



Newsletter

No. 96

November 2019



Anglican St James Chapel Castle Hill NSW Australia

The Chapel has a lightweight, perforated aluminium veil, which encases the ceramic clad and glazed building underneath, allowing a soft dappled light to filter through into the internal space throughout the day.



THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

Affiliated to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies
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The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

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

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

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

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

Editorial



This being the last newsletter of the year I would like to wish all of our members, advertisers and Adams the Printers a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2020. With a special thanks to all of the volunteers who work behind the scenes on meeting nights, various committees and with projects. They are much appreciated and their work keeps the Society alive and functioning.

This year's Christmas Lunch booking form is on page 21. Non-members are most welcome. If you wish to donate a raffle prize please pass it to Denise Lee (contact through the editor) or to a member of the committee.

The Heritage Open Days, co-ordinated by the society, the Dover Film Festival and the Dover Regatta have again proved to be amongst the most successful events held in the town. Thanks must go to all who helped organise and run them.

The new River Dour Centre, situated by Buckland Bridge, is now open. As part of 'Our Finest Dour' project the disused Buckland toilet block has been converted into a permanent river centre aiming to inform on all matters to do with the River Dour. The £150,000 cost of 'Our Finest Dour' was raised from the Heritage Lottery Fund (95k), Dover District Council, the Environment Agency, Dover Town Council, Dover Big Local, Southern Water, and Affinity Water. At present the centre is hosting teacher training, environmental education and children's activities. It is also available for the community to use. For further information contact Iona Dubieniec, Landscape Partnership Officer, from White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, tel: 01304 241806, email; Iona.Dubieniec@DOVER.GOV.UK

Please note that there are changes to the speakers in November and January. Details are in the programme inside the back cover.

Alan Lee, Editor

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DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 97 will be Wednesday 5th February 2020. 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

SOCIETY OUTING

Arundel 22nd June 2019

Rodney Stone

And the Sun Shone on Us at Arundel during the visit by 31 members.

The prelude to arriving there, and indeed for some the high-spot of the day, was calling at the English Martyrs Catholic Church in West Worthing. Our driver, the good Janet, had not been warned that we were going there and we had a tour of Worthing and Goring while, bless her, she tried to remember where the Church was. Hooray for passengers' mobiles with maps.

Wow! What a spectacle worth the search. The ceiling of the Church is a reproduction of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, with extensive stained glass as well. All are the work of local artists and give a wonderfully bright, cheery and almost overpowering ambience. Though arriving late, we were most deferentially greeted by the Priest, who gave a brief outline of the work and produced mobile mirrors that allow visitors the easier task of looking down rather than craning upwards. The Church authorities had debated whether to permit such an ambitious project, and had finally agreed provided it was carried to completion. It is a blessing to the parishioners and visitors.



Ceiling English Martyrs Catholic Church (Derek Leach)

In Arundel itself there were the choices of:
*lunch by the river

*the sumptuous Castle Gardens, formal and informal, colourful and even dramatic planting schemes, use of timber in place of more usual stone, restored Victorian greenhouses, all as organic as possible, and more too in a delightful experience.

*the imposing Castle itself, with noisy re-enactments of past derring-do.

*the fine and orderly Cathedral, preparing for a concert by the internationally known Libera choir. Shame they did not do a rehearsal while we were there.

*numerous restaurants and antiques' shops, with supreme cars parked nearby that caused us to think that most were not in our price league.

*parkland by the river, including a verdantly attractive putting green.

*and no doubt much more besides.

All were made that much more appealing still by warm sunshine that created a holiday atmosphere.



River Arun (Derek Leach)

SOCIETY OUTING

Yorkshire

9th – 13th September 2019

Rodney Stone

17 Society members joined a trip by the Silver Phoenix Travel Club, run by Iain Robertson who also organises trips for us.

We stayed at the Parsonage Hotel in Escrick, south of York, splendidly appointed with grounds and fitness centre. We ate very well and I hope all enjoyed the smart and comfortable rooms.

The area has so much to offer. We went to: *Harrogate, elegant, verdant and being extra-spruced for the impending World Cycling Championships. Almost our first sight was a queue outside Betty's, the famed tea shop. A walking tour, enthusiastically led, showed us the history, the attractions of the spa waters and gardens, and the growth of imposing buildings, such as the Royal Hall, to cater for the incoming clientele.

*Beamish Museum, the mainly open-air re-creation of a community back in 1913. Trams and elderly buses, Co-op store, print works, railway station, maritime engines (when the North East led the way in manufacture), Masonic Lodge, and, as a reminder of the advance of medical science since, a dentist's surgery with foot-driven drill and dangerous means of anaesthesia. The staff and volunteers added to the atmosphere in their period clothing and willingness to chat. A pleasure for some on the way back was

close inspection of The Angel of the North bronze statue overlooking the countryside.

*York itself. Another interesting guided tour, the National Railway Museum with its unique collection of engines and rolling stock, and many places charting the history of the city, the majestic Minster, much preserved city wall, narrow streets, and an even longer Betty's queue. There is so much to see.

*The Geoff Hamilton gardens in Rutland, where the BBC's Gardeners' World was filmed in his lifetime. There are 38 individual gardens, ranging from Artisan's Cottage to Stream and Bog, Japanese to Fruit Orchard, all carefully presented and lovingly maintained, educational and productive.

Many thanks go to Iain and to Janet, again our adept and re-assuring driver, and to the weather that allowed outside visiting.



Tram at Beamish (Ken Palmer)

Brigadier Maurice Alan Atherton CBE, JP, DL, DCL

Terry Sutton

Members of The Dover Society, headed by Chairman Derek Leach, attended the packed memorial service at Canterbury Cathedral giving thanks to the life of our former president, Brigadier Maurice Alan Atherton.

Maurice Atherton, a former Deputy Constable of Dover Castle and commander of Dover Shorncliffe Garrison, died at his Barham home on Monday, July 15. He was 92.

During the Cathedral service Dean, Dr Robert Willis, told of Maurice's long service to the nation and to the County of Kent which was very well represented.

He commanded the East Yorkshire Regiment in 1946, serving in Egypt, Sudan, Malaysia, Germany and Hong Kong until being appointed chief instructor at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst from 1964-67.

There was laughter during the service when it was mentioned that this mild man, Maurice, was once known as 'The Gripper'. This was when he was the senior instructor at the Royal Military Academy and was ready to tell trembling officer cadets to "Get a grip of yourself, man".

From 1967 to 1969 Maurice commanded the 1st battalion of The Green Howards and they were represented by a number of men who served with him. At one stage he

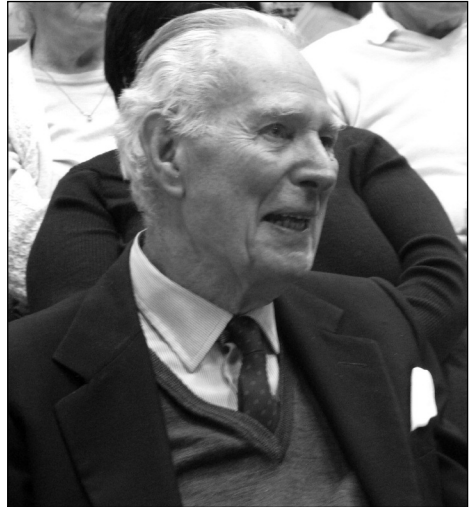


*Brigadier Maurice Atherton
an Officer and a Gentleman*

was county president of the Royal British Legion and his service to the Legion was demonstrated by a parade of standards in the cathedral.

In 1976 he was appointed Deputy Constable of Dover Castle and Commander of the Shorncliffe garrison, serving until 1981 when he retired from the army. He awarded the CBE in 1981.

As Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, he and his family lived in the castle's centuries-old Constable's Tower. Maurice and Wendi played a pivotal role in entertaining the late Queen Mother when she was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.



Brigadier Maurice Atherton

Among the many organisations represented at the service were the Confederation of the Cinque Ports and the Rotary Club of Dover, of which he was a member for a number of years.

As the notes of the Last Post and Reveille rang through the Cathedral, there were the words of Pope John XXIII: "Death is the future for everyone. It is the Last Post of this life and the Reveille of the next."

Maurice was a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, a Dover magistrate, county president of the Royal British Legion, a keen member of the Men of the Trees and a former

president of The Dover Society.

A former chairman of the governors of the University of Kent, in 1996 he received an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law.

Maurice and his wife Wendi regularly attended the annual meetings of our society and would speak highly of the work of the society. He was also very generous in his support of our Town Hall fund.

For years Maurice and Wendi continued to play an active role in the local community often entertaining at their home at Barham.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS **Sheila Cope**

With great regret I have to record the death in July of our former President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton who, together with Wendi, was genuinely interested in our Society and attended our functions regularly, including being present at the pre-meeting meals for our speakers and getting to know committee members personally. We shall be pleased to welcome Wendi when she feels able to attend again.

Another sad loss is that of Jeremy Fox, an inveterate cyclist who had delivered Newsletters in the Temple Ewell area since the foundation of the Society. He was a regular member of the Cowgate team and is one of the Jeremys (Jeremy no. 2 as he referred to himself) pictured on the front cover of the 25th Anniversary Newsletter.

We have 454 members at present and hope that we shall recruit more during the "indoor season" when we hope to attract new recruits with a variety of interesting speakers. The challenge is to find different ways of advertising ourselves and then to

have sufficient person-power to undertake tasks such as updating our website monthly and to man a publicity stall at community events. At the same time we appreciate the support of all our existing members who regularly pay their subscriptions and attend our functions when they can.

On the Society's very successful September trip to York, two of our members were able to meet their brothers, one at Beamish and the other in York itself. Both men are Dovorians who have moved north but who keep in touch with their home town through their continuing membership of the Society.

We welcome: Chantal Vouillemin, Louise Miles, Mrs J Thompson, Philip Knight, John & Pamela Male, Sarah & Mark Mannall, Sheila Watts, Mr A Hogg, David & Gillian Roberts, Mr J Lewandowski, Alan Lewer, Mr Philip Allcock and Lucy Blincow.



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Old St James Church Lives on in Australia!

Derek Leach

Two significant reminders of Dover during WWII have been placed in Dover Hall in a new chapel called St. James in Mowll Memorial Village, Australia, taken from the first St James Chapel in the same village.

What is the connection? The answer lies in the name of the village – Mowll. The Mowlls are an old Dover family. William Mowll moved to Dover in 1670 and became a Freeman in 1672.

His son, Richard, became a Cinque Ports' Pilot and the family had a long connection with St. Mary's Church. William Mowll, born in 1792, donated the land which we know as Cowgate Cemetery and was the first of his family to be buried in a family vault there.

William Rutley Mowll (1819-1886) married into the Worsfold family, (another old Dover name) and became a coal merchant with a fleet of coal carrying ships. He built 'Chaldercot' in Leyburne Road and became a JP, Freeman of London and a Baron of the Cinque Ports. Members of the Mowll family had a legal practice whose name still exists today – Mowll and Mowll.

The Mowlls changed their church allegiance from St. Mary's to St. James' in the mid-19th century where three generations became church wardens. Whilst a new St. James' Church was built in 1862, making the original redundant, the original was reopened as a chapel of ease in 1869. Both churches, however, were ruined by WWII enemy action and



*Bell from the Admiralty Pier
outside St James Chapel NSW
Australia*

neither were replaced, but enough of old St James' was left to become 'a tidy ruin' that we see today.

Howard West Kilvinton Mowll, a grandson of William Rutley Mowll, became an Anglican priest serving in China and elsewhere. This included Australia where he was made Archbishop of Sydney in 1933 and Primate of Australia in 1948. His last act before his death in 1958 was

to approve the purchase of land for a retirement village, which became the first in a network of Anglican retirement villages.

When the first St. James Chapel with its Dover Hall was built in 1965 in the Mowll Village, its connection with the church in Dover and the Mowll family was commemorated by a large wooden cross made from timber from old St. James and from St Mary in Castro. Outside the Dover Hall a large and scarred bell from the Admiralty Pier was hung. When the new church in the Mowll Village replaced the original in 2018, the cross, bell and two windows in memory of Archbishop Mowll and his wife were placed in their new home.

Back in Dover, this distinguished son of Dover was commemorated on a tablet in front of the family vault in Cowgate Cemetery.

Source: Booklet entitled 'Ancient Church in Dover to Modern Chapel in Castle Hill' by Stuart Braga.

Planning Committee

Patrick Sherratt

Dover Western Docks Revival (DWDR)

The new "Port of Call" Cruise Terminal within the Western Docks has been utilized on several occasions. As previously mentioned, this facility now enables three large cruise ships to visit Dover at the same time. We look forward to seeing the cruise ship business increase next year with this new berth.

Of concern is the news that Geest, moved from Portsmouth to Dover, are returning to Portsmouth from January following the Port of Portsmouth, owned by City of Portsmouth Council, investing £15m on improving facilities to handle the larger Geest ships. 70% of the UK banana business that enters the UK is shipped by Geest. This loss may well affect the viability of the DWDR, and questions must be asked why Dover Harbour Board did not secure a longer contract with Geest bearing in mind their traffic is of significant value to the justification of the new cargo handling facilities.

DTIZ (St James Development)

Nine units (4 retail and 5 catering) are still empty. The latest "new" outlet is O2 phones that has relocated from Biggin Street creating another town centre empty shop.

During the planning process we made comment in respect to the continual reduction in landscaping. The small amount of landscaping is sadly being neglected and this has been taken up with DDC who should look at the quality of landscaping maintenance at the Ashford Outlet Centre. The visual quality is needed to enhance the decline in Dover town.

Castle Street/Biggin Street

The application in respect to 13 Castle Street was decided at DDC Planning Committee with the various comments from local residents ignored. Permission was granted for a five bedroom property; note this fails to provide any living areas as all rooms are bedrooms. DDC Private Sector Housing comment was suitable for an HMO not exceeding 5 people without any further planning application. Of interest is the property is on the market as a 5-bed property with a local estate agent who promotes investment with conversions to HMO's.

We continue to support change of use of upper floors in Biggin Street from business to residential provided the residential is of quality.

Conservation Areas

Derek is leading with the Conservation Area Appraisals (CPA's). Dour Street CPA has been completed and is awaiting DDC Cabinet approval although prior to this it is "decided" by the Leader of Councils "DDC Leader Forum". This not being a cross party forum and consists of Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs of Planning, Governance, Regulatory and spokesperson for scrutiny plus DDC CEO and Directors as well as four DDC Officers, the activities of this Forum are not subject to minutes of meetings.

I raise this as the Dour Street CPA has not been totally accepted by the Leader Forum. Of concern is when the Principal Heritage Officer proposed the extension of the boundary to the Waterloo Crescent Conservation Area to include Granville

Gardens and gardens between the Gateway flats and Marine Parade. The DDC Cabinet rejected her proposal for this as to do so would restrict future developments.

Sadly, it is known from community functions within Castle Ward that at least one DDC Cabinet Member is on record as saying if he had his way he would get rid of Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings as they are a hindrance to development. The Leader Forum mainly consists of Councillors representing rural areas of the District. The Town Centre CPA is nearing completion.

Section 215 of Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Enforcement

There seems little action by DDC on our original list and this has been raised with the CEO of DDC as many hours spent by The Dover Society that now seem to be ignored by the DDC Planning Enforcement Manager. No work will continue with this important regeneration tool until a positive response from DDC.

Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's) and deprivation levels in Dover

As DDC were reluctant to provide information asked for by Graham he then sought to obtain under Freedom of Information (FIO). Our concerns were that HMO's were not being monitored by inspection and lack of recording anti-social behaviour etc. The FOI response indicated approx. 15 inspections per year, with 41 HMO's (and rising) this equates to an inspection approximately every three years. During the last three years stated no issues or complaints, no licences revoked other than where change of ownership. No mention of police issues.

I think this fairly reflects the lack of control on HMO's in Dover. There is no problem with HMO's operated by bona-fide

organizations, e.g. Porchlight, but privately-run establishments do have problems.

Thanet Council have introduced restrictions in granting HMO's and it is possibly why Dover as an adjacent authority is increasing. Many Local Authorities are not granting HMO's because of the associated problems.

Did you know that in 2010 Dover had two of its six wards in the top 20% of deprived wards in England? The 2010 DDC Core Strategy document sought "Have no areas falling within the 20% of those most deprived in England". Well in 2019 ALL SIX wards are now in the top 20% of deprived wards in England. Much of this has been the continued granting of studio/one bed flats that do not even deliver the guidelines set by DDC in 2006 but not legally adopted.

Another contributing factor is DDC must deliver Government targets for new build properties, for the District currently set at 629 per year. In the 2010 Core Strategy the highest delivery area was "Dover", however in effect this is actually Whitfield Urban Development. Whitfield has not been a success and Local Authorities seek to reduce the delivery gap by what is called "Windfall" for small developments not previously identified in the Core Strategy and normally amounts on average to 20% of targets. Windfall includes buildings converted and each converted unit (flat) is counted as a property so six flats deliver six windfall units.

I raise this as being sceptical. Is DDC using such high level of small poor-quality conversions to attempt to deliver Government targets? This is possibly true based on a recent application that sought to increase from permitted nine flats to sixteen flats and the DDC Case Officers comments "The site is located within the settlement confines of Dover, which is

identified as the major focus for development in the District, suitable for the largest scale developments, The principle of the development is therefore supported".

Another cause of the downward spiral is other Local Authorities placing their tenants in coastal areas. Of surprise was Shepway Council purchasing and locating tenants to Dover. It is known one property in Leyburne Rd is owned by Oportunitas Ltd registered at Shepway Council Offices 'address' and consist of five Shepway councillors as Directors. It has been established 125 households have already been placed in Dover from Shepway. If the Leyburne Road property is an example of the type of residents, then are Shepway relocating their "difficult" tenants?

To conclude on a positive note. The DDC development on the former William Muge House and Snellgrove House sites in Harold Street//Leyburne Rd has commenced and DDC are to be congratulated on this mixed housing scheme that will deliver quality to the area and solve some of the housing issues. Also great to see some funding from Coastal Communities and High Street initiatives and hope DDC spend this money well for Dover.

My health has deteriorated over recent weeks and I hope to continue as Chair of the Society Planning Committee and continue the debate on the above issues, however, when Graham takes over, I am sure he will continue our fight for Dover.

Refurbishment Committee

— Mike McFarnell —

Since the last report the committee has monitored the quality and appearance to the town including run down premises and empty shops. The Elli opened to replace Burger Bros in the Market Square. The Market Kitchen is scheduled to open and replace Dickens Corner. It was sad after so many years of trading Allan Hughes Menswear closed in Canon Street. Work was undertaken by Kent County Council to repair and replace paving stones in Biggin Street. St James Retail and Leisure Centre sponsored the flower baskets on the bollards in Castle Street, which supplemented the floral displays in the High Street by the Town and District Council.

In March 2020 Dover will receive £3,000,000 from the Coastal Community Fund for work on the Market Square area.

Heritage Lottery Funding has been received for the town hall. The new pier is now open and early next year the new marina is scheduled to open.

A meeting with the police takes place twice a year. Dover has a Town Beat policeman PC46010525 James Chenery

Other areas covered are; litter and recycling, the River Dour, Cowgate Cemetery, tourism, highways and pathways.

All the above is important but membership involvement is vital. This can be done without joining a committee. On the inside front page of the newsletter or on the website are contact details: Please share your views and ideas.

A Right Pickle in the Port

Peter Sherred

Dover has welcomed all manner of vessels and seagoing craft over the years so when a small sailing vessel, sporting the name '*HMS Pickle*', made an appearance over an August weekend this year and berthed in Dover Marina Tidal Harbour, astern of the Dover lifeboat on Crosswall Quay, it represented nothing out of the ordinary. But this vessel gives rise to a question: When is a replica not a replica but a re-creation, a conversion, a reproduction or even a representation?

The question of the status of the '*HMS Pickle*' that moored in Dover harbour seems first to have originated when the vessel took part in the 2005 bicentenary celebrations for the Battle of Trafalgar, when it represented the smallest vessel in Admiral Lord Nelson's fleet present at the defining naval battle of the Napoleonic wars. But what is so important about the 1805 vessel, bearing the same name, such that it is remembered with affection even in today's Royal Navy, where Officers hold an annual Pickle Night dinner in memory of it?

The answer lies in the fact that it was the vessel that first carried the news of both the victory of Trafalgar and the death of Admiral Lord Nelson to England. Under the command of Captain John Lapenotière, the topsail schooner took nine days to reach the British Isles, having encountered on the way a fierce gale off Finisterre. The vessel made landfall in Falmouth on November 4th and the Captain made the overland journey from there to London in just 37 hours to give the Admiralty the mixed news from Trafalgar. Sadly, the 1805 vessel came to a sad end when, just three years later while carrying despatches to Admiral Lord Collingwood at Cadiz, she grounded at night nearby and her

bottom was caved in. Fortunately, there was no loss of life, but it is said a diver worked for three days to recover the despatches! A court martial found the then Commander guilty of seamanship errors and he was reprimanded.

'*HMS Pickle*' had, in fact, started life as a civilian vessel launched in 1799 in Bermuda under the name of '*Sting*' but she was purchased, on behalf of the navy, by Lord Hugh Seymour for use in the West Indies and specifically Jamaica. Later, armed with eight or ten guns, she became the fastest but smallest ship present at Trafalgar, where she took no part in the action.

The vessel that appeared in Dover in August was originally built in the mid-1960s in Russia, probably St Petersburg, as part of the celebrations commemorating the foundation of the Russian Navy by Peter the Great three hundred years earlier. Launched as a schooner, she was given the name of '*Alevtina Tuy*' and was one of five other vessels built at the same time. In 2005 she took part in the bicentenary celebrations of the battle of



HMS Pickle 2019

Trafalgar as a representation of the original *'HMS Pickle'*. Then, after some years, she ended up in Gibraltar for about two years, where she deteriorated into something akin to a wreck. Offered for sale on eBay, she was purchased in 2014 by a British businessman, Mr Nicholson of Lincolnshire, who managed to sail the barely seaworthy vessel from Gibraltar to a port in Portugal's Algarve, where he was introduced to a small family boat repair and construction business based in Quarteira. A substantial repair and refitting project was embarked upon. Mr Nicholson's recreation of the original *'HMS Pickle'* was apparently based upon an exact copy of the plans drawn up by the Royal Navy when the original vessel arrived in England in 1802, with the exception of the inclusion of an engine and electronic navigation equipment and modification of the deck to provide for extra cabins. Following the lengthy refit in Portugal, undertaken by a team of Portuguese and

British shipbuilders, the vessel returned to the sea and to England in 2015.

Based on the River Humber, the present vessel sporting the name *'HMS Pickle'* participates in many naval or maritime events and exhibitions around the country. In so doing, her presence keeps alive the memory and significance of the original *'HMS Pickle'* with her historic role after the battle of Trafalgar. However, with her rigging placed on the hull of a vessel designed as a replica of a Russian or Baltic trading vessel and renamed, together with the modern additions, it raises the question - is she a replica, a re-creation, a conversion, a reproduction or even a representation of the original? Certainly she is not her historic namesake, wrecked beyond repair in 1808, but she bears its name and serves a useful purpose in maintaining a naval commemoration. Her current status, however, leaves us in a right Pickle!

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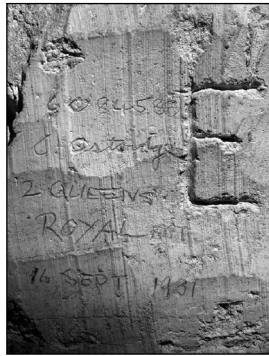
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Fort Burgoyne and Connaught Barracks

Barry O'Brien

Fort Burgoyne is one of 70 forts and batteries built as part of the largest maritime defence programme of the last 450 years, the fort includes such unique features as the wing batteries which are connected by earthwork lines to the main fort and which were necessary to fill the defensive gap with Dover Castle. As part of the programme instigated by Palmerston's Royal Commission the background and history of the fort is, largely, well documented and recorded.



Graffiti Left by the Royal Green Jackets at Connaught Barracks (Barry O'Brien)

first part of an evolving display, building toward a planned celebration to commemorate the Centenary of the British Legion in 2021.

As part of our ongoing research we would like to invite Dover Society members, with a military connection or not, to contribute to, or participate in, our project helping build our knowledge of Fort Burgoyne and Connaught Barracks with first hand experiences and memories.

Built to the south of Fort Burgoyne, and completed some 150 years later, Connaught Barracks were in constant use until 2006 when the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment vacated the site, yet, despite almost a century of occupation, which included a major project to rebuild the barracks in the early 1960s, very little documented history of Connaught Barracks has been found to exist.

With work being carried out by The Land Trust to bring Fort Burgoyne into community use it was felt that Connaught Barracks needed to be celebrated and included within the sites future not least with the barrack buildings having already been largely removed to make way for housing.

Working alongside the White Cliffs Branch of the Royal British Legion we have begun collecting photographs, memorabilia, film and recordings as the

Further details of the project to celebrate Connaught Barracks can be obtained from Barry O'Brien barry@dovortales.co.uk or from Chris Valdus, site manager, 07825 901 358.

Although the site is not yet fully opened to the public we should be pleased to arrange a future group visit for Dover Society members should that be of interest.



Visit by RBL White Cliffs Branch 19th June 2019 (Barry O'Brien)

William Thomas Sharp 1893 - 1943

Information from an article in the "Dover Express" ©

Terry Sutton and Kathleen and Bob Hollingsbee

William Thomas Sharp was born on 30th March 1893 at no. 6 Chapel Street, the son of Albert Edward Sharp and Alice Annie (née Gillman). He was baptised at St Mary's Church on 3rd December 1895. As a young boy, he moved with his parents to no. 35 Albany Place, where the family were living in 1901.

He attended St Mary's School in Queen Street, just round the corner from the family home. On leaving school he went to work as an apprentice pastry-cook with the well-known firm of Igglesden and Graves in the Market Square.

In 1910, aged 17, he joined the army, serving with the 4th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade, in India. In 1914 he returned to Europe and to Flanders, where he fought at Ypres. He was at Ypres when the Germans first used poison gas in the trenches. At this time, his parents were living at no. 5, Sidney Terrace, Malvern Road.

After the war, William was put in charge of one of the barges that were crossing and re-crossing the Channel from the port of Richborough, bringing back the Army's surplus stores and supplies.

His destination was the port of Calais where, on one of his trips, he met and fell



William Thomas Sharp

in love with a young French woman by the name of Germaine Delaplace. They were married and moved back to Dover, where their first daughter, Doris, was born in 1921.

Shortly after this, William and his family returned to Calais, where he got a job as a foreman in a factory making artificial silk. It was here in Calais that their second daughter, Eliane, was born. Later, William

became an interpreter at the Harbour Station. Germaine owned a café in Place de Suède, near the harbour.

In 1936, William became a naturalised French citizen.

In 1939, war came again to Western Europe. The Germans made their way to the French coast and attacked Calais in 1940. During the bombardment, Germaine's café was destroyed and she was killed. William stayed in Calais with his two daughters and became an informant for the Intelligence Service.

One of the first tasks of the occupying forces, after driving the British troops out of Dunkerque, was to fortify the cliffs and sand-dunes along the coast and to build emplacements for the long-range guns that would pour shells into William's home

town of Dover. Later, launching ramps for the V1 flying bombs were erected along the coast to attack London.

William joined the Resistance. At night, he and his comrades would creep out to sabotage the German installations and to send messages to the British Intelligence. Their efforts helped the RAF to target the enemy installations on the Pas de Calais, thus saving Southern England from even greater destruction.

He joined the Pat O'Leary Network as a "passeur d'hommes", helping allied airmen to escape back to England.

After the O'Leary network was infiltrated, someone informed on the Calais members and, in November 1942, the Gestapo kicked in the door of William Sharpe's Calais home and he was arrested. He and his fellow Resistance workers were dragged off to prison in Loos, on the outskirts of Lille, where they were tortured by the Gestapo in an attempt to get them to reveal the names of the other members of the Calais cell.

He was beaten and kicked about the face until he was barely recognisable, but he refused to talk. It is said that, even under torture, he cried out in French, so the Gestapo would not be aware of his English birth. Eventually, on 27th August, 1943, at the Citadel de Bondues in Lille, William and his 4 companions, Pierre, Marcel, Henri and Alphonse, were taken out and shot. As they went out, they are reported to have defiantly sung "La Marseillaise".

After the Liberation, the body of William Sharp was exhumed and taken to Calais, where it was laid to rest with full military honours near La Porte de Dunkerque, in the town where he had become a hero.

In 1963, the Mayor and Council of Calais honoured William by naming a street after him in the Beau Marais area of the town.

Some 30 years later, he was further honoured with the posthumous award of a medal from the French government.

For years Allan Taylor has tried to get this man recognised in Dover, but with no luck. He is part of a group called ForGetMeNotWarGraves and they visit Sharp's grave many times a year when in France.

Editor

Translation of an article from a Calais newspaper which provides much of the background to his life story:

RUE WILLIAM SHARP

"On the 17th December 1962, the Municipal Council presided over by Monsieur Jacques Vendroux gave to a street in a housing development in Beau Marais, joined to Rue Henri-Oueval and adjacent to Rue Gaston-Lelong, the name of the Calais Resistance worker William Sharp.

An Englishman from Dover; naturalised French, William Sharp was a foreman at the artificial silk factory, then an interpreter at the marine station. His wife owned a café in the Place de Suède. Under the occupation, after the death of his spouse, killed in a bombardment, and the demolition of her café, William Sharp remained with his two daughters, Doris and Eliane, and was an informant for the Intelligence Service and a "passeur d'hommes" in the Pat O'Leary network, which recovered and evacuated shot-down allied airmen. When the network collapsed in 1942, Sharp was arrested and interned at Loos. He was executed at the same time as Puis, Follet, Henri Béraet and Huyghes, at the Citadel of Bondues, on 27th August 1943."

The Closure of Dover's Award-winning Independent Quality Menswear Retail Outlet

Peter Sherred

"I'm sorry to read this. It was my clothes shop for many years and I have a great respect and affection for Arthur Salisbury." "It's been an amazing shop over the years and it is very sad to see it go. Thank you to Arthur and Mary for all the years of service they gave to the people of Dover and enjoy your retirement and all the best to you both." "Always made me think of 'Are you being served'....." "T've bought loads of suits from here. Love the place, just sad to see it go."



Arthur & Mary Salisbury following ceasing trading

two and which links Stembrook and Cannon Street.

Arthur Alfred Salisbury was born in Cranfield, a village in northwest Bedfordshire between Bedford and Milton Keynes, on 26 November 1948. Although classified as a village it boasts the only British postgraduate and research-based public university specialising in science, engineering, technology and management. Following education in Cranfield and

The 6th August 2019 was the final trading day in Dover of the established quality menswear shop, operating under the name of Allan Hughes for over 50 years in Cannon Street, which ceased operations upon the retirement of its proprietor Arthur Salisbury who with his wife, Mary, of 45 years, hopes to settle in the West Country. Arthur had been the proprietor of the business for some 22 years from August 26th 1997 during which time he was held in high esteem by those who had the privilege of knowing him as he ran his business as well as by those who witnessed significant contributions he made to the life of our town. In 2004 his business was given the prestigious 'Shop of the Year' Award by the White Cliffs Country Tourism Association. The quotes at the start of this article are a random sample of very many responses recorded on Facebook as the news of the closure of the business became public knowledge. It is a sad loss to Dover both in human terms and in terms of the nature of the business operating from the iconic building located just below St Mary's Church adjoining the footpath running between the

nearby Stewartby, noted for being a model village originally built for the workers of the London Brick Company, Arthur left school at the age of 15 and began his career in the men's clothing industry by joining Hepworth Menswear with whom he would remain for 25 years. He became a shop manager at the age of 19 in Rushton, Northamptonshire and over the years was manager in a number of towns' stores, including at Bedford, St Albans and Milton Keynes. The company was taken over by the business familiarly known today as NEXT. Arthur met Mary in church in Cranfield after she had moved to the village and they were married in Cranfield on 26th August 1974. Their four daughters and a son, were all educated in local schools and live independently from the family home in East Studdal.

It seems that the Salisbury family arrived in Dover through a combination of chance and calling. In a menswear magazine Arthur saw an advertisement of a menswear business for sale with a Dorset telephone number which interested Arthur and Mary as their

preference was to move to the west. When Arthur made contact with the seller he was given details of the business and its catchment area, which included references to a port, ferries, cruise liner trade and Dover! The town had not been on Arthur and Mary's radar for a move from Bedfordshire. Nevertheless, Arthur viewed the business and the area in the process discovering another purchaser was already proceeding with the purchase of the business! Sometime later he was advised the initial purchaser had withdrawn from transaction, so Arthur proceeded to acquire the business. At this point things all seemed to fall into place. Arthur recalls visiting the bank manager, based in what was then Burlington House, to secure a supportive response on the financial front. He then considered the question of family housing settling on a property in East Studdal that had, ironically, featured in a dream experienced by Mary regarding certain of its features. The die was cast and it seemed that the move was meant to be. As for the business the rest is history.

Outside of the business Arthur is a man of faith, a Methodist by persuasion. Upon arrival he and Mary considered various churches eventually settling upon River Methodist Church in Lewisham Road River. It appealed to them due to the warmth of their reception by the Revd. Gordon Newton and his wife Elaine and because it had an active and thriving youth group suitable for their children then aged between 18 down to 2. Arthur became an active member of Christians Together in Dover (CTID) having been encouraged to join by the then Baptist minister Revd. Bill Kirk. Arthur served as Vice Chairman for two years then Chairman for two years being deeply committed to the introduction of the Dover Street Pastor Scheme ably supported by the Revd. Bill Kirk, his wife Marie and by Noel Beamish who later become leader of CTID. Arthur had encouraged Noel to become engaged with

CTID from which was to flow several Christian initiatives in Dover including The Dover Outreach Centre and the Food Bank, the latter being initiated by Jonathan Wheeler. Right to the end of his stay in Dover Arthur remains a supporter of CTID.

After his active engagement with CTID Arthur, who had been a Methodist Lay Preacher since the age of 27, became a Circuit Steward for the local Methodist Circuit which involved taking care of the ministries of the Circuit and being supportive of the ministers. Methodist ministers remain in place for a finite term, usually five years. One of Arthur's functions was to ensure the local Circuit had an identified and allocated minister in place to succeed an outgoing minister. Not always a straightforward or easy task!

So, Dover has lost and said farewell to a quality menswear retail outlet and to two lovely people who had been with the town since 1997. Arthur said of his experience in the clothing trade in Dover that in the 22 years of his proprietorship the business had been steady and survived the recession that claimed many other businesses. It had provided a living enough to sustain his large family and seeing all the children grow up and move away. Now is the turn of Arthur and Mary to move away and Dover is indebted to them both for their contributions to the town, primarily through the dignified and efficient management of the business but also through their Christian commitment and activities flowing from that. It is to be hoped that this lovely couple will be granted a long and healthy retirement together as they hope to see more of their children and 22 grandchildren in the time ahead.

Meantime Dover waits to see what the future holds for the building vacated in Cannon Street from which a variety of business uses have operated in the past.



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THE DOVER SOCIETY CHRISTMAS LUNCH Sunday 1 December, 2019

Our Christmas Lunch will be held in the Stone Hall in **Maison Dieu**, our magnificent historical Town Hall.

There will be a three course meal with coffee and mints. A welcome drink of mulled wine or tropical fruit punch is included in the price of **£25.00 per person**. Other drinks may be purchased at the Bar. After lunch we welcome Quadlibet who will be providing entertainment for us.

Welcome drinks will be available from **12.30pm** and lunch will begin promptly at 1.00pm.

Menu

Starter:

- [A] Quenelles of mushroom pate served with red onion chutney, rocket, tomatoes and granary bread
- [B] Plump prawn and crayfish cocktail served on a bed of seasonal leaves with malted granary bread
- [C] A traditional brie & asparagus cheesecake served warm on a bed of baby leaf spinach

Main:

- [D] Roast turkey breast with port, cranberry and orange stuffing, chipolata sausage, roast potatoes and vegetables
- [E] Roast beef with Yorkshire pudding and a rich horseradish gravy, roast potatoes and

vegetables

- [F] Butternut squash filled with roasted Mediterranean vegetables, roast potatoes
- [G] Paupiette of plaice with asparagus and a light hollandaise sauce, roast potatoes and vegetables

Dessert:

- [H] Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy cream
- [I] Selection of cheeses, celery and dried fruits
- [J] Mango and Passionfruit Bavaois served with pouring cream

Welcome Drink:

- [K] Mulled wine
- [L] Tropical fruit punch

To book your place(s), please complete the form below and return it together with your cheque made payable to **THE DOVER SOCIETY** to: Beverley Hall, 61 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 01304 202646. If a receipt is required please enclose a S.A.E.



Christmas Lunch – Sunday 1 December, 2019 – £25.00 per person

Name:

Address:

Telephone: No. of places @ £25.00 each

Please select for each person, your choice of menu and welcome drink (mulled wine or fruit punch).

Name(s)	Starter	Main	Dessert	Drink
.....				
.....				
.....				
.....				



Maison Dieu: Reawakening a Gothic Fantasy

The Dover Society has been working in partnership with Dover District Council and Dover Town Council on the Maison Dieu project for a number of years. As part of the restoration project, if we are successful with our 2nd round application to the Heritage Fund next year, the project team will deliver a range of educational activities from 2020 to 2024 and beyond; we hope that members of the Dover Society may like to become involved. We are keen to present a summary of the

emerging activities to members of the Dover Society and receive any feedback members may have. A summary the activities and a comments box is provided below (some of these activities are under development and will change over the next few months). If you have any comments, please write them in the comments box and return the form to Kevin Charles, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, CT16 3PJ. Kevin.Charles@DOVER.GOV.UK

Activity Title	Activity Description
How to Look After Your Building	This activity will deliver a series of workshops providing practical advice to owners and leaseholders in Dover on how they can maintain and repair their own historic buildings.
Maison Dieu Festival of Skills	This activity will deliver an annual Festival of skills based on the historic and current uses of the building and the range of skills and professions required.
Maison Dieu: Brokering Skills & Apprenticeships	This activity will encourage contractors and tenants procured to deliver capital works to employ or mentor at least one individual and ensure that they have policies in favour of apprenticeships.
Burges' Furniture Studio	This activity will deliver a furniture restoration studio within the Maison Dieu during the physical works to restore the Burges furniture and other items.
Restoring the Maison Dieu's Collections	This activity will deliver two work-streams that will address the collection at the Maison Dieu and across Dover more generally: 1) An artefact restoration studio will be established within the building during the physical works. 2) A series of workshops will be delivered for local volunteers and professionals in object handling, cleaning and storage, with practical sessions using the collection at the Maison Dieu in preparation for the physical works.
Exploring the Secrets of the Maison Dieu	This activity will deliver a series of workshops, lectures and tours related to the various crafts and professions involved with both the building of the Maison Dieu and its restoration.
Maison Dieu: Gothic Story	This activity will assemble a team of volunteers. The researchers to define and investigate a series of five questions relating to the medieval Maison Dieu.
Welcome to Europe's Gateway	This activity seeks to develop and deliver a series of practical workshops focussing on hospitality and skills training for volunteers and those involved in the local tourism industry.

The William Burges Society and Archive	This activity proposes to develop a new international William Burges Society working in partnership with key Burges' custodians such as Cardiff Castle, The Higgins Bedford, Trinity College Connecticut and the Victorian Society. In parallel the activity will create an entirely new online archive of William Burges work.
Friends of the Maison Dieu	Creating a local Friends of the Maison Dieu group to input to and provide volunteering resource for future events and activities.
Maison Dieu Website	The purpose of this activity is to develop a website for the Maison Dieu.
Maison Dieu Festival of Arts	This activity will deliver an annual arts and culture festival hosted in the Maison Dieu following the completion of the capital works.
Dover's History at Night	This activity seeks to establish, as part of the national 'Museum at Night' festival organised by Culture 24, a formal cluster of venues in Dover opening their doors and holding events as part of the national programme.
Uncovering the Past: Community Archaeology	This activity will deliver a number of community archaeology events at the Maison Dieu during the delivery phase.
The Reawakening Through a Photographers Eye	This activity will deliver a series of photography workshops with a specialist architectural photographer throughout the capital works programme.
People's Pilgrimage	This activity will place the Maison Dieu back on the European map for religious pilgrims, secular walkers, cyclists and visitors.
Reawakening a Gothic Fantasy	This activity will deliver a comprehensive, 3D, interactive interpretation scheme to aid the reawakening of this gothic fantasy. The completed interpretation will be housed within the Stone Hall.
Heritage Open Days	This activity will ensure that more of the Maison Dieu is open during the national Heritage Open Day initiative and that collections and interpretation is available for all to see.
The Big Bang!	This activity will deliver a series of marketing and promotional projects that seek to raise the profile of the Maison Dieu within the local community, regionally, nationally and internationally and drive engagement.
Community Consultation	This activity proposes to hold a programme of community consultation events throughout the Delivery Phase of the project.
Maison Dieu: User and Focus Groups	This activity will deliver a series of workshops with existing and potential building users and focus groups to ensure that their views and requirements are fully taken into account.
A Reawakened Gothic Fantasy	Once the restoration has taken place the Maison Dieu will be opened to the public by way of a community launch event.
Comments	



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The Gift Aid Legislation allows us to reclaim basic tax rate on your subscription and any donations. To do so, The Dover Society will provide your details to HMRC. Please state that you are happy for us to do this by signing the declaration below. This will come into effect from the date of signing and you can change your mind and withdraw consent at any time. (You must be a UK taxpayer and pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax we re-claim on your subscription or donation.) For joint membership, the first named is asked to sign as the taxpayer.

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Signed: Date:

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Practical Help

I/We could sometimes give practical help with the following (please tick relevant sections)

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History of Whitfield Chapel

Martyn Webster

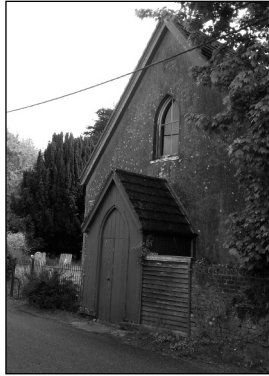
In Chapel Lane, Whitfield, near Dover, stands unassumingly on the left, a small building with a modern tiled roof. Giving directly on to the road an adjacent green board to the left of the double doored porch (now unopenable) painted weathered green on wood records "Whitfield United Reformed Church, Congregational Presbyterian, Sunday Services 2.45 pm" (the lower line painted out probably once gave the name

of the minister). A modern sign post on the main Sandwich Road nearby points to "United Reformed Church" which is one and the same giving clear indication of the building's religious use.

There is very little on record now traceable that enlightens upon the history of this unique little chapel and its attached small burial ground located in its appropriately named Chapel Lane. It went up for sale in the year 2019, its religious purpose having lapsed at the end of 2018 through dwindling congregation.

The best source of information on this site appeared in an article in the Dover Express newspaper of 23rd September 1938 reporting upon an account read by a Mr J. Holman on the bi-centenary of the Whitfield Chapel, then known as the Whitfield Congregational Church, at one of its celebration meetings at that church (later chapel) on Wednesday 21st September 1938.

In the year 1738 the Zion Congregational



Whitfield United Reformed Church (Martyn Webster)

Church in Queen Street, Dover was recorded as supporting the work of one of its evangelists preaching and visiting Whitfield having the use of cottage rooms there as a place of assembly, probably where the chapel is now. In 1780 a barn on the site, with a house and garden, was purchased for the use of Congregational Church worshippers, which was subsequently demolished when the need for improved accommodation arose. In

1781, in what must have been open countryside, the first chapel was built here with burial ground attached.

In 1867 the Queen Street Church approved plans for a new chapel which is the building in place today. An inscribed stone at the apex of the front façade with numbers and letters now barely discernible bears the legend "Erected 1781. 1867 Rebuilt". Until modern housing surrounded it this chapel must have stood in open country with only cottages dotted around nearby.

In 1900 the original cottage on the site, had apparently remained after the demolition of the barn, was replaced by a school room required upon the need to house the growing number of school children in the village of Whitfield. The configuration of this is very clear today in its obvious modern use as a meeting room with large table, chairs and an upright piano etc. Access to the chapel itself is by way of a side door to this room leading off a path to the side of the building from the front gate of the burial ground.

The interior of the chapel itself, when viewed in July 2019, shows its recent use as a place of worship and devotion, with altar, pulpit, hymn board and bibles poignantly stacked up as though ready for use at any moment. A war memorial tablet in marble bearing the names of local fallen soldiers is on the north facing wall, with a poppy wreath still at its foot.

Over the years the buildings were used for not only devotional purposes but also social related events, for example Women's Guild meetings etc. amongst others. The pastorate was centred from Dover itself with appointed evangelists who also covered adjacent village responsibilities.

The attached burial ground probably reaches back to 1780 and work has been done to record the surviving memorial inscriptions. A transcription of all the headstones with plan has been undertaken, the earliest burial dating from 1792 and the latest from 1977. There is no evidence yet of any surviving burial, baptism or marriage registers.

Application has been made by the United Reformed Church, the current owner, for its closure under the Disused Burial Grounds Act 1884 presumably as a precursor to the delicate question of its clearance. The fate of the headstones and the interments has yet to be determined.

Photographic record has been made of the headstones as well as views of the interior of the building as seen in July 2019.

It is sad to see the end time for this very unusual and mostly unseen place of God in its tucked away location off the Sandwich Road in Whitfield. One can only but wish all the very best for its transformation in the future.



Interior Whitfield United Reformed Church (M. Webster)

COWGATE CEMETERY Jeremy Cope

I have to report the sad loss of Jeremy Fox, one of our long time volunteers. Jeremy was the best of companions and workers and, although his attendance was inevitably rather spasmodic in his last couple of years we shall miss him.

We have had a summer's weather that made for an easy working environment and indeed, a good one to work in. The weather has now taken a wetter turn, to be expected and much needed to replenish the aquifers and water gardens. However that means that arranged meetings may have to be cancelled or re-arranged, but

that is readily dealt with by our volunteers.

An interesting challenge is to improve things so that we make the cemetery a better living space for wildlife, whilst at the same time keeping it so that visitors continue to be happy to use it. I hope to be able to report progress on this in future newsletter reports.

If anyone would like to join our happy band you will be most welcome. Phone me on 01304 211348 or email me jeremycope@willersley.plus.com

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Updated No Strife

Terry Sutton

Fortunately today in the UK, Protestants, Roman Catholics and others live together in reasonable harmony. In our town we see this demonstrated through 'Christians Together in Dover'. But four hundred and fifty years ago it was not so. In those days, at Dover, immigration officers, or "searchers" as they were then called, were on the lookout for what the State considered were "dangerous characters".

They were Christians but they were Catholics, many of them priests who refused to follow the new State religion. These were terrible times and those who lived in these islands must have been bewildered. They were supposed to go to church, but which church?

In 1534 Henry VIII brought in the Act of Supremacy separating the Anglican Church from the Catholic Church. Only a few years earlier Henry, who became Supreme Head of the English Church, had been so friendly with Pope Leo that he was created Defender of the Faith for his opposition to Luther. But by 1534 Henry was having marriage problems and so a new order came about.

When he died his daughter Mary wanted to go back to the old faith and many of those who disagreed with her were persecuted. Scores, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, were burnt at the stake.

There are no records of any Dover people being put to death for failing to accept the Catholic faith but a Dover widow, named Agnes, was locked up in the stocks in the Market Place in October 1558 because she had cooked mutton on a Feast day. Her

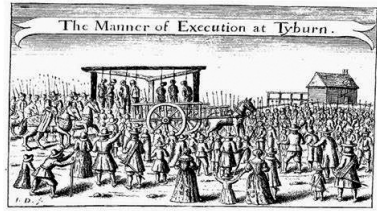
meal was placed before her on a spit and there she might have remained but, much to the relief of many, Queen Mary died a few days later.

But when Mary died, her half-sister the Protestant Elizabeth I became the Queen and in 1559 another Act of Supremacy was signed, with her as the head of the English Church. So now it was time for Catholics to suffer. A number of Catholic priests escaped to the Continent where, at Douai, a special seminary was opened for them. Dover, even then the nation's busiest cross-Channel port, was the main escape route from England to the Continent and those responsible for State security were soon arresting run-a-ways. One of the first to be caught at Dover in 1559 was a curate from St George's Church, Canterbury. He was released on bail. From 1577 onwards the number of arrests at Dover increased but others were still escaping to Douai.



Elizabeth I Portrait by Darnley c1575

Others who continued their education at Douai and were caught returning to England were tried and hanged at Tyburn with parts of their bodies cut up (drawn and quartered), as was quite normal in those days. In 1578 Edward Burnell was caught at Dover and taken before the mayor of Canterbury accused of smuggling Catholic books and religious objects into the country.



Tyburn Execution

Documentation tells of others who were arrested when they tried to get into the country through Dover but in June 1580 Father Robert Parsons landed at Dover in disguise telling the “searchers” he was just a jolly traveller. Immigration officials liked him so much they helped get a horse to take him to Gravesend. The mayor of Dover in 1580 seemed to have the good sense to allow one leading Catholic to go when he was brought before him accused of being “a friend of the old faith”. The mayor thought he would have to send the “disguised” man to London to be tried but, after a chat to court colleagues, decided to free him and send him on his way.

Not all were so lucky. John Munden, on his way to Douai, was arrested at Dover in 1579 and taken before the mayor, Thomas Allyn, and searched. Nothing incriminating was found so the “searchers” stripped him of everything he had and let him go free. However, according to records, Thomas Allyn and other “citizens of Dover” were accused later of misconduct because, it was alleged, they had imprisoned the same John Munden and took from him £15. (During Allyn’s mayoralty an earthquake shook Dover).

In October 1586 two Catholic priests were caught at Dover and one was eventually hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn while the other died in prison awaiting trial. And so it continued as Catholics, priests and the non-ordained, were arrested at Dover

and other ports. Many of them met their end at Tyburn.

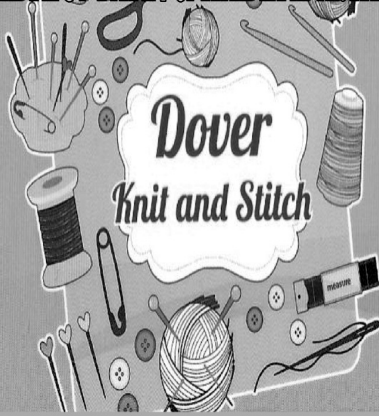
For Catholics the situation in 1588 got worse with the threat of invasion by the Spanish Armada. Many in England decided to lay low and not to get involved in any plots against Elizabeth, just hoping she would soon die and (they hoped) they would be free to exercise their own brand of religion.

The last outward-bound Catholic to be arrested at Dover was unlucky. His ship, on its way to France, was blown off course and took shelter in Dover where he was imprisoned to await trial. But before that happened Elizabeth died in 1603 and she was succeeded by James I under whose rule Catholics had an easier time.

Apparently the citizens of Dover were not at all friendly to Catholics. According to the excellent book ‘Dover’s Catholic Faith’ (Robert A. Mackenzie), now out of print, one unnamed priest was seized when he arrived at the port, taken into the town where a crowd insulted him and then “sowed him up in a bearskin” ready to be torn apart by dogs. He was lucky. One more sensible townsman saw the priest’s plight and rescued him.

At the time, it is claimed, Catholic Church property including chalices, crosses and crucifixes were on sale in Dover’s Market Place, with the auctions announced by the town crier.

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Philip Headon PHF

A Memorable and Successful Head Teacher

Peter Sherred

What makes for a good or memorable teacher or head teacher? There must be numerous answers to such a question but many of us will remember from our school days one teacher who remains in the memory favourably long after the school education experience has passed. Teachers occupy a privileged position in our lives for they are the conduit through which learning passes from one generation to another and how they approach such responsibility not only informs, but influences, the next generation and the leaders of tomorrow. One quote states "a good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself and lights the way for others". How that comes about is determined by many factors including a passion for the career of teaching, not just as a job but for the pupils and their futures. An infectious enthusiasm, vision, accessibility, humour, competence in delivery of subjects and supportiveness are other attributes. Everyone tends to remember teachers for one reason or another but especially those who leave a lasting favourable impression whose influence has spread beyond the confines of the school building or playground into the wider world. Head teachers have a broader challenge and perspective because they need to be supportive of the teachers in the school and to have the ability to give them space to perform their craft in their individual manner - in short give inspired leadership. Another constituency also requires their



Phil Headon sporting his PHF badge

attention and that lies in communication skills with parents.

One teacher locally who has made a lasting impression on his Primary School pupils is Philip Bowen Headon, former Headteacher at Whitfield Primary School and Aspen Unit, now approaching his ninetieth birthday at the turn of the year. News of Phil (the name by which he is known on a familiar basis) being an

Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Dover was met with numerous affectionate posts on Facebook from some of his former pupils. Living in River and still in his own home Phil is reliant on carers calling to help him and some of these have proved to be former pupils of his - a good persuasive argument for being kind to pupils on their way up as they may well turn out to be one's carers later in life!

Phil was born on 14th January 1930 in Brynmenyn, Bridgend, South Wales, one of seven children of his parents, with five sisters and a twin brother William (Bill) Headon who died a couple of years ago from cancer. Phil's youngest sister survives and lives in Wales. After elementary school in Brynmenyn he attended the County Grammar School in Bridgend leaving at 17. He was captain of the school cricket team and later sang in a college choir. He was called up to National Service on 1st April 1948 (April Fool's Day he remembers) serving until 31st December 1949 in the

army, REME. For the first six weeks he was stationed at Honiton, Devon, where he remembers an emphasis on P.E., marching and exercises, with 20 people on the Basic Training Course, before being posted to the University of Southampton. Phil was a rugby player for his unit playing as a scrum half. Having been given 14 days embarkation leave Phil then left Southampton in 1949 on the troopship Dilwara bound for the Far East. He recalls that the Bay of Biscay was very rough and he spent quite a few days remaining on deck! The voyage took him to the Aegean Sea where everyone was required to wear life jackets because of the risk of mines in the area. The troopship then reached Port Said and the Suez Canal before crossing the Indian Ocean to Colombo in what is now Sri Lanka but was then Ceylon. After calling in at Singapore Phil finally made it to Hong Kong where he was to be based for 6 months before being posted back to UK, again by boat.

Phil has lovely recollections of a delightful Chinese lady in Hong Kong who undertook sewing for troops and before he left, handed to him a hand knitted navy-blue pullover which he kept for many years. While in Hong Kong Phil had many experiences, two of which stand out in his mind. The first related to the discovery of an unexploded bomb with which he had no experience to deal so he contacted a Major who, it seems, was very excited by the prospect of dealing with it! As Phil turned to walk away, for reasons of safety, the Major required him to stay and help by passing him the tools of the trade in his efforts to defuse the bomb! Phil found this a frightening experience, not knowing if it was booby trapped. It proved to be a Japanese naval shell from the war and after he dealt with it Phil remembers the Major was very excited and pleased with himself! The second experience proved to be one historic event for the Royal Navy as Phil was privileged to be present to witness HMS

Amethyst limping into harbour after the Yangtze Incident which had seen the frigate escape from her berth on the Yangtze River under fire from Communist guns. The frigate was given a tremendous welcome on arrival with its surviving crew members.

Back in UK Phil lived with his parents and was promised a place at a Teacher Training School but received a letter postponing it by a year. Phil challenged this decision and September 1950 saw him head off to St Paul's Teacher Training College in Cheltenham. Between January and September 1950, he worked for British Railways dealing with wages and time keeping and indulged his passion for sport by playing cricket. Phil remembers that at the dances between those attending St Paul's and those attending St Mary's in Cheltenham all the men would line up one side of the dance floor and ladies on the other! One lady caught his eye and he made a polite request to dance to which she said "yes". Phil was aware of a familiar sound and said "you have a Welsh accent" and inquired where the lady came from. She said a small village he would not have heard of – Pontycymer, Bridgend – but he did know as it was his patch! This lady was Margaret Williams who was attending St Mary's and was one year ahead. It was the beginning of a lifelong partnership as Phil and Margaret were married in Bridgend in 1952 and their marriage lasted until her death in 2009.

Phil remembers while at St Paul's a meal of eggs, peas and chips cost 2s/6d! His teacher training proved to be a two year very intensive course with lectures every day and evenings. His group was the first that had no exams as progress was by assessment. Phil took up his first teaching post in primary education in Bromley where he was responsible for music and boys' games and he stayed at this school for 8 years. He was then appointed a Deputy Headteacher in St Albans where he remained for 3 years before

taking up a Headship at Crockenhill Primary School near Swanley. He was in post for 4 years and lived in a schoolhouse. His next move was to Whitfield Primary School as Headteacher at Easter 1967 a post he held for twenty-two and a half years until his retirement at Christmas 1989. His secretary at Whitfield was Sue Garlinge, a former pupil of Dover Grammar School for Girls and described by Phil as "ultra-efficient". Sadly, she died suddenly in 2019 after a few years of retirement.

Meanwhile, Margaret's teaching career had begun in New Cross and she lived in digs in Camberwell but after Phil's move to Whitfield she joined the staff of St Mary's Primary School where the headteacher was Denis Stubbs, MBE before moving to River Primary School for 20+ years in charge of the infant department.

Margaret and Phil had two sons – David married to Ruth and currently living at Littlebourne and Nick who lives in River. David had a career in Company Pensions and with Ruth has two children while Nick was a member of The Clash and attained pinnacles of success with that group.

Phil was very happy at Whitfield School. He remembers the transition from Imperial to metric measurements and the very hot year that was the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. Whitfield Primary School had 8 classes of 40 pupils and during Phil's headship the roll rose to 400 or so requiring 4 mobile classrooms, mainly caused by Whitfield village expansion. Governors were at that time called managers and Phil found them very supportive.

A major development came in 1976 when the Aspen Unit opened. In 1975 Brian Powell, County Education Officer, approached Phil with the proposal for the unit. Wisely, Phil consulted his staff and had

to consider and address concerns of parents about the admission of special needs students to Whitfield Primary School. A County representative in charge of Special Needs, both physical and mental, visited the school and gave a video presentation and after reassurances were provided, Phil agreed to the project proceeding. Phil had to deal with a few parents who questioned the implications. Prefab buildings were erected on site and the catchment area for Special Needs pupils included Deal, Sandwich, Folkestone and Dover. The Aspen Unit had a day Head with two carers and 6 - 7 pupils located some 25 yards or so from the Primary School. Phil took responsibility as overall Head of both elements of the school. Aspen Unit pupils came to the mainstream school for stories, music and assembly but did not stay a whole day. Phil saw the project through from conception, foundation and development over twelve or so years. It was a remarkable achievement. In 2019 the Mayfield Road school in Whitfield has 376 pupils in the mainstream with another 112 with complex needs. Kent County Council has recognised the need for primary school places in the Whitfield area and is proceeding with plans that will see Whitfield Aspen Primary School expand onto a second site, as a satellite, in 2020. With the continuing expansion of Whitfield, on top of existing capacity issues, demand is likely to increase for places at the Primary School.

Phil was regarded with much affection and respect while at Whitfield School where he was succeeded by David Waller who came from Capel School and whose wife, Liz, was Head of Temple Ewell Primary School before moving to St Mary's Primary School in the town. Phil's Deputy Head, Andrew Lamb, succeeded David Waller as Head of the Whitfield Primary School while Nick Andrews oversaw the Aspen side of the school.

Margaret meanwhile had enjoyed a long period as a teacher at River Primary School where she was the leading teacher in the infants' department, where she taught the Reception class. In the words of a former colleague "she was an extremely accomplished teacher" who exercised perfect control over her charges and could quell the most excitable and mischievous child with a 'look'. She was calm and had a strong sense of humour. She expected high standards of her pupils in work and behaviour and was loved and respected by all the pupils throughout the school. Every year, directed by Margaret, the Reception infants put on a Nativity play and a more ambitious production was performed by the older infants. Both occasions would be organised with military precision with areas of the hall labelled so parents assembled obediently in the correct sections to receive their instructions. Many of the parents were ex-pupils and had been taught by Margaret in their time and regarded her with great respect and as a result of her industry the productions were well-performed; all the speakers and singers were word perfect and clearly audible and costumes looked quite professional.

Phil and Margaret enjoyed 20 years of retirement before she died in 2009. She shared her birthday, 10th June, with the Duke of Edinburgh. Since coming to Dover Phil has fully engaged with the community being involved with many organisations and clubs, often in a leadership capacity. He was very supportive of Dover Choral Society and Margaret's involvement with it, a committee member of LArche Community, a member and Social Secretary of RCP Yacht Club, Vice President of Dover Rugby Club, a member, then Chairman, then Life Member, of Probus, a member of Cancer Research Committee along with Dr Keith Thomas and he has been an ardent follower of cricket and rugby and played cricket for Cosmos.

An important area of his life has been his membership of the Rotary Club of Dover which he joined in July 1972. He was Secretary for a few years and its President in 1979/1980, which coincided with the 75th anniversary year of Rotary International. For his outstanding work for the club and the community in 2005 he was made a Paul Harris Fellow, the highest honour a club can give other than Honorary Membership which was given subsequently to Phil; and with Terry Sutton, MBE he remains an Honorary Member much respected, loved and admired.

Sadly, illness in the form of Parkinson's Disease has had a serious impact on physical aspects of Phil's life necessitating carers looking after him at various times during the day at his home which overlooks River Recreation Ground. Nevertheless, he is stoic in his attitude to his limitations and his mental capacity is undiminished making him a most enjoyable social companion who retains a passion for cricket and rugby on the television.

He was once given a sound piece of advice which he has reflected on during his life and which he has found to be invaluable. He was advised always to assess a situation, reflect and ask questions. So, on several occasions at school having seen something he thought to be wrong, possibly by a staff member, he would return to his office and ask himself if it was important and what action needed to be taken. If it was important and action was necessary, it needed to be immediate but if whatever had caused him concern, after reflection, did not merit action he would let matters lie. Phil is one of life's scarce good people, passionate, visionary, competent, supportive, humorous and sincere, a person who has lit the way for others over several generations and rightly deserves an accolade as a memorable teacher and Headteacher.

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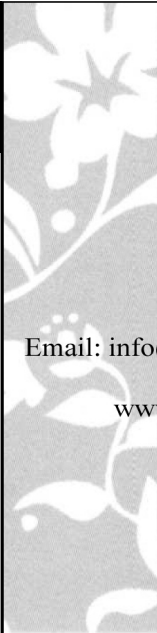
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Lady Arbuthnot

A centenarian who gave much service to Dover

Peter Sherred

Looking back over the Parliamentary representation of Dover since the Second World War, one is struck by the way the pendulum has swung between the two parties that have held the seat. In the 1945 landslide General Election, the Labour representative, John Richard Thomas, a chartered accountant, became the town's MP, but he did not contest the subsequent 1950 Election, so was a one-term MP. The subsequent successful candidates to become our Parliamentary representative were, in order of service, Major John Arbuthnot (Conservative), David Ennals (Labour), Peter Rees QC (Conservative), David Shaw (Conservative), Gwyn Prosser (Labour) and the present incumbent, Charlie Elphicke (Conservative though currently Independent).



Lady Arbuthnot 2019

The representative who fought the most General Elections for the Dover seat was John Arbuthnot, starting in 1945 and ending in 1964 with four successful outcomes and two unsuccessful outcomes (the first and the last). He had been adopted as Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Dover in 1945, and first won the seat in the 1950 election. He and his family moved from Deal to Ash in 1963, and, following defeat at the 1964 General Election, he continued living at the family home until his death in June 1992. He had been awarded an MBE for his scientific work with explosives in 1944, he was decorated with the Territorial Decoration in 1951 and in 1964, for his political work, he was created a hereditary Baronet.

Kittybrewster, 1st Baronet, MBE, TD, had been educated at Eton College, and Trinity College, Cambridge, and served in the Royal Artillery in World War II, rising to the rank of Major. In civilian life, he was Chairman of Estates and Agency, the family tea concern, as well as being a Director of Folkestone and Dover Water Company. He had many other interests. In his

parliamentary career, he was a member of the Public Accounts Committee from 1955 to 1964, served as Second Church Estates Commissioner, the spokesman for the Church of England in the House of Commons, and also as a Deputy Speaker.

Sir John's success was ably assisted and supported by the woman he married, and who on 29th September 2019 became a centenarian. "No man succeeds without a good woman behind him, wife or mother. If it is both, he is twice blessed indeed," are words attributed to Harold Macmillan, a Conservative Prime Minister under whom John Arbuthnot served. Those who had the privilege of knowing the Arbuthnots during their time in Dover will be able to attest to the truth of those sentiments. Jean Arbuthnot was a stalwart supporter and promoter of her husband. She was the very essence of politeness and charm, radiating an aura of courtesy and dignity to those who encountered her. As she attained her century it is appropriate to reflect on this remarkable woman and all she did for her husband and for the town and constituency, by her presence beside him. So, who was she?

Sir John Sinclair Wemyss Arbuthnot of (Margaret) Jean Duff was a Kentish lass,

having been born in Sevenoaks, the younger daughter of Gordon and Janet Duff. Her father was a solicitor, and a passionate musician. When the family moved to Switzerland for a period, he was able to indulge his passion with an ability to play no fewer than six instruments: the piano, organ, drums, violin, viola and oboe. He loved to sing, specialising in madrigals, and would conduct amateur choirs and orchestras, as well as composing madrigals based on Elizabethan poetry. Jean and her sister Molly were brought up to read music and, when their friends called by, there was always singing round the piano. Frequent madrigal parties while she was young led Jean to a lifelong enthusiasm for them, and she still hosts such events regularly in her London home.

After their school years in Switzerland, Jean and Molly attended the Royal College of Music. Being in London gave them the opportunity of enjoying what was then called 'The London Season'. Jean and Molly were very close. Molly died, aged 80, in May 1999. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Jean was called up to the First Aid Post in Chelsea as a VAD. Voluntary Aid Detachment nurses worked alongside military nurses during both World Wars. She became Founder President of the VAD Association and was its representative in 2008 when she laid a wreath on its behalf at The Cenotaph in Whitehall at the Association's final gathering. Her nursing career took her to a hospital in Hertfordshire before transfer to Haslar, the naval hospital near Portsmouth, for a two-year deployment, after which she returned to London to nurse some Wrens. She enjoyed nursing so much that she was accepted by St. Thomas's Hospital to train as a Nightingale Nurse, but her nursing ambitions were derailed by an important social event in the form of a Reel Party organised by her parents at their home in South Kensington, where they had been living since returning from Switzerland. One

of the girls brought, as her escort, a young man by the name of John Arbuthnot ... and within three weeks, Jean and John were engaged to be married! The marriage took place at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton on 3rd July 1943.

Jean and John were blessed with five children. Elizabeth, their eldest daughter, was born in 1947 and studied politics at the University of Kent at Canterbury in the 1960s, William, their elder son who has inherited the title, was born in 1950. James was born in 1952 and after a successful career as an MP now sits in the House of Lords as the Right Honourable The Lord Arbuthnot of Edrom. Louise was born in 1954 and Alison in 1957; both qualified as solicitors.

In addition to service as an MP, John Arbuthnot's family business necessitated his visiting tea plantations in India, Ceylon and the Cameroons. Sometimes Jean would go with him on the trips to India and Ceylon. She was not, however, permitted to go to the Cameroons, because John considered the small aeroplanes unsafe and he did not want his children to be deprived of both parents at the same time, in the event of an accident. Jean also accompanied John on Parliamentary delegations to several countries, which she much enjoyed. Elizabeth recalls her mother being a staunch supporter of her father. Jean worked hard on her speeches, in which she was expected to 'say something nice' without being political in any way. She modelled her speeches on those of Stanley Baldwin, whom she much admired, and, having written them she would learn them off by heart so she never spoke from notes.

Busy during the week in Parliament when it was in session, and busy with constituency work on Saturdays, John was also very often abroad during Parliamentary recesses, either on business or on Parliamentary delegations. When she did not accompany him, Jean had

her work cut out running the family home and being mother to their five children, as well as representing John at local events. She was very much involved with Dover Borstal for some years. After John lost his seat in Parliament, Jean used to go to fine art classes. She was an excellent hostess, with the highest standards, and taught all her children the techniques of silver service waiters and waitresses. For their Silver Wedding Anniversary in Ash in 1968, John had planned to give Jean a Georgian coffeepot, but Jean said she would prefer a bulldog instead, from whom she had several litters. The dog obviously had to be called Coffeepot. Jean was a Vice-President of the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

When Sir John died in 1992, Lady Arbuthnot sold the family home in Ash and moved to London, where she still lives in a small house bought by her husband's aunt in the 1950s.

When members of her family are not visiting her, she spends her time on music. Although few of her own generation remain, she has many friends of a younger generation who visit her regularly to play chamber music or sonatas, or to sing.

In addition to her five children, she often sees her ten grandchildren and her two great-grandchildren. In February 2018 she fell down the stairs in her home, breaking her collarbone and five ribs, since which time she has had a team of carers to ensure it does not happen again. She remains happy and fulfilled and well deserves the thanks and appreciation of Dovorians for her sterling work and support over the many years she graced this town and constituency with her beauty, elegance and charm. Happy Birthday, Lady Arbuthnot, knowledgeable musician, supportive wife and devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother!

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The Dover Outreach Centre and Winter Night Shelter

Peter Sherrad

The United Kingdom is often promoted as the world's fifth largest or richest economy, so it is both surprising and a disgrace that alongside such an image of power and success there are worrying aspects of the nature of our national society that appear to be increasing, such as homelessness, witnessed by the number of so called rough sleepers present in our towns and cities, as well as an apparently growing class of people who are severely economically disadvantaged and who have fallen between stools of self-sufficiency and state dependency. As a result, we have witnessed the growth of food banks, refuges, winter shelters and other voluntary help agencies to give support and encouragement to those unfortunate enough to have been trapped in pockets of despair and loneliness. As ever Dover, through its people, has risen to the occasion and has set a wonderful example of care and compassion towards the disadvantaged by the provision of an Outreach Centre, Winter Night Shelter, a Food Bank, Street Pastoring Scheme and a Money Course, among other facilities. How has this all come about and who has been behind these voluntary projects and the driving force of the success of them?

The vision for the Dover Outreach Centre originated in the organisation known as Christians Together in Dover (CTID) and was first mentioned in 2010, along with several other outward facing Christian initiatives. At the time the CTID Chairman was Arthur Salisbury who, until his retirement, was proprietor of the Allan Hughes quality clothes shop in Cannon Street, Dover. Arthur was succeeded as Chairman of CTID by Revd. Andy Bawtree of River, currently Anglican Area Dean of Dover, then Noel Beamish, first as Vice Chairman and subsequently

Chairman. A group was set up to explore avenues of Christian service in the community, thereby taking church witness beyond the walls of church buildings. After much discussion and reflection, a bullet-point list of projects was produced which included the provision of a Food Bank, an Outreach Centre, a Winter Night Shelter and a Money Course, among other ideas.

In 2014, CTID considered the possibility of establishing a winter night shelter provision in Dover having already discussed, in late 2011, the resources required with The Rainbow Centre, who were undertaking a comparable project in Folkestone. Advised that such a project would require £60,000 - £70,000 each year to run and with no financial resources available, it was concluded that focus should be placed on the establishment of a Food Bank and to ensure such a facility was secure and up and running before larger projects were embarked upon. This opened in October 2014 with a store at Whitfield and another in the Eastern Docks. Noel Beamish led this project for three years



The Outreach Centre, Victory House Snargate Street

before passing leadership on to a successor while maintaining involvement in an ancillary way. The Food Bank has operated successfully and expanded its operations since it started.

In addition to overseeing the start of the Dover Food Bank, Noel Beamish was instrumental in setting up Dover Street Pastors, heading the scheme for some five years and actively supported by the Revd. Bill Kirk of The Baptist Church in Maison Dieu Road with his wife Marie. Establishment of an Outreach Centre and the operation of a Winter Night Shelter Scheme took time to come to fruition, primarily because of the scale of what might be needed in terms of resources, finance and the likely number of volunteers needed to make a success of the project.

In 2015/16, on each weekend between December and March, two men began operating a winter shelter in St Martin's Church Hall. This provided a catalyst for a group to move the project forward, initially focussed on running a winter shelter for as many nights as possible in the winter of 2016/17. The group then needed a base so that rough sleepers could attend and register in time for the first night on 1st December 2016.

In May 2016, after a successful search, with the active support of the Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Jeff Cridland, a suitable base was found in part of a redundant social club attached to St Paul's Catholic Church, in Maison Dieu Road. The premises were in a state of significant disrepair having remained unused for several years. While its refurbishment, plus the necessary fundraising and seeking out volunteers to run the centre, was a challenge, the commitment and drive of all involved ensured the Day Centre, which opens on weekdays between 09.00 and 11.00, was just about in a fit state to

allow doors to be opened for the first time on 26th September 2016. One of the Trustees, Vee Bentley from Deal, took on the day-to-day management of the Centre. In July 2016 the Outreach Centre was established as a registered charity.

On opening day three people attended the Centre, since when numbers steadily grew to an average of 12 people a day by the end of 2017. Since its opening, over 500 people, all homeless, have been seen. To ensure the success of the project a leadership team was established, which had as its Chairman of Trustees and Chief Executive Officer Noel Beamish, with five other trustees currently being Judith Shilling (Temple Ewell), Janet Jowett (River), Revd. Sean Sheffield (St Andrew's Buckland), Vee Bentley (Pentecostal) and Peter Wallace (a Dover District Council Planning Officer). All were supported and encouraged in a good relationship with Fr. Jeff Cridland.

The Dover Outreach Centre Trustees, Manager and volunteers make it clear that they do not support people to be homeless, but the aim is to support people out of homelessness as well as helping people in risk of homelessness. The Centre provides a daily drop-in service. Those attending the Centre complete registration forms and then have access to a simple breakfast, showers, laundry facilities, free telephone, lockers, benefits advice, housing advice, job-seeking advice, Food Bank vouchers, medical advice, spare and replacement clothing and much more. The most important thing is that people receive a listening ear, kindness and compassion, delivered in a way that seeks to help them out of homelessness, rather than supporting them to remain homeless. Significantly, the Centre provides a postal address, vitally necessary for important communications from family and important agencies. In September 2017, a funding bid to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner was

successful in enabling the provision of a mental health service.

The base at the rear of St Paul's Church was very much a short-term expedient and those involved kept their eyes open for a more permanent place. In March 2018 premises in Snargate Street became a possibility. The intention was to rent the ground floor only of the building, but the owners preferred the Centre to take over the whole of the premises. After negotiation, the lease started on 2nd April 2019 when possession of the building was taken. In addition to the large ground floor area, the building has 17 rooms upstairs and a three bedroomed flat. Many of the rooms are being occupied by East Europeans on tenancies, but as rooms become available the intention is to change the dynamic of the building and make it available for homeless people. Much work has been required to be done to the building to make it fit for purpose and much more needs to be done, but an interdenominational commissioning service was held on the 11th July on the ground floor and the Centre was opened for business on the 22nd July.

Running alongside The Dover Outreach Centre (and run by it) is the Winter Night Shelter for the benefit of Dover's rough sleepers. This facility is operational during the coldest three months of the year and extended during extremes. It is supported by seven churches in the Dover area, with a night shelter at a different church location each night of the week, currently as follows: Sunday at Mary the Virgin Church, Cannon Street; Monday at The Ark Apostolic Church, Noah's Ark Road; Tuesday at The Beacon (Methodist/United Reform) Church, London Road; Wednesday at Dover Baptist Church, Maison Dieu Road; Thursday at St Paul's Catholic Church, Maison Dieu Road; Friday at St Peter and Paul (Charlton) Church, St Alphege Road; and Saturday at St Martin's Church, Church Road.

The Winter Night Shelter is run by volunteers who cover one shift per week. This facility provides a relaxed space and hot evening food as well as either a camp bed or a floor mat (whichever is preferred by the guests). The intention is to provide an atmosphere that aims to be as homely and as welcoming to guests as possible to promote a sense of wellbeing and relaxation. Many who do attend have little or no experience of 'home', but the outcome of the approach in the Shelter is that something like half the guests manage to move on into accommodation and work at the end of the Winter Night Shelter period. Three shifts per day are covered by volunteers: 6pm – 10pm, 10pm – 6am (each volunteer will sleep for one half of the shift) and 6am – 8am. On average the Winter Night Shelter provides for 40 people. During its first period starting on 1st December 2016, over the three-month period that it ran 35 people stayed one or more nights and at the end of the period 22 had moved into some form of accommodation and 15 into work. None of this would be possible without the band of volunteers who devote their time to the project, plus generous financial assistance from several sources.

A spin off from the establishment of the Dover Outreach Centre has been a social enterprise feature which Noel Beamish says really came about by accident or "by God's design". Fr. Jeff Cridland was so impressed with work originally undertaken to refurbish the old social club at St Paul's, that he inquired if it was possible for the volunteers to refurbish the church hall and other rooms adjoining the church building. This request coincided with three homeless men at the Centre becoming ready to rebuild their lives and try to return into work. They started as volunteers and soon it became apparent that employing them to do similar work was a good idea. The social enterprise was officially formed as Dover Outreach Enterprise Ltd in July 2017 and has since taken on many

different projects at churches, houses and farm buildings, all completed to a high standard and for satisfied customers.

Since the Outreach Centre Charity has been operating, funding has come from several sources. 70% of donations have been provided by individuals, churches, businesses and schools, with the remainder being provided by grant funding from Dover Town and Dover District Councils, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Port of Dover Community Fund. Such funds enabled the Charity to grow and be in good health at the end of 2017. It must be a matter of great pride for Dover as a town to have within its community these hugely important social projects operating so successfully to help ameliorate the predicaments many of the attendees are confronted by. Great credit goes to all the volunteers and CTID for the vision and passion with which these projects have been conceived and brought to a successful place. While no doubt wishing to give credit to others, one man's vision, drive and commitment, can be seen behind these developments and that is of the somewhat modest and self-effacing Noel Beamish, who continues to be active in many aspects of the projects' activities and as Chairman of the Outreach Centre trustees.

Noel and his wife Jayne live at Ewell Minnis, and Noel credits his wife as being hugely important to his calling and commitment. He credits her also with enabling them to live simply to facilitate his ministry to the homeless. They were married at The Apostolic Church in Lydden 31 years ago and are the proud parents of three adult daughters, all of whom are working after having attended University. Noel, who had been a member of the Living Well Church (an Apostolic Church at Whitfield where he was been an Elder for over 10 years), is currently associated with the Renewal Church – New Frontiers based at the Village Hall, Whitfield. He has his origins in

Eire, having been born in Cork on 14th December 1965 (a possible clue as to his Christian name?). He has four siblings, two brothers and two sisters. The family originally moved to Carmarthen in Wales where Noel's schooling took place, but after 12 years the family moved to the Dover area, engaging in farming at Chilton Farm in the Alkham Valley. It was a mixed farming enterprise, embracing arable and livestock, but it proved to be uneconomic, so Noel attended South Kent College to attain a National Diploma in Building & Construction, and then a further Higher National Certificate. He then joined the Brett Group as Assistant Estates Manager before becoming Estates & Security Manager. He had all the benefits of life with a good job, a good income, a company car and a contented family experience, but he felt a strong calling to commit himself full time to the projects with which he had become involved through his association with CTID and which he fully believed in. So, having given a year's notice from December 2016, he left the Brett Group in the autumn of 2017 and became full time committed to the Dover Outreach Centre at St Paul's until July 2019, all the time fully supported by his family.

What of the future for the Centre and for Noel? Noel says it requires a discernment of God's plan and that all he does in helping others is for God's glory and not his. In the immediate future this means continuing to meet the needs of the homeless and training up the next generation of volunteers to take the reins for the future. Currently the focus is on the need to carry out much work in the new base for the Outreach Centre in Snargate Street which was formerly the base for the British and International Sailor's Society and commonly known as the Seafarers' Centre or Seaman's Mission. The Charity has now renamed this building Victory House.

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

PROGRAMME 2019/20

Non-members are welcome at all meetings except that only members may vote at the Annual General Meeting. You may join, pay on the night and vote at the meeting.

2019

18 November
Monday 7.30

Speakers:

Doug Bannister (CEO DHB) "Port of Dover Update"
Christine Waterman 'Oxney Court'

2 December

Sunday 12.30
for 1pm
£25.00

Dover Society Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Luncheon will take place in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu, the historical Town Hall. The price includes a three course meal, coffee, mints and a welcome drink of mulled wine or fruit punch. Other drinks may be purchased at the bar. Quadlibet will be providing the musical entertainment and of course there will be our end of year raffle.

For extra booking forms or if more details are needed contact Beverley.

Please make sure you complete the booking form with your choice of menu and welcome drink. Welcome drinks will be available from 12.30pm and the meal will begin promptly at 1.00pm.

To book: Please complete the form printed on page 21 and return with your payment, cheques made payable to "The Dover Society", to: Beverley Hall, 61 Castle Avenue Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 01304 202646.

2020

20 January
Monday 7.30

Speakers:

Keith Parfitt 'Lees Court Finds'
Lynda Pearce (Assistant Curator Dover Museum) "Local Memories of WW2"

17 February
Monday
7.15 for 7.30pm
£10 pp

Dover Society "Wine and Wisdom" Quiz Night

Our ever popular light-hearted quiz evening held in St.Mary's Church Hall with Clive Taylor and his team. Price includes food and complimentary wine on each table. Make up your own table of six, if you are unable to we will fit you in where appropriate. Prizes for 1st & 2nd (in the event of a tie, there will be a play-off).

To book contact Beverley Hall, 61 Castle Avenue Dover, CT16 1EZ.

16 March
Monday 7.30

Speakers:

Rowena Willard Wright 'Debunking the Bunker'
Martin Crowther 'History of Kent in less than 100 objects'

20 April
Monday 7.30

Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Kate Pinnock 'Town Hall Project update'

Details and the booking forms for the 2020 society summer outings will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.

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

Non-members are welcome on all society outings.

For all outings and events please book as early as possible.



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