report some of you have had to listen to and still you come back for more!

Membership

Our membership has dropped from 480 to 463 which is disappointing. Please encourage encouraging relatives, friends and work colleagues to join. It's good for Dover and excellent value for you with no increase in subscription since 1996? Our thanks as always go to our membership secretary, Sheila Cope.

Also, we do desperately need some new faces and fresh blood on our committees. Hopefully, this will be partially remedied this evening. May I invite you to stand whilst we remember all those members who have died in the past year: Mr Peter Franklin, Mr John Marsh, Mrs Rita Donnelly, Mr Bryan Cope, Mr Bill Naylor, Mr John Mavin, Mr Alan May, Mrs Dorothy Hall, Mrs Angela Gibbins, Dr Walter Mason, Mr Jim Williams, Mr Richard Liggett, Mr Hugh Gordon, Mrs Audrey Thorn.

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. We are heavily involved in various project groups and forums such as the: Port and Community Forum, Town Centre Development Group, Town Hall Project

Steering Group, Coastal Communities Fund Team and White Cliffs Country Tourism Association.

Despite all the cynicism that exists in Dover, albeit justified based on past experience, I am pleased to say that at long last things are looking up on a number of fronts - regeneration and development, tourism promotion, cultural and entertainment activities. Some provided by business but others by enthusiastic volunteers.

Planning and development

The Planning Committee, chaired by Patrick Sherratt, 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.

A notable success for The Society was in Castle Street where there have been a number of applications to change use from commercial to residential. We objected strongly to so many one bed flats in this conservation area which we considered would be detrimental to this attractive street.

The DTIZ or St James' area scheme has made rapid progress recently, but we are concerned about the impact the scheme will have on the High Street shops.

We are having talks with a Trustee of the newly-created Love Dover Trust which

aims to purchase town centre shop premises to improve them including conversion of upper floors to accommodation thus making them financially viable whilst upgrading the High Street area. A trustee will be addressing our October meeting.

The Western Heights/Farthingloe scheme is bogged down in a legal battle.

We still await a solution to the problems Dover suffers when ferry and tunnel operations are disrupted with Operation Stack in use. The government has made money available for a lorry park on the M20 for emergency and possibly general use and The Society has expressed its views on the options. We also await installation of the much delayed variable speed limit on the A20 rather than the frustrating fixed 40mph from the Roundhill Tunnel – now promised for June.

In our submissions on the proposed third Lower Thames Crossing we have once again urged the upgrading of the M2/A2 to reduce the traffic along Townwall Street.

We have lobbied long and hard for the multi-storey car park to serve Dover Priory only to find that it will now be ground level only and smaller. We have also commented on an updated Dover Transport Model to improve transport into and out of and within the town.

The new Buckland Hospital opened without any beds, but we continue to press for local intermediate beds despite the sale of adjacent spare land on the adjacent land. We are not convinced that local care homes are suitable without specialist staff and facilities for all ages.

We are also commenting on a series of planning applications which are part of the Whitfield Urban Extension with its many

new homes and facilities including a cemetery.

We continue to press the Port for quality buildings as part of the ambitious Western Docks Revival plans. Work has started on the navigation cut from the Wellington Dock into the harbour as well as on the Marina Curve and the new East Pier.

DDC has carried out an appraisal of the Waterloo Crescent Conservation Area and has recommended the extension of its boundary to include Granville Gardens and the Gateway Flats seafront gardens. We have welcomed this and also urged the inclusion of the De Bradelei Wharf buildings, although such an extension will not necessarily prevent future development.

We are also involved in considering a draft Waterfront Masterplan which aims to improve connectivity between the new waterfront created by the Western Docks redevelopment and the town centre and railway station. A decision is expected soon on the multimillion pound grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of the Town Hall to give it a sustainable future. The Society has pledged £10,000 from its Town Hall Fund as part of the local funding.

Several projects are being prepared for funding from the Coastal Communities Fund including one to refurbish and improve access to the Roman Painted House. A Dover Town Team project rejected by the Fund was for the Market Square area to provide an attractive link between the St James development and the town centre shops.

DDC's plans for a new Leisure Centre have caused concern. Whilst we strongly urged the council to build on a town centre

site for local ease of access, this has not proven possible and Doverians will have to go to Whitfield instead.

We strongly supported the Big Local initiative to improve tourism in the town by appointing a dedicated Dover tourism officer to coordinate all the local efforts to promote tourism. The Destination Dover Officer is now working with funding, both local and national, guaranteed for 5 years. Now the wild card in the pack! With local authorities facing no government grants at all by 2020 (40% of income lost and council tax capped) both county and district councils are considering how to survive and whether reorganisation is the answer. The 4 East Kent district councils of Dover, Shepway, Thanet and Canterbury have been considering merging into a single council and consultants have produced a business case. The Society has considered the business case and submitted its serious concerns to DDC. Of particular concern is the democratic deficit – such a council would be even more remote from residents with far fewer councillors and senior staff. Dover District in particular could face a 20% increase in council tax and any consequent devolution of some services to town and parish councils would need careful consideration in terms of resources and funding. Whilst DDC favours the plan, Shepway has decided against. We await any further developments.

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 lobbying for improvements to our town scene – litter, lighting etc. as well as the litter on the main roads into the town. We continue our regular meetings with the Dover police inspector. We also raised concerns about the decaying fabric of Old

St. James Church.

Society projects

On the heritage front the success of Heritage Open Days in Dover, organised by the Society, continued with once again 9 properties open free of charge for the September weekend. Our gallant band of volunteers continued with guided tours of the Town Hall every Wednesday plus several specially arranged group tours. Why not become a guide or at least act as a receptionist whilst our guides are busy. Have a word with Denise, Liz or me.

Our enthusiastic volunteers continued to maintain the whole of Cowgate Cemetery with their fortnightly work parties. More people would be welcome for light exercise, fresh air and convivial company.

Our collection of blue plaques throughout the town continues to grow with the addition of arctic explorer and botanist Dr. Koettlitz. The next will be Thomas Gould VC, a Second World War submariner.

The River Dour Group, part of The Society, is obtaining funds for eel and fish passes, volunteer river wardens and for publicising the river walk. The Bluebird Heritage Trail project, led by The Society, completed its very hectic 8 month delivery phase with a successful launch on 27 August. Since then the project has been evaluated and we were congratulated on achieving our objectives on time and within the £64k budget. Now we need to ensure that the trail is promoted both locally and via the Bluebird website to keep up interest. It forms part of the Destination Dover initiative and promoted as part of Dover's Walkers are Welcome.

More of the same

Now as usual I must mention the bread and butter 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 and Wine and Wisdom evening were again well supported and very enjoyable, as were our summer outings organised so well by Pat and Patrick Sherratt. Unfortunately, Pat and Patrick are having a hard time at the moment with Patrick's ill health. Thanks also to Alan Sencicle who arranges our pre-meeting meals for guest speakers as we don't offer fees for the honour of talking to The Society!

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 are also on Facebook and Twitter. Terry Sutton's regular press reports also help to keep The Society in the public eye when the local papers choose to publish them.

Thanks

Two more backroom people we take for granted: that essential backroom boy, our efficient treasurer, Mike Weston, and Yvonne Miller, who has the thankless task of taking the Executive minutes and every other member of the Executive for their efforts.

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.

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.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Sheila Cope

This year subscriptions have come in more slowly than usual and at time of writing there are still many outstanding. As ever my thanks go to those who pay promptly or by standing order so that reminders are kept to a minimum.

Inevitably we lose a percentage of members each year and it feels like running uphill to maintain the total which is 467 at present. Word of mouth is

always the best recommendation, so please do all in your power to attract new members. After all, we are fantastic value for money.

Welcome and recent new members include:- Mr J & Mrs S Yarrow, Mrs C Pierce, Mrs J Marks, Mrs J Simmons, Mrs J & Mr N Gould, Mrs Barbara Hall, Miss C Dendiro, Mrs J Easton.

The Dover Society - Financial Report

An extract from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st. March 2017

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.freemove.co.uk].

CURRENT ASSETS	2017	2016
Newsletter Binders	233	243
Debtors and Prepayment	311	310
Shares gifted to Society	3,080	3,080
Cash at bank and in Hand	<u>57,400</u>	<u>63,195</u>
	61,024	66,828
CREDITORS: Amounts falling		
Due within one year	(1,358)	(1,436)
Money held on behalf of "Bluebird Trail"	(777)	(24,265)
Advanced bookings for 2016/17 outings	<u>(000)</u>	<u>(405)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>58,889</u>	<u>40,722</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>£58,889</u>	£40,722
FUNDS	<u>£58,889</u>	<u>£40,722</u>

The Society's Funds are represented by:	2017	2016
The General Fund	26,207	24,896
Rolls Memorial Fund	50	50
Projects Fund	149	314
Publication Fund	3,998	4,033
Town Hall Fund	10,636	9,703
River Dour Partnership	17,849	1,726
	<u>£58,889</u>	<u>£40,722</u>

Statement of Financial Activities for the year Ended 31st. March 2017

	General Fund 2017	General Fund 2016
INCOME		
Subscriptions	2,539	2,606
Donations	414	159
Social Events	341	155
Gift Aid attracted by Subs etc to General Fund	574	561
Bank Account Interest	39	65
Surplus on Badges	10	4
TOTAL INCOME	<u>3,917</u>	<u>3,550</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Members and Meeting expenses	55	60
Administrative Expenses	960	844
Newsletter Expenses	1,521	1,473
Other Items [including donations]	70	141
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>2,606</u>	<u>2,518</u>
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES	1,312	1,032
Total Funds Brought Forward	24,896	<u>23,864</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>£26.208</u>	<u>£24.896</u>

APRIL MEETING

The Royal Marines Heritage Trails - Deal and Walmer

A talk by Bill Butler - Reported by Alan Lee

Bill opened his presentation by stating that his family background in the military had led him away from the forces with all of the drill and discipline. He left school in the mid 60's with varied career opportunities: Royal Marines Band service, trainee reporter, police cadet etc. Eventually he settled on teaching and since moving to SE Kent has mainly worked for KCC Education and Youth Services. He has also developed an interest in sound techniques and supporting local drama and school productions.

Bill is the founding trustee member of a new charity in Deal "The Royal Marines Heritage Trails - Deal and Walmer". This has led to a tremendous amount of extra, but enjoyable, work.

The trails are well on the way to being delivered. Bill said that alternative name could have been "Silius Titus - Green Berets and all that Jazz"

Silius Titus - In February 1665 he was "Groom of the Bedchamber" to Charles II and Keeper of Deal Castle. This was when the Yellow Company of the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment moved to Deal. Just four months after they were founded, on 28th October 1664. They were the first official unit of the English Naval Infantry and would soon become known as the Admiral's

Regiment, later they would become the Royal Marines. Silius Titus was also the Captain of a Company in the Admiral's Regiment (1666). They were raised to counter the threat from the Dutch. The Yellow Company were moved to Deal as there was a huge Royal Naval Yard there and there were issues with the local fishermen and the many smugglers.

The Green Berets - Official headdress of the British Commandos of the Second World War. It is still worn by members of the Royal Marines after passing the Commando Course.

And All That Jazz - Quite simply "the finest band service in the world". The Royal Marine Depot Band arrived in 1891, The Royal Navy School of Music in 1930 followed by the Royal Marines School of Music in 1950.



*Soldier of Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot 1664
Tunic was mainly Yellow
Artist Charles Stadden*

There has been 352 years of shared heritage with "the Corps" and their forebear regiments. Some 554,554 recruits have passed through the training depot at Deal along with thousands of young people who have trained as Royal Marine Musicians.

Before the arrival of the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment the Deal Navy Yard looked after vessels at anchorage off the Downs

between Deal and the Goodwin Sands. The 15th Light Dragoons, the Royal Artillery, cavalry and infantry regiments occupied various barracks. Deal was home to the "Blockade Men" the forerunners of the Coastguard Service.

In 1809 lightning struck the Royal Naval Hospital causing severe damage. This site would become The East Barracks. In 1812 the New Naval Hospital, with a clock tower, was built. This later became the Royal Marines School of Music. In 1861 the "Deal Royal Marines School of Music" was formed and in 1869 and occupied the existing barracks in Deal. 1871 the Royal Marines Physical Training School introduced with two gymnasiums. The Old Gymnasium is on the trail. 1892 a sea water swimming pool was built. Following the sinking of HMS Victoria, in 1893 with the loss of 180 lives, all Royal Marines had to be able to swim.

At the onset of WWI the Royal Naval Division was encamped locally. Christmas 1914 Rupert Brooke, naval officer and war poet, visited Walmer Castle. He was to die on route to Gallipoli on 23rd April 1915 after contracting pneumonia from an infected mosquito bite.

The RM Light Infantry and RM Artillery formed the 4th Battalion for the Zeebrugge Raid on St Georges Day, 23rd April 1918. King George V visited the depot and inaugurated the "Kings Squad", the top squad, and the "Kings Badge-Man", the top recruit in the top squad.

Eight Victoria Crosses were won during the "Raid". So many men, both sailors and marines so distinguished themselves in battle that a ballot was used to make the awards for bravery. For the 4th Battalion Royal Marines 32 men were entered into the ballot

for the Victoria Cross. The rules were not strictly adhered to as the ballot contained both Officers and Men, thus contravening Rule 13. The ballot, by voting slips, was held on the 26th April on the parade ground at the Royal Marine Depot, Deal. The VCs being awarded to Sergeant Norman Finch with 91 votes and Captain Edward Bamford with 34 votes [then changed to 64]. The reasons for the alterations are not explained. All Royal Marine VC holders are remembered by streets being named after them at the Old Infirmary Barracks and at South Barracks.

There have been a number of Royal and high powered visits over the years including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and HRH, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Local volunteer trail guides will be recruited to promote the trails and to give guided tours. A curriculum project is being developed to include primary schools in Deal, Temple Ewell and St Margaret's with secondary schools throughout Dover District also being included.

The Royal Marine Heritage Trails – Deal and Walmer will be launched on 23rd April 2018 in both Deal and Dover in conjunction with the 100th Zeebrugge Day commemoration. The memorial to the fallen and the Zeebrugge Bell will be included in the trail.



Royal Marines Band - Strand Palais Dance Hall, Walmer, Kent

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COWGATE CEMETERY

Jeremy Cope

We continue our work at Cowgate. It has been a good winter and spring for our maintenance work and I feel pleased with progress. One matter of interest, I received an enquiry as to the grave of a Colonel Logan buried in 1844. I made enquiries but with no real progress. Martyn Webster, the member who through his tour of Cowgate around the year 2000 got us into our maintenance work and care of the cemetery, then came to the rescue with

considerable information about the Colonel. Martyn even identified the tomb but unfortunately the inscription was largely illegible. Well done Martyn and thanks.

Volunteers are always welcome – my contact details on the inside cover of the newsletter. Working sessions (9.00am to noon) are first Thursday and second Saturday in every month subject to weather.

River Dour Partnership

Jeremy Cope

A short report for this issue of the Newsletter. We are in one of those times when our projects and plans, in part outlined in the March issue, are at a stage where the hard work is going on but we have yet to see results.

Dover Tales. This is getting underway with a performance already having taken place at Kearsney Abbey with the next event run by White Cliffs Countryside Partnership and scheduled for Sunday 30 July 1.30pm details as follows:- Walk the river Dour, a chalk stream, from Kearsney to Dover. Hear enchanting river tales that will end in a final performance in Dover Town performed by Dover Tales. Please bring money for bus/train fare to make your own way back to Kearsney, or get a bus/train/lift to the start of the walk. Donation appreciated.

Leader: Ray Newsam, River Dour Partnership for Up on the Downs/White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 241806).

Meet: Outside Kearsney Abbey café, Alkham Valley Road, Kearsney, Dover CT16 3DZ. **Distance:** 3.5 miles (2 hours). **Grade:** 2. Good on leads.

River Volunteers. A reminder that volunteers are always welcome to join the working parties. The Volunteers do invaluable work clearing litter from and caring for the river. Run by White Cliffs Countryside Partnership contact is Sue Bradford on 01304 241806. Do you know any non-members who may also be interested?

Buckland Mill site and riverside walk. There was a presentation at St Mary's Parish Centre this month setting out their ideas for phase 2 of the development - houses and flats. You will be interested to hear that they are still committing to the riverside walk through the Mill site and that it will be open to the public. However I think it is a little way off but positive news.

More need for volunteers. In the last issue I wrote of matters we are pursuing. Barton Path railings restoration, Lorne Road Mill Pond, fish passes, River Dour Trail were the main items. If you would like to help with this work or be involved with the work to improve the Dour do please speak to me (contact details on the front inside cover). You have to be prepared to put pen to paper!

Planning Committee

Patrick Sherratt

Having been unwell for most of this year I am grateful for the support of the Committee to ensure the Dover Society continues to maintain its strength of comments in respect of local planning issues. I am particularly thankful for the work taken on by our Society Chair, Derek Leach, as well as Beverley Hall and Mike Weston who have kindly compiled the following report. The Planning Committee recently welcomed two new members to assist us in our scrutiny of major regeneration projects and the on-going review of local planning applications. Since my last report, the key focus has been on:

Dover Western Docks Revival (DWDR).

Construction of the marine structures is underway and a second round of stakeholder presentations was held in May to update us on the build programme, changes to the local environment and the impacts of construction.

However, at the time of writing, uncertainty remains on the overall cost and timing for delivering the project due to the slow and difficult progress of the application by DHB for a dredging licence to use the Goodwin Sands. The Society has submitted a letter in support of the DHB proposals. We received a response that indicated the delays are far from over as more information has been requested from DHB and a further consultation is proposed prior to any decision.

Waterfront Masterplan

DDC appointed consultants to produce a masterplan for Dover Waterfront in October 2016. It is expected that the draft masterplan, covering the new marina,

waterfront area/Wellington Dock and the town centre gateway (Bench St) will be out for consultation in summer 2017, with adoption scheduled for autumn 2017.

In April, The Dover Society was invited to a consultation on an early draft of the Masterplan with several other stakeholder organisations. We submitted comments welcoming the overall vision for Dover and the scope of the improvements identified. We also highlighted a number of key priorities for us such as the protection of Historic Dover; the need for quality in design, build and landscaping; and the recommendation that DDC take this opportunity to strengthen existing planning policies to help halt and reverse the current socio economic decline of Dover. Another component of the Masterplan work aims to improve connectivity between the new waterfront created by the Western Docks redevelopment and the town centre and railway station. The draft plans so far contain a pleasing recognition of the importance of landscaping, good signage and providing the best local environment for our many historical buildings.

Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs)

Both last year and in recent months, we have submitted comments on a plethora of planning applications which would significantly increase the number of HMOs in Dover. There is now much evidence from across the country that, without proper controls, HMOs do not improve the amenity or socio economic profile of an area. Indeed, many HMOs have created a range of local problems relating to: traffic and parking issues, anti-social behaviour,

poor or no management of refuse storage/ collection, and overall deterioration in the buildings, gardens and local built environment.

As more HMOs are added to a small area, the worse things can get. We have therefore raised concerns with DDC regarding recent applications for HMOs in Taswell St, Maison Dieu Road and Park Avenue. We have also recommended that the Council considers the full ramifications of the escalating proliferation of HMOs. A fully thought out strategy which gives proper consideration to the issues and how they should be addressed by those seeking planning approval would be a better approach than a piecemeal review of each application. In the past I have suggested DDC should maintain a record of properties that have anti-social activity or do not comply with DDC rubbish collection and other requirements. If the property has a poor record then the licence should not be renewed.

Dover Leisure Centre

Following their speedy decision to locate the new centre at Whitfield, this development has continued at a rapid pace. In March, DDC agreed a deal to acquire 2.1 hectares of land at Honeywood Parkway in Whitfield and almost simultaneously submitted an application for full planning permission. The DDC Planning Committee will consider the application soon so you may well already know the outcome as you read this newsletter. Not content to rest there, March also saw DDC prepare and issue an invitation to tender for an operator of its proposed new £26m Leisure Centre.

BAM Construction was awarded a contract in January 2017 in respect to the groundworks and are working with the DDC team on the pre-construction phase.

The tendering process for the actual build is expected to be complete by July 2017 with construction due to start in October 2017. Construction is expected to take around 59 weeks with a planned opening early in 2019. If only the developments that actually improve our town could receive this level of focus and resource. Our concern that Dover will now have no leisure facility remains unanswered and we shall continue to press for a facility similar to those provided at Deal (population circa 20k) for the 30,000 residents of Dover.

DTIZ (St James Development)

The DTIZ or St James' area scheme has made rapid progress recently, with the main buildings rising at a reasonable rate. DDC announced that RG Group were being appointed for the construction work following the withdrawal of Keir Construction. However, we remain concerned about the impact the scheme will have on the High Street shops and whether the quality structures we were promised will actually materialise: the fake flint Townwall Street wall segments already in place do not inspire confidence. The latest completion date is now quoted as early 2018.

Section 215 of Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Work continues to ensure properties in close proximity of the DTIZ area are properly maintained to a high standard.

Dover District Local Plan

DDC is in the process of producing a new Local Plan covering the period up to 2037 which will set out the key policies for the district. Currently evidence gathering, DDC expect to begin the first round of public consultation in June/July this year with adoption of the Plan scheduled for 2019.

A Succession of Town Clerks

(1) Edward Knocker F.S.A. (1804-1884)

————— Martyn Webster —————

The office of municipal Town Clerk is a very old one in our country, no less so than for Dover's Corporation where according to John Bavington Jones' "Annals of Dover" (pub.1916) an unbroken list of names stretches back as far as 1499, although it probably extended much further back than that. Their role was basically to enact the corporation's agreed business as well as enforcing local Acts of Parliament, charters, trusts, decrees, orders and dictats etc.

Dover is undoubtedly unique in our realm in this regard. Most of its Town Clerks were originally local men whose lives over the years were interwoven and interrelated with other main families, trades and offices of the town, in particular between the years 1860-1935 when a father, son and grandson of the Knocker family held the office of Town Clerk successively. No other town in England could surely claim such fame. After them came just three more Town Clerks, for the first time none of them local to Dover, in office until the demise of Dover Corporation in 1974. Remarkably, all Dover's Town Clerks, whether local, or latterly not, were men of distinctly singular accomplishments in terms of strength of imposing character, personality, qualifications and competence and who each made an indelible and lasting mark upon the affairs of Dover as well as for the Cinque Ports for which they also held offices.

This succession and period of office of Dover's hereditary Town Clerks from 1860 to 1935 is as follows:

(1860-1868) Edward Knocker



*Edward Knocker FSA (1804-1884)
circa 1870-1 about 66yrs*

(1868-1907) Sir Edward Wollaston Knocker (Baronet)

(1907-1935) Reginald Edward Knocker

The family background to this three generational dynasty has already been recounted in my first two essays. This essay will concentrate on the start of the corporation dynasty itself. Much is already available in print about them largely thanks to very detailed contemporary accounts appearing in the Dover Express and excellent modern day features on them in the Dover Historian. The extensive family history work undertaken by my original sources, co-lateral descendants William Robert Knocker and

Paula Irwin stops short with William Knocker (1761-1847) so it is my pleasure to take up the family story where they left off. Between them, they are certainly an act to follow and something of a challenge to paraphrase from the super abundance of information already available, although not, I would suggest now widely known. Without therefore compromising the whole picture I will try to highlight, where possible, some of the lesser known facts about these three municipal Knocker titans.

First Town Clerk in the succession was Edward Knocker the eleventh child and eighth son of William and Ann West, nee King. He was born, probably at the family house on the Esplanade, on 10th September 1804 and baptised at St Mary's on 8th November 1804. His father was 43 years old at the time and his mother 37 – they would go on to produce two more children totalling thirteen altogether of whom ten survived into adulthood. Edward came into the world at a very fraught time for Dover when Napoleon's Grande Armee was massing for the invasion of England in tented encampments at Boulogne, 27 miles across the channel and visible to the naked eye on clear days. His father William was preoccupied through this period with his captaincy of Archcliff Fort as well as his solicitor's work and duties as a member of local government already once as mayor. Edward would thus have spent his formative years under the threat of old Boney, his father much energized by the circumstances of the time and brought up in a large family where most of his brothers went on to join the navy and/or go abroad. All his surviving sisters remained unmarried at home. It is not known where Edward was educated and trained so it can only be speculated that he apprenticed with his father and brother's

law firm W & T Knocker. Edward would have been in his late teens when the whole family took up residence at their Bushy Ruff mansion at Temple Ewell. When Edward was 26 years of age in 1830 his mother died aged 63, only for his then elderly father to soon take off and remarry, no doubt to astonishment all round, a young local girl and produce yet a further baby brother at a time when Edward by the first of three marriages already had two young children of his own by 1835. He was thus a father and a brother to babies at the same time Edward lived to be eighty years of age and was married three times, all to fathers-in-law with good monied connexions, as follows:

1. 10th September 1832 (at age 28) – 6th March 1835 at Kingston, Kent to Elizabeth Sarah Martha Bartlett, eldest daughter of Rev Thomas Bartlett of Kingston. Two children: one daughter and one son who died shortly after birth with mother.
2. 15th June 1837 (at age 33) – 11th October 1859 at Eastry to Elizabeth Mozier Walker, a daughter of Robert Walker, twice mayor of Dover and proprietor of Dover Oil Mills, Limekiln Street. Eight children: six sons (one died in infancy) and two daughters.
3. 7th August 1871 (at age 67) – 24th July 1884 at St James Westminster to Jane Cecilia Bayly Longworth Dames, daughter of Lieutenant General William Longworth Dames (5th (Northumberland Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot). She was born in Montreal, Lower Canada where her father was then garrisoned. Three children: two sons, one daughter.

He was thus widowed three times in his lifetime. Of all his eleven surviving children, the last but one by his third marriage (Alfred De Burgh Knocker, born 1874) lived longest until 1961, the second half of the twentieth century, and has been

noted in the national press as being a link to the twentieth century by someone who through his father could tell tale of life during the times of the Napoleonic Wars and the Battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo – a remarkable family achievement by any standard.

Castle Hill House, an imposing residence, now Grade II listed dating from 1760, was purchased by Edward Knocker in 1832 when it sold for £7,000. Along with three other businessmen, Edward Knocker also thereafter laid out Castle Street, the eastern part of which is on land that had formally been part of the estate. An annexe was then added to the right side of the house to form the Town Clerk's office which lasted there until 1911 when it moved to 69 Castle Street following the death of Edward Knocker's son and heir Sir Edward Wollaston Knocker. The triangular shrubbery in the roadway now is all that remains of the original front garden.

Edward Knocker was elected Town Clerk in 1860 on the death of his predecessor Thomas Baker Bass. At the time he, Edward Knocker, as well as local solicitor, was Clerk of the Paving Commission, a local body which had the principal share of town management. He was also Clerk of the Local Health Board, Register and Clerk of Dover Castle, Seneschal of the Grand Court of Shepway (Cinque Ports), Registrar of St James' Burial Board, Clerk of the Commissioners of Property an Income Tax, Treasurer of Dover Hospital, the Church Missionary Society and the British and Foreign Sailors' Society. He relinquished his post as Town Clerk of Dover in favour of his eldest son and first born child, Edward Wollaston Nadir Knocker, in 1868. He carried on however as alderman and then elected mayor in 1870-1. In that capacity, having ordered a new mayoral robe, he attended (although

in what capacity is not quite clear) the opening by Queen Victoria of the Royal Albert Hall, London on 18th March 1871. The robe he wore was described as being "a superb garment of crimson silk, purple velvet bands, silk tassels with sable trimming". The only known depiction, a photograph, of Edward Knocker dates from this time, showing him clad in his finery. On retirement he presented the town of Dover with the mayor's wand of office (a white painted wooden staff with silver gilt Crown finial with ferrule to the base). It is still used on ceremonial occasions by the town mayor.

"It was at that time that he called to the attention of the Town Council the great necessity for carefully examining and classifying the documents in their keeping, and gave two or three reports as to ancient charters and deeds in the Corporation's possession. This so aroused the interest of the Council in the matter that they determined on the creation of a new officer styled the Corporation Honorary Librarian which post Edward Knocker accepted and filled during the remainder of his life. Fully appreciating the importance of the work that had been commenced in that capacity, the Town Council gave to the Honorary Librarian sufficient help to copy many years' records of the Corporation in Stuart times which would not have otherwise been available-at any rate not in form that would be of any practical use, and those bulky manuscript books as well as numbers of carefully arranged drawers with documents systematically numbered, docketed and arranged, form the legacy of archaeological lore which Edward Knocker left in a Muniment cabinet of rosewood especially constructed in 1877 by local builder Herbert Stiff. This may still be seen with numbered drawers still intact in the Council Chamber under the window.

Edward Knocker also was a very active church man and took the principal part in the arrangements for building St James (new) Parish Church (destroyed in the Second World War) which was considered in its day without exception the most perfect archaeological edifice which Dover possessed and he exhibited even greater interest in the thorough restoration of the ancient church of St James the Apostle (severely damaged in the Second World War and now a tidy ruin), as a chapel of ease for the parish.

Perhaps it was in connection with the Cinque Ports that he won most lasting distinction, occupying the position as Registrar of the Cinque Ports and Seneschal of the Grand Court of Shepway. It fell to his lot, when Lord Palmerston took the office of Lord Warden in 1861, to make the extensive research which was entailed by reviving in all its freshness and quaintness the installation ceremony which had centuries before been enacted at the Bredenstone on the Western Heights, Dover. He directed the ceremony with the correctness of details so dear to all lovers of archaeology and he subsequently made a permanent record of the event in a handsome volume entitled "The Grand Court of Shepway" which is now the chief authority on the Cinque Port ceremonies.

As a public man in Dover Edward Knocker passed a busy and useful life. His readiness to communicate from his store of knowledge, information connected with the history of Dover, led him on several occasions to occupy the platform and give lectures before Kent archaeological societies, several of his lectures existing in pamphlet form. Then in his later years having classified documents in the archives of the Dover Corporation he, when the matter was fresh in his mind, gave to the town council an address on the

antiquities of Dover, which was published under his supervision, and is probably the most reliable book on that subject now extant." (Extracted from the Dover Express)

It was also during this time that Edward Knocker, soon to be married for the third time in 1871, left Dover altogether, yet returning frequently, and relocated firstly to Austria House, Ventnor and then to Cameron Villa at St John's, Ryde, Isle of Wight alternately moving, presumably seasonally, from there to a residence at Torquay, Devon. So he carried on for subsequent years until his third wife Jane, mother of his three youngest children, died at Westward Ho! North Devon at the age of 45 on 28th July 1884 (she is buried in Northiam churchyard) while Edward lived on for a further five months finally departing this life on Christmas Day 1884 aged 80 at 4 Lisbourne Crescent, Torquay, his death from "Organic Visceral Disease & Asthenia from sickness 2 weeks" being registered by his eldest son and heir E. Wollaston Knocker. His last will and testament was made out only ten days before.

Edward Knocker is buried in Torquay cemetery, his headstone standing to this day fully legible. Reference to him is also made on the memorial of his son Sir Edward Wollaston Nadir Knocker at St James' Cemetery Dover. Both inscriptions record after his name the letters F.S.A. (Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries) to which body he was elected in 1874, he having deposited his printed works on Dover's records to their library where they may now still be seen. It was said that whenever in any excavations in Dover anything was discovered of historic interest he was the first to investigate it together with subsequent observations placed on record in particular a very

ancient oak landing stage unearthed on the building of a gasometer in Fectors Place. He would have been in his element during today's rebuildings!

One of the last visits to Dover was on the occasion of the Archaeological Society meeting in Dover in the year 1883 when he read a paper on the insignia of the Dover Corporation. But his last visit of all was a few months before his death, by then widowed a third time, to take part in the proceedings of the Church Missionary Society, the local branch of which he had assisted in establishing 50 years before he died. A resolution proposed by the mayor was passed at the first town council meeting after his death placing in their minutes a recognition of his valuable services to the Corporation.

For a man, the greatest fount of knowledge of Dover in all time, who had had a major part in almost every conceivable aspect of Dover's local governance, curiously at the time of his death no obituary of Edward Knocker was published. Only at the time of his son Sir Edward Wollaston Knocker's knighthood in 1901 did any account of his life appear in public, also again at his son's death in 1907 and the resultant obituary in the *Dover Express* of 27th September 1907.

His role as Dover Librarian and custodian and cataloguer of Dover's unique archive collection must be added to his many great legacies to us including no less than the revival of ceremony used to this day for the installation of Lord Wardens of the Cinque Ports, a subject upon which he was the unrivalled expert. His cherished Muniment cabinet archive collection had to be safeguarded during the Second World War in the former prison cells in the *Maison Dieu* basement where they were subjected to damp unfavourable conditions for many years. It was only in 1979, in the

face of some local opposition, after the dissolution of Dover Corporation in 1974, the archives were removed in two truckloads to the Kent Record Office (now the Kent History & Library Centre) at Maidstone where they were conserved, catalogued and made available to the general public. One can only hope that he would have approved of what became an inevitability. Like him or not (and one wonders what impression he would have made on meeting him) the impact that this one extraordinary man who placed such an indelible imprint upon Dover's living and recorded history has made on the heritage of Dover is therefore incalculable. It was such that it carried on through his son and grandson for a further fifty years after his death and in many ways for all of us to this very day. Would that we are worthy of it.

From this essay's point of view Edward Knocker is focal to the whole story since it was to him that this author's great-grandfather, Alfred William Webster, was indentured as a writer in 1874, then 15 years old, for seven years, and through him by apprenticeship made a Freeman of the Borough of Dover in 1881 and Corporation Minute Clerk until 1920, altogether 46 years' service as right hand man and every bit party to the whole dynasty's operation and as such my own personal inspiration for these essays.

Edward Knocker's children

By Elizabeth Sarah Martha Bartlett (1814-1835). Buried Kingston, Kent.

1. Emily Elizabeth (1833-1916), later wife of cousin Edward Newman Knocker, Solicitor, Sevenoaks. Buried Woodbury Park, Tunbridge Wells.
2. Edward Tottenham (8.2.1835-10.2.1835) buried with mother, Kingston

By Elizabeth Mozier Walker (1806-1859).
Buried St James (new)

3. Edward Wollaston Nadir (1838-1907)
Solicitor & Town Clerk. Buried St
James (new)
4. Henrietta Augusta (1839-1853)
Unmarried. Buried St James (new)
5. Louise Mozier (1841-1917) Unmarried.
Buried St James (new)
6. Walker Geary (1842-1933) Clerk in
Holy Orders, one time curate St James
(1869-1873). Buried Exwick Road
Cemetery, Exeter, Devon.
7. Henry Bunbury (1844-1889) Merchant
Navy Officer P & O, (sail & steam),
later auctioneer and estate agent. Died
Ore, Hastings. Buried Guestling,
Sussex.
8. Sidney Herbert (1846-1914) Bank
Clerk. Died Aston, Birmingham. Burial
place as yet untraced.
9. James Wigzell (15.4.1848-19.4.1848).
Buried St James
10. Vernon Edwin (1849-1933), solicitor,
partner in E & V Knocker. Buried
Deal.

By Jane Cecilia Bayly Longworth Dames
(1840/1-1883) Buried Northiam, Devon.

11. Edward William Longworth (1872-
1933) O.B.E. Diplomat at British
Embassy Rome. Buried in Protestant
Cemetery, Rome
12. Alfred De Burgh (1874-1961) Ceylon
Tea & Rubber Planter. Buried Torquay
13. Christine Cecilia (1876-1917).
Unmarried. Buried St James (new)

Edward Knocker's Headstone Inscription,
Torquay Devon "Even to hoar/hairs will I
carry you/Isaiah 46:4/In/memory
of/Edward Knocker, Esq. F.S.A./late of
Dover and Ryde/Who died at Torquay on
Christmas Day 1884/Aged 80 years/"The
dead in Christ shall rise first"/"Them also
which sleep in Jesus will God/Bring with
Him"/1 Thessalonians IV

14.15/Also/Alfred De Burgh Knocker/
Youngest son of the above/Died 2nd
January 1961/Aged 86 years/
Also/Mary/Wife of the above Alfred/Died
24th June 1972/Aged 95 years."

Edward Knocker's family memorial, St
James (new) Cemetery, Dover, Kent. "In
memory of/Elizabeth Mozier Knocker/the
beloved wife of/Edward Knocker Esq/who
died 11 October 1859/Aet 54/Also
of/Henrietta Augusta/their daughter/who
died June 1853/Aet 14/And of their two
infant sons buried in family vaults/at
Alkham and St James' Church/Also of the
above/Edward Knocker Esq F.S.A/who
died at Torquay/on Christmas Day
1884/Aged 80/His mortal remains are
interred/in Torquay cemetery."

"In/loving memory/of Christine Celia
Knocker/youngest daughter of the/the
late Edward Knocker/who passed away
25th Sept. 1917/aged 41"



Edward Knocker Grave Torquay Cemetery Devon

Honfleur Outing

Reported by Sheila Cope, Derek Leach, Jeremy Cope,
Margarita [Maggie] Waite and Maureen Morris

Thursday 18th May – Sheila Cope

"Was this really such a good idea?" I asked myself as I reluctantly slipped out of bed at 5 am on the first day. However, once we had been greeted by our coach driver Alain and waved off by Patricia who was reassured that we were all present and correct, and had our passports scanned, we boarded the P&O ferry and sought coffee, feeling confident that the crossing would be calm.

After a welcome comfort stop we arrived at Fécamp in the early afternoon by which time the heavens had opened. With dripping umbrellas we were ushered into Le Palais Benedictine. Think again if the word Benedictine conjures up plainchant, monks and cloisters. This was no monastery but a French palace of late 19th century style, flamboyant and intensely decorated. Gradually the story emerged. The original elixir for the famous liquor was invented by Dom Bernado Vincello at Fécamp Abbey and was produced by the Benedictine monks for nearly 300 years until monks and elixirs were swept away by the French Revolution. Fortunately, as the story goes, the precious recipe was rediscovered by a local wine merchant, Alexandre Le Grand who in 1863 succeeded in reconstituting it. There is a large stained glass window showing him entrusting the bottle of "Benedictine" to the hand of Fame. The Palace is therefore part museum and part factory, an impressive public relations exercise on behalf of the product.

The names of the galleries, Gothic,

Renaissance, Oratory, etc give an idea of the flavour of the exhibits which have a mainly religious theme and include paintings, reliquaries, ancient seals and artefacts together with a collection of wrought iron work. Subsequently we came to a large room previously used for bottling, labelling and sealing which now shows the more recent history of the Benedictine operation including colourful posters and fraudulent imitations.

Finally, after watching a video and observing the 27 herbs and spices which are used as ingredients in the closely guarded secret recipe, we were given a guided tour of the distillery. Suffice to say that the complicated process results in 3



Benedictine Palace © Derek Leach 2017



Benedictine Tasting © Derek Leach 2017

different liqueurs: Benedictine (the liqueur of alchemy), B&B (Benedictine and French brandy) and Single Cask, drier and sold only at the Palace. We tasted one sample each. To this untutored palate the result of the remarkable alchemy tasted like flavoured honey with a kick but its history must be the judge. Our visit was well worthwhile and educational in many ways.

We motored on through the gloom of a wet afternoon, passing over the Normandy Bridge. The chance of a boat trip under it seemed an unattractive prospect at that moment but we were soon entering our warm pleasant rooms at the Antares hotel outside Honfleur. As a reminder that we were in Normandy we had been greeted by model cows outside the hotel and the menu of the excellent meal which we shared there together that evening reinforced the concept of local food ingredients. There was cheese pie followed by chicken stuffed with mushroom pate. As I watched Calvados being poured over apple sorbet from the largest bottle imaginable, the discomfort of early rising was but a distant memory.

We were very sorry that after all their planning and preparation for the trip Patricia and Patrick were unable to join us as a result of Patrick's ill health. We would like to express our thanks to Alain, our coach driver and courier from Leo's Pride who drove us there and back safely with unfailing good humour. The whole trip was most enjoyable, due in large part to Alain's efficiency. He was always on hand when we needed him and always where he said he would be. Thank you, Alain.

Friday 19th May - Morning Derek Leach

The Friday morning programme comprised two visits, both of which left me baffled for completely different reasons. First our excellent driver and guide, Ian,



Chateau de Breuil Calvados Distillery © Derek Leach 2017



*Chateau de Breuil Calvados Distillery Barrels
© Derek Leach 2017*

drove us to the calvados distillery of the Chateau de Breuil. Being rather naïve where alcohol is concerned, I was the only one in our group never to have tasted calvados. Apparently, I was in for a treat! Our charming French guide led us through the beautiful grounds to the magnificent Chateau built during the 16th and 17th centuries. Unfortunately, we were only allowed to view the exterior. The manufacture of calvados involves turning millions of apples each year into juice followed by natural fermentation, double distillation in copper stills and finally the ageing process. We went into the distillery where the distinctive calvados smell greeted us as we entered. After an explanation our guide took us to the Ageing Hall, formerly the servant's hall, where enormous barrels of calvados were



Ceiling Basilica Dedicated to Sant Therese of Lisieux
© Derek Leach 2017

maturing. A surprise before we left the hall was a short but brilliant visual display of the whole process screened onto an end wall with its piles of casks: apple blossom, apples, distillation, ageing and bottling. The final stop was the testing room where everybody had the opportunity to taste two of the many different flavours and ages and, of course, the opportunity to purchase. So why was I baffled? After tasting, alcoholic philistine that I am, I wondered what all the fuss was about!

We moved on to the town of Lisieux to visit the basilica dedicated to St Therese. I must admit that I had no previous knowledge of its existence and was amazed to learn that, despite its medieval style exterior of bright white stone, it was built between 1929 and 1937. The interior of the basilica was stunning although not to my personal taste - every inch of the walls and ceiling were brightly painted or with mosaics depicting many different saints. The reliquary contains the bones of Therese's arm. The long crypt was also highly decorated with an abundance of wild flowers and birds as reminders of the love Therese had for the beauty of God's world. Even more surprising was that the basilica was constructed in honour of a young woman who was born in 1873 and became a

Carmelite nun at the age of 15 and died from TB at 24. Hence my second bafflement. Why had the Roman Catholic Church honoured this young woman with such a building and made her a saint in 1925? The answer is in her doctrinal writings entitled *Story of the Soul* published after her death, which spread rapidly around the world, her being such an inspiration to too many as well as the miracles attributed to her. Saint Therese was also given the rare distinction of being proclaimed Doctor of the Church by the Pope in 1997. Incredibly, her parents, Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, were canonized together in 2015.

Friday 19th May pm, - Jeremy Cope Étretat

From Lisieux we made our way via Honfleur to Étretat. At Lisieux it had at one point bucketed down but now we were to enjoy the best of the day with plenty of sunshine. Thence across the Pont de Normandie we soon left the main road to make our way across country to our destination. It is a neat and tidy countryside with houses and gardens to match. No sheep to speak of but plenty of cattle, white and red and all mixtures in between - the source of all that lovely Normandy cheese. You have to park at the edge of the small town and walk to the



Beach at Étretat, Normandy, France © Derek Leach 2017

seafront - not far and quite pleasant - a neat upmarket place with not a piece of litter in site. And there it was, the beach and cliffs painted by Monet, Boudin and Courbet. Like Dover, a town in a chalk valley with seaward cliffs and hills. On both sides the chalk cliffs extend into the sea with large needle type formations and large arches. Our stay was limited to just over an hour and whilst our party savoured the atmosphere of the beach, cliffs, hills, town (and its cafes) I decided to hike off and climb up the cliff path to look further at the chalk formations. On my way I saw a WWII concrete pillbox overlooking the beach - there's no escaping the war's relics - and began the climb. I got two thirds of the way up, looked at my watch and decided I had to be responsible and not be late for the pickup time. It was a grand walk up and I could have done with a couple or more hours extra. Back through the town and, blow me, got back with of time to spare. On the return to Honfleur through the narrow country roads we came face to face with a large lorry at a cross roads which involved our bus having to back up quite a way. One of the pleasures of these holidays is I am not driving and it was all left to Iain, our leader (thanks Iain).

A Boat Trip on the Seine

For the last part of our day exploring Honfleur Iain, our guide, had organised a boat trip on the Seine, a highlight of which



Honfleur Boat Trip © Derek Leach 2017

was to travel under the Pont de Normandie. We gathered at the picturesque Carousel on the seafront next to the Castle (or was it the Lieutenant's House). The painful bit was the man on the stage next to the Carousel intent on drowning the traditional music with his vastly amplified "pop" racket. (I'm a square). From there we joined the queue for the boat, soon boarding. The boat then sailed the short distance to the lock gates, which on opening, allowed us onto the Seine itself and we were straight off up river towards the bridge past the port area of Honfleur. The Pont de Normandie is hugely impressive and, to my eye, quite beautiful. The bridge has two concrete upside down Y pylons, 705 ft. high, with 184 cables carrying the bridge. The bridge has a width of 77 ft. with four lanes for traffic and two lanes for pedestrians (no time to a walk across on this holiday). The structure is visible from afar but not intrusively so. Seen from our hotel dining room I imagined a giant playing a tune on the cables. We passed under the bridge far overhead, swirling back and forth so that we saw the underside four times in all with views of the pylons from very many perspectives.

It was then back down river passing Honfleur sailing towards the sea with the large port of Le Havre on our right. On the left was an attractive heavily wooded slope with a sandy beach which I guess was a popular recreation area for Honfleur. Earlier in the day Sheila and I had climbed up to the Chapelle de Notre Dame de Grace from which point one can overlook the Seine estuary. At the view point is a large crucifix, I guess a good 30ft tall and about 300ft above sea level, and this we could just make out from the boat. We then crossed towards Le Havre to gain a good view of the large port and substantial industrial installations which, if I had been fluent in French and understood the commentary,

would have allowed me to provide you with a more informed article (sorry). The boat then turned and we returned to Honfleur – this time, and I guess the tide was right, the lock gates were open.

The boat trip was really very good, apart from the enjoyment it gave, in that it helps to give a clearer view of the geography and setting of Honfleur situated as it is at the mouth of the Seine.

Saturday 20th May am/pm until 4pm - Marguarita [Maggie] Waite

A most beautiful sunny morning in Honfleur; Ian took us on a walk around the town and gave us an irreverent but very informative commentary. The old harbour and St. Catherine's Promenade sparkled in the sunshine but then Ian led us into the dark cobbled streets to the grim old prison past interesting shops and artists' studios



*Le Vieux Bassin Market, Honfleur, France
© Derek Leach 2017*

up to the Eglise St. Leonard with its flamboyant Gothic style facade, mural covered walls and interesting painted glass which was in desperate need of restoration.

Then Ian shepherded us off to the magnificent church of St. Catherine of Alexandria which was initially built after the end of the Hundred Years War when the original church was destroyed by the English (oops!). The original nave was built by shipwrights from Normandy oak and the roof resembles an upturned boat. The second nave built later is also made of wood but has a more traditional design. The C15 wooden bell tower stands separately from the main building.

We then split up: some to explore the weekly market with its wonderful aromas and arrays of fish, vegetables, sausages and cheeses. Then the rain came down in buckets! Some took refuge in the excellent tourist information centre until we were summarily ejected at lunchtime. Our small group then repaired to the Green Parrot bar to watch the somewhat soggy world go by. As soon as the rain stopped, a few of us went to the brilliant Normandy Culture Museum housed in the old prison (which was just as grim as Dover's prison) to view a fascinating collection of furniture, costumes, handwork and domestic objects from the C18 and C19; every room was a total delight for anyone interested in the history of everyday life.

**Sunday 21st May - Maureen Morris
Garden at Giverny**

Sunday and a lovely sunny start to our final day in France. We left the hotel at 9.30 with our cases on board and enjoyed a good journey through miles of delightful rolling green countryside on the way to Giverny.

Leaving the coach park we crossed the road to enter at the Water Gardens end of

Monet's estate. From there a footpath led us into the gardens and wandered along the side of the lake passing through plantations of bamboos before moving on to colourful scenes of close growing roses, foxgloves, azaleas and all the many plants which we are familiar with from Monet's paintings. We saw water lily leaves on the surface but it was too early in the year to see the beauty of the flowers above the water. We looked at the two famous turquoise Japanese bridges. And we heard a cuckoo calling, enhancing the peaceful atmosphere.

The weather was beautiful and although there were hundreds of visitors moving slowly round the route stopping to admire the views and to take photographs it didn't seem to spoil the pleasure of just being there.

After the Water Garden we walked through the Clos Normand where under metal archways climbing plants, roses, Monet's famous brilliant mauve velvet irises, poppies, peonies and fruit trees all flourished. Everything buzzed with happy bees and birds singing all around us in the warm sunshine.

Monet's House

Finally we joined the queue to enter the house. It was interesting to walk round the place where Monet had spent nearly 43 years of his life and died there in 1926. It is not a large house but seemed a very comfortable one. Paintings and pictures by Monet himself and other contemporary artists, presumably mostly reproductions, were displayed in every room. The furnishings were chosen to imitate what would have been there in Monet's time. In the large kitchen one wall was completely covered with a vast collection of copper cooking pots which were possibly originals as were the large cooking range and



*Japanese Bridge at Monet's Water Garden Giverny
© Derek Leach 2017*

antique washing up facilities. Then it was time for us to find ourselves something to eat, after investigating the inevitable 'shop', and before joining our coach for the long journey back to Dover. The travelling was good and our driver, Ian, excellent. The sea crossing was perfectly calm and we were home in Dover before 9.30p.m. The end of a really enjoyable and



Old Street, Honfleur, France © Derek Leach 2017

Dover Dérive

— Christopher Burke —

Art31 Gallery is situated in the Big Local Hub/Community Centre at the Charlton Centre. It is funded by the Big Local and curated by Sam Capell. Every month there is a new exhibition of local artists' work, and as there was a slot in April I was invited by Sam to show some of my work. A couple of years back I was invited by Joanna Jones, Dover Arts Development, to take some photos of Dover to display at an event for promoting The Big Local, which took place in the Maison Dieu. It is these, plus other digital images, that I had printed in a larger format for the show at the Art31 Gallery.

The Centre for Urban and Community Research at Goldsmiths' College, University of London, runs short intensive Summer School courses in Urban Photography; I enrolled on a course a few years ago. Many things were introduced and discussed – including the literary, visual and ideological background to urban photography, and also Baudelaire's flâneur – usually a poet or an artist – who strolls through the city, observing and engaging with people and the environment of the urban cityscape. The French word for this is 'dérive'. Anyone who practises this is now known as a 'psychogeographer' – for example, writers such as Iain Sinclair and the filmmaker Patrick Keiller.

I call myself an 'Urban Observer', and for a number of years now I have been strolling through urban and suburban landscapes, recording and documenting with my camera and notebooks what engages my

interest. I do not seek out the picturesque – instead, I look for the quotidian: visual images of what we see but don't observe – for example, the surface of a wall or a pavement, reflections in shop windows, etc. (It may be remembered that John Constable admired old things, stressed and rotting.) I photograph people in the street: going about their daily business, casual unposed scenes of contemporary life in the city, dressing a shop window, doing the daily shopping, moving furniture, etc. – all small-scale events but not insignificant to the daily drama of life in an urban environment.

The images I chose for this exhibition were representative of what interested me as I made a series of walks in and around Dover. There is indeed much interest and diversity in the townscape that is Dover – for example, from the old London Road, with its run-down and semi-closed shops (reflecting upon the social and economic decline of Dover), one can within minutes be up on the Downs, enjoying views of the castle, the port and the sea (and on clear days the coastline of France). From the old Buckland paper mill (once famous worldwide for the quality of its paper but now boarded up and in semi-ruin) one can follow the course of the River Dour almost all the way to where it flows into the

English Channel. The pier, with its unique café, has been closed since I took some photos there – and the ambitious scheme for the Western Docks is now underway. I am sure we are all watching this new development with the greatest of interest.



Dover Walk 4

Around and About

Sydney S [Glyn] Hale

Branching Out – Temple Ewell

On Thursday morning 13th April the group met in the Lower Hall where they deposited lots of fluffy toys at the “bring and buy” table sale later during their coffee break. They then took off to tend to the allotments! On completion of their tasks most of the regulars gathered in the village hall for their coffee break having almost a full house. At the “bring and buy” table books were being sold as were lots of fluffy dolls from Branching Out at 50p a doll. This along with Betty’s rock cakes made it a most successful day.

Dover History Facebook Group

Several villagers from Temple Ewell including Jenny and myself attended the Dover History Facebook Group 5th Birthday Local History meeting in St Mary’s parish centre on Saturday 22th April from 2 pm until 6 pm. There were a few empty seats but otherwise it was a good turnout with a much appreciated audience of over 100. The hall was lined with display boards and tables of photographs and stalls for membership and the Bluebird Trail.

The first lecture was Dover Promenade Pier from 1891 – 1927 by Jeff Howe. This was followed by Graham Hutchison on the history of the Friends of Dover Castle. Phil Eyden then showed photographs of World War 1 soldiers, the Fusiliers in the castle, the Buffs at the Western Heights and siege gunners at Fort Burgoyne - often other ranks are not usually shown. Paul Skelton then discussed Dover’s 365 pubs and a video display. The first recorded was The Annunciation Pub in 1100. Among Dover pubs that have since closed are The

Engineer, The Alma and The Westbury. Overtime many pubs have changed their name i.e. The Sportsman and The Primrose. The White Horse might be the oldest still in use as a public house. The most accurate number of Dover pubs seems to be 232 with a great many of these now lost mainly through closure. It was a most enjoyable event with good speakers and well attended by a most appreciative audience. Organized by Paul Wells he should be proud of this event of which hopefully will be repeated.

Wizard of Oz 17th to 20th May

Having earned a good reputation the Temple Ewell Players production, held in the Temple Ewell Village Hall, played to a virtual sell out and appreciative audience every night. The principals Dorothy (Clare Senior), Scarecrow (Andy Fellows), Tin Woodman (Jon Regan), and Cowardly Lion (Louise Ellis) were well played. The most lively and scary scene was the witches conference. Guarantying the future was the junior chorus with Daisy, Fleur, Erica, Saffron, Erin, Lorelie, Delphi, Ruby, Amelia, and Jaiden all charming and delightful. I miss the smiling Keith Tutthill but terpsichorean maestro Paul Booth was very good.

The set and scenery by Reg Tuson, Colin Evenden, and Debbie Philpot were good as were the costumes, some borrowed from DODS and others home-made. Anne Hogben created the sorceress costume. Director Rachel White should be proud of her excellent production. The Wizard is well known but I did miss Toto but he didn’t have a speaking part anyway. The next production at the TEVH will be The Junior Players presenting Bugsy Malone.



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

Dover in the Great War

By Stephen Wynn

Reviewed by Alan Lee

This book, published by Pen and Sword, is the latest in the series of Your Towns and Cities in the Great War.

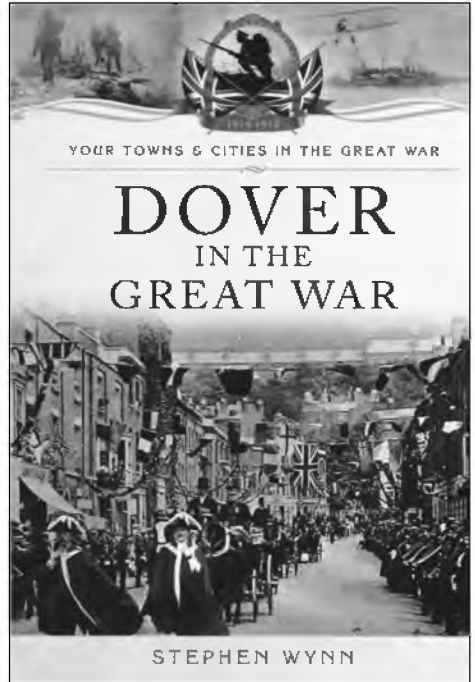
Throughout the author has managed to uncover many little known facts concerning local Dover people and their trials and tribulations during the First World War.

We read about the outbreak of war and the increased amount of naval and military activity. As the war progressed we hear of how restrictive and difficult it was to enter and leave the town, everyone had to have a special pass.

The longer the war continued the harder life became. In 1914 Dover saw the first bomb dropped on British soil and also the last bombing raid on 24th August 1918. At the onset little changed but by 1917 Dover had been regularly shelled and attacked by Zeppelins and Gotha bombers. One imposition that Dover residents could not understand was the cost of tram fares doubling in price.

Roads were in a poor state of repair, the tram system struggled to keep running. 1917 saw Dover's worst tram accident. The Harbour Board had to borrow heavily and was nearly bankrupt, The Royal Victoria Hospital struggled financially. Surprisingly one of the few bright spots was that house and property sales sold in great numbers.

The big issue with the police in 1914 was from 66 to 68 constables. In 1914 Dover Borough



Police had 66 constables, they turned down an increase to 68, and a list of 50 Special Constables. By January 1915 a further 156 Specials had been sworn in.

Many other aspects are covered throughout, The Dover Patrol, Volunteer Training Corps, Dover's airfields, and the Woman's Land Army.

Well illustrated this excellent book is obtainable from selected bookshops and online from www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

Paperback discount price £10.39 plus p&p, Kindle £7.79, ePub £7.79

Or by post from Pen and Sword Books, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS. Tel: 01226 734222

Widening of Biggin and Cannon Streets

Terry Sutton

On April 10 in 1893 Dover ratepayers met to try to halt any moves to widen the town's main street, especially Biggin Street and Cannon Street leading from the Market Square. They opposed a controversial scheme which they realised would result in an increase in the rates that they considered high enough already. On the other side of the argument were those who realised Dover was growing and that the town's main street was far too congested to take the increasing amount of traffic.

Those who wanted the highway widened pointed out that in places the main street was as narrow as 18 feet in places.

The widening of Biggin Street was one of the biggest controversies in Dover in the late 19th century.

One set of councillors wanted to widen Cannon Street and Biggin Street while another group argued for a completely new road cutting through from the Market Square to Folkestone Road.

This second group consisted mainly of property owners in the crowded York Street area who saw compensation profits if they could win the day. They were among the ratepayers who met on April 10 in 1893 to halt Biggin Street widening.

But eventually it was a demand from another public meeting that forced the decision to widen the existing main street where often horse-drawn coaches and carts could not easily pass.

Congestion got so bad that a traffic census was demanded. A count carried out in Cannon Street over six working days at the end of May 1893. This revealed the movement of nearly 9,500 vehicles of various kinds, 446 horses and nearly a thousand bath chairs and cycles.

Action had been taken to widen Cannon Street in 1858 and again in 1893 when a number of interesting features fronting the road were removed. The most important loss was the impressive colonnade along the front of the properties that stretched from St Mary's churchyard towards the Market Square.

At that time the most important property in Cannon Street was the Royal Oak Hotel, almost opposite St Mary's Church and where The Eight Bells public house today enjoys a good trade. At the back of the hotel were the Royal Oak Rooms where many public meetings, banquets and balls were held. The balls were never so well attended than during the Napoleonic Wars when young officers of the garrison, awaiting an invasion, would dance with the more wealthy Dover lasses. It was at the back of this hostelry where, each week, farmers met in the Corn Market to buy and sell their products. In the inn's yard were housed the coaches and vans of the folk who had come in from the country to trade in Dover, then a very busy town.

It was in this environment that a group of townsmen including a group of Freemen came up with the scheme to drive a new road through from the Market Square to Priory Place and Folkestone Road. That was

the direction most of the town centre traffic was heading. It was estimated this new road would cost in the region of £76,000-with much of that money going to the citizens who owned property on the route.

Those with counter plans, who wanted to widen the existing street by demolishing property, came up with an estimate for their scheme of £54,000.

And there the two ideas remained with very little progress while congestion in narrow Cannon and Biggin Streets got worse. But townfolk were getting fed up with the congestion and a public meeting was convened when it was demanded that action be taken. Dover Corporation listened, opted for the widening scheme and sought Parliamentary approval for the project to widen the main street. Parliament gave approval and the compulsory purchase of property began. A sum of £24,200 was paid for the block from the former Rose Inn, New Street (now Santander bank) to near the Market Square. A further £20,689 was paid for the complete block from St Mary's churchyard to the Market Square.

Solicitors and valuers' fees and the purchase of a little more property brought the complete cost for the scheme to widen Cannon Street to £53,744 but the Corporation was able to claw back more than £20,000 by the resale of the land, reducing the overall cost to just under £33,000.

Although some interesting features in Cannon Street, going back to the time of the Commonwealth, were lost it was claimed at the time very little of antiquarian interest was discovered.

The demolition of properties near the Market Square, where the church of St Peter had once stood (Lloyd's Bank site), revealed

a few skulls and bones. It was assumed these had come from the churchyard of St Peter's.

Following the widening of Cannon Street came the task of building new premises to front the new highway. It was reported at the time that the first property to be built was tobacconist Chidwick to be followed shortly afterwards, on the same side of the road, by the Metropole Hotel (part of which is now The Eight Bells) opposite St Mary's.

The most majestic of the rebuilds was the terrace of shops on the other side of the road, stretching from St Mary's graveyard to near the Market Square.

The Corporation had the wise idea of putting the design of these properties out to architectural competition (in the same way a similar competition decided the design of The Gateway flats many years later). This Cannon Street competition attracted 45 entries from all over the country, spanning a range of styles. The result we see today - but how many bother to look as they rush by!



The popular Antwerp Hotel, just off the Market Square, where town councillors met for a drink after council meetings. Next door another hotel now an estate agents. It was about here, in the middle of the road, where in WW2 a shell landed killing soldiers, sailors, a member of the WRNS and a civilian.

Tantalizing Patchwork

Thoughts Provoked by Memories of Leyburne Road - Part I

Clyde Binfield

*"Today its piecemeal, patch-work character intrigues as it tantalizes the visitor"
Thus John Newman on Dover in "The Buildings of England. Kent: North-East and East"
(2013). That is fair comment. Yet Dover, which has much to hide, in fact hides too much.
I intend to set about some uncovering in the hope that it will whet the appetite and even
lead to some serious research.*

My memories of Leyburne Road begin late in 1944 when we returned from Pontllanfraith, Monmouthshire, a place which was very Welsh but then still in England. "Pont" is where my memories really begin. The context was war. My father, a master mariner who had been in the Merchant Navy and was now in the Royal Navy, was on very active service; I was to see him decorated by the King in Buckingham Palace soon after the war's end. My memory there is of a Yeoman of the Guard chewing gum and winking: of men in naval uniform at the end of a long room, one of them (but which one?) the King; of a blackened London noisy with trams; and of a bedroom in the Strand Palace Hotel with its own dial-telephone. That really was luxury.

Soon after I was born - in Fulmer Chase, near Burnham Beeches, a maternity hospital for naval wives, converted from a house which before the war had belonged to a tobacco king and after the war was burned down - we were evacuated to Pontllanfraith. "We" were me, my mother, and my grandmother. My aunt, who was a teacher, was billeted in the hills at Mynyddislwyn, with a black dog called Simba, and my grandfather, who in 1945 was to become the



A truly massive terrace Leyburne Road, east side, late 1950s

town's first Labour mayor, remained in Dover, coming across to Monmouthshire for frequent visits.

Life in "Pont" was full. Our house was small and semi-detached; a fierce, and fiercely loved, black and white cat, called Binkie Pullit, came with it. We could hear bombs falling on Cardiff and sirens sounding the all-clear. There were holidays in the rain to Borth and Aberystwyth and rides in the rain on the Rheidol Railway to Devil's Bridge. My pram was a true perambulator, a carriage, as prams used to be; there were no buggies then. Coughs and colds were treated with Mantelex, the delectable and probably addictive concoction of the local chemist, Mr Mantel, who sent us bottles of it when we

had returned to Dover. There were visits to "the Welfare" for health checks and war-time necessities; and we settled down to local life. The girl next door had the glorious name of Portia West; her father (or was he her uncle?), Granville West, became one of the first Life Peers, Labour of course. And my mother made her way in the Blackwood Players.

Blackwood was Pontllanfraith's larger neighbour and it had a dramatic society. There, sweeping round in rehearsals in a Gainsborough hat and gown and with me in tow, she played Lady Teazle in *School for Scandal*, directed by the redoubtable Mrs Rathbone, a former wife of the film star, Basil Rathbone. For a newcomer, almost a foreigner, to scoop such a part suggests that the Blackwood Players were a welcoming troupe and that my mother must have been a pretty good actress. I am convinced that I can remember all this as though it were yesterday, even though I was not yet four when we returned to Dover - in my case, or so I was told, with a Welsh accent. How did I



20-24 Leyburne Road, from the garden the Misses Kettner lived at 20, the A.T. Goodfellows at 22, Miller Higgs at 24

find Leyburne Road?

It was certainly different from the compact, pebble-dashed Welsh semi. For a start we lived in the top two floors of my grandparents' house in what seemed to me to be a massive red-brick terrace. Its houses looked severely on Leyburne Road, their gaze moderated by the decorative iron railings which protected callers from falling into basement areas. That is why they had survived the depredations of two world wars. I realise now that the houses were artful, in some ways almost arty. They were much less severe, indeed almost playful, from the back, with careful pretensions. They were roomy but looked larger than they were, tall thin houses facing across the town, with fine views from the main bedrooms, and with long thin gardens running down to Harold Street. Their garden railings, unlike their area railings, had fallen victim to the needs of war, to be replaced by hedges and make-do gates. My grandfather had purchased number 22 from a retired major and these houses were perfect for retired military men, their widows and unmarried daughters, and just as well suited to those who managed town and port. They had small conservatories, shattered in the shelling, and most of them had elegantly sturdy white-painted wooden balconies and good period mantelpieces. Bell-pulls suggested that there had once been maids. They had been built in the 1880s and while the development was too speculative to be true Arts and Crafts, there were decided Arts and Crafts touches. In that respect they were ahead of their game.

At 22 Leyburne Road a hallway led to a study and drawing-room connected by folding doors. Downstairs, leading to the garden and thence to Harold Street, were the dining-room and semi-basement of kitchen, scullery, and storage spaces, served by steep area steps. There were no real cellars. Upstairs were three floors of bedrooms, two

on each floor, each with a dressing-room, which might also be a small bedroom or a bathroom or a lavatory. These were adaptable houses and from the 1940s onwards most of them were turned into flats, or maisonettes, to use a favourite word of the day. My grandparents' house worked well in one other regard: the Town Council's Labour Group met there. For a small boy lurking outside, the smell of pipe and cigarette smoke was a magical enticement to the grown-up world of committee meetings. The warm smiles of Alderman Eckhoff and Councillors Mrs Brazier and Coatsworth, and the more reserved smiles of Councillor Mrs Bushell, who was to be Dover's first woman mayor, and of Councillor Constable, who taught at the Boys' Grammar School (his nickname there was "Bucket"), confirmed the magic. These men and women were wheeler-dealers, they were bound to be, but their devotion to their town was not in doubt. They had been called to its service. Theirs was the Welfare State, United Nations Association generation of local Labour movers and moulders, anti-Communist, pro-European and pro-American too. Their new world is now another world. I was not to enter that particular world but plenty of committees were to come my way.

Memories, of course, especially visual ones, play tricks but the war-time context which frames my first Dover memories is important. I remember waking up to broken glass; can that have been from the blast of one of the last shells? I remember walking with my grandfather to the sea-front and being terrified by the sudden roar and rumble of tanks, presumably en route to France; and later, in Cannon Street, there was another grim roar, this time from military vehicles and motor-cycles. Just outside Hatton's an old woman stepped in front of one and was knocked down. It can only have been a glancing blow because she got up and walked off, but I was horrified. Those are

quite separate memories but I have hated tanks and motor-cycles ever since, even though I have ridden pillion on the latter. A longer memory, no less war-related, is of the bombed sites, one across from us in Harold Street, another across from us in Leyburne Road, and more at either end of Leyburne Road and Harold Street. These were dense with rosebay willow-herb, untamed buddleia, and rampant lilac. I have disliked them too, even lilac, ever since.

I realise from all this that I must belong to the last generation to have had at least some sense of pre-war Dover because, despite the destruction, the grid of streets was still intact in the 1940s and some irreparably damaged buildings were still standing - the houses of Marine Parade, the Grand Hotel, the former Burlington Hotel, New St James's Church, Laureston House, St Barnabas Church; there was the smell of gas in Woolcomber Street (which I learned to pronounce as in "cucumber"). Better yet, because my parents and their parents were Dovorians, entrenched in contrasting aspects of Dover life, I could tune into their memories and enjoy objects and stories and recollections that carried me well back into the nineteenth century. There was, for example, the delicate ivory fan which my great-grandmother took to the ball held after the Duke of Connaught, Queen Victoria's youngest son, had opened the Connaught Hall and Connaught Park. More recently, and yet far older, there was the small Samian ware bowl pieced together and presented by archaeologists to my grandfather. These, spanning nearly two millennia, were Dovorian artefacts.

My father's family were Binfield Bros, of Last Lane and Market Square, wine and spirit merchants, with grocery in the background. Their business in its prime had pretensions; its advertisements suggest steadily enlarged premises and an ambitious range of both wines and spirits. It was unkindly said that

the brothers drank more than they sold but they clearly had their good years. My grandfather Binfield, however, who died long before I was born, did not join his father and uncles. He became a Cinque Ports pilot. Such men had clout in the town. My father, balked of a career in the Air Force, followed him to sea and would have followed him as a Cinque Ports pilot but, after the war and a return to the Merchant Navy (Third Officer on the *Aquitania*, finest of the great Cunarders), broken by a homebound spell as a secondary modern schoolmaster until defeated by his schoolmaster's salary, he became a North Sea and Baltic Sea pilot. He was thus Hull Trinity House rather than London Trinity House because Hull Trinity House was more relaxed about the age of its entrants.

There was sea and grocery on my mother's side as well. Her father, Arthur Thomas Goodfellow, began as a cobbler but became a Co-op insurance agent. He was one of thirteen children, of whom eleven survived, all of them short-legged, long-bodied, well-spoken, and obstinate. The girls went into service, and some did well at it, the boys were set to useful trades. Their father, Thomas Goodfellow, supposedly the son of an ostler and a lady's maid, is described in census returns as "mariner", in one as "deaf", in another as "unemployed". One employment, it seems, was with Mr Scott of Laureston House. Thomas Goodfellow captained Scott's yacht, and his portrait was painted by the School of Art's Principal East and exhibited at the Royal Academy, the old sea captain with the young boy, East's son, beside him. The Misses East still had it in their house in Maison Dieu Road. At least, that is what my grandmother told me, and it would fit with William H. East's "Meditation", exhibited at the Academy in 1891.

Thomas Goodfellow died in what should have been his prime and his widow, the

strong-minded illegitimate daughter of a parson's son and a housemaid, held the fort. She made ends meet as a chapel-keeper and this is where grocery returns to the picture and politics comes properly into it. The chapel was Russell Street Congregational Church. That was how its chapel-keeper's son met Florence Parton, whose family were pillars of Zion Congregational Church, in Queen Street.

The Partons had come from Chatham to Dover in the early 1870s, first to Snargate Street, where John Parton employed one man and four apprentices, with two female servants, in 1881, and thence to Biggin Street, close to where they lived in Priory Road; St Edmunds Chapel, squeezed between the Biggin Street shop and the house in Priory Road, was used for storage. John Parton's family connections in the Medway towns were men on the make, boat builders and government contractors as well as grocers. One of them, however, John Parton's first cousin, Richard Dickeson, was already a leading Dover citizen. Dickeson was Rochester-born but his business, founded in that fateful year, 1649, and claiming to be "the oldest of its class in Great Britain", was based in Dover. There he was a wholesale and retail grocer, employing forty-two men and boys in 1881, with branches in London, Dublin, Aldershot, Gibraltar, "and other military stations". By 1870 he had entered into his Dover prime, mayor in 1871, 1881, 1882, and 1883, knighted in 1884. With his house on the Esplanade and the City Liberal as his London club, he was, perhaps, the closest Victorian Dover came to a merchant prince. The royal inauguration during his mayoralty of Dover's grand Town Hall and the ambitious public park explains why my great-grandparents were at the Hall's opening ball and I am sure that Dickeson's prominence in Dover explains why my great-grandfather Parton moved from grocery in Chatham to grocery in Dover.

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Heritage Open Days 2017 in Dover - Free!

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September 2017

Derek Leach

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 and the tour route covers uneven ground with low levels of lighting so sturdy footwear should be worn. Limited parking will be available on nearby Drop Redoubt Road. Booking details will be available through Eventbrite with details released nearer the event and publicised via the Western Heights Preservation Society website or Facebook: <http://www.doverwesternheights.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WesternHeights>

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

8. Bell Tower of St. Mary the Virgin

In the gallery of this Norman tower visitors will see how the bellringers operate and in the clock chamber they will see the clock workings and various artefacts.

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.

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.

Opening times will be:

- 1. Western Heights North Entrance tunnel** – Saturday and Sunday Pre-booked tours Saturday and Sunday 10am to 2pm.
- 2. Grand Shaft Staircase** – Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm
- 3. Town Hall/Maison Dieu** – Guided tours Sunday only 10am to 4pm
- 4. Maison Dieu House** – Saturday 10am to 4pm
- 5. St. Edmund's Chapel** - Saturday 10am to 4pm
- 6. Dover College** – Guided tours only at 11am and 2pm on Saturday and Sunday

7. St. Mary the Virgin Church – Saturday 10am to 4pm

8. Bell Tower of St. Mary the Virgin – Saturday 1.30pm to 4pm

9. Unitarian Church – Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm

10. St. Radegund's Abbey – Guided tours on Sunday 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 derekrivervdale@btinternet.com

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Signed..... Date

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

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

Social events Writing for newsletter

Projects e.g. clearance, surveys, photography

Any other interests or expertise

PROGRAMME 2017/18

*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.*

2017

July 15

Windsor Castle and Savill Garden

Saturday

Sorry but this Outing has been cancelled

October 16
Monday 7.30

Speakers: **Peter Legg**
"The Goodwin Sands and its Wrecks"
Graham Tutthill
"The Love Dover Project"

November 20
Monday 7.30

Speakers: **Ros Daniels**
"Managing Dover Castle"
Graham Heritage
"50 Years of Megger Instruments"

December 3
Sunday 12.30
for 1pm
£25.00

Christmas Lunch/Feast
Our Christmas Luncheon/Feast is slightly earlier this year on the first Sunday in December and will take place in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu, the historical Town Hall. The price includes as usual a three course meal with coffee and mints and a welcome drink. Other drinks may be purchased at the bar. There will be musical entertainment from the Three Yarrows and, of course, our end of year raffle. A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter. More details and a further booking form will be available in the next newsletter or you can contact Beverley.

Please make sure you complete the booking form with your choice of menu and welcome drink.

To book: Complete the enclosed form and return with your payment, cheques made payable to "The Dover Society", to: Beverley Hall, 61 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 01304 202646

Please Book early to avoid disappointment.

2018

January 15
Monday 7.30

Speakers: To Be Advised in next newsletter

February 19
Monday 7.30

Wine and Wisdom
Our ever popular quiz evening in St. Mary's Church Hall

March 19
Monday 7.30

Speakers: To Be Advised in next newsletter

April 16
Monday 7.30

AGM
Speakers: To Be Advised in next newsletter

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