



Newsletter

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THE DOVER SOCIETY

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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

I hope that all of our members are well and as happy as they can possibly be. No doubt you are all looking forward to an easing of the restrictions and returning to something resembling normality.

Owing to the current uncertainty the AGM this year will take place on the internet, via Zoom. Details are on the centre pages of this newsletter.

Although the committee have not been able to meet normally they, and the sub committees, have managed to continue running the society by the use of emails and meeting via Zoom.

It was very disappointing that the general public were not allowed to attend the commemoration, of the 100th anniversary of the return of the body of the Unknown Warrior, at the cruise terminal. However our chairman Derek Leach was permitted to lay a wreath and show respects on behalf of all our members.

A piece of good news amongst the gloom. The cost to be a member of the society remains the same for this coming year. The last time it was increased was way back in 1996. What fantastic value for money! This is due, in no small way, of the expert handling of our finances by our treasurer, Mike Weston.

The January meeting and talk, held via Zoom, were recorded and then shown on the internet. This was restricted to just 24hrs owing to copyright fears. Deemed to be a success, it was agreed that the Society will hold further meetings on Zoom which will include the Dover Society Annual General Meeting. Details are on the centre pages of this newsletter.

Alan Lee, Editor

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DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 101 will be Wednesday 2nd June 2021. 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!

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JANUARY MEETING

The Evacuation of Dunkerque 1940

A talk by Jon Iveson – Reported by Alan Lee

Monday 25th January 2021 saw the first ever virtual Dover Society winter general meeting with some 30 plus people present. This was run as an experiment with a single talk only. The meeting started with introductions by Jenny Olpin and then our Chairman, Derek Leach.

Jon Iveson began by describing some of the events leading up to the evacuation and how the German attack in the west built up from the middle of May. He then introduced the audience to a number of the main protagonists:

The German General Heinz Wilhelm Guderian (1888-1954). A German veteran of WWI, he played a key role in the development of Germany's armoured forces panzer division concept and was an early advocate of the doctrine of "Blitzkrieg".

Vice Admiral Jean-Marie Charles Abrial (1879-1962). A French veteran of WWI he worked closely with the British at Dunkerque and was one of the last to leave. He returned to France and was in Cherbourg when the port surrendered to the Germans. He served in the French Vichy Government and was appointed as the Naval Minister and Commander of Naval Forces. On the downfall of the Vichy regime he was charged with collaboration, found guilty and lost his pension. The Haute Cour de Justice upon being re-instated then sentenced him to 10 years forced labour. In 1947 he was provisionally released and in 1954 was granted amnesty.

Vice Admiral Sir Bertram Home Ramsay (1883-1945). With the outbreak of WWII the Dover command was re-activated. By October it was independent and Ramsay

given command. This British officer was best known for his role in planning the successful evacuation of Dunkerque, "Operation Dynamo". The official order to begin was issued at 18.57 on Sunday 26th May, but some ships were already in operation before this. In the main this was controlled from the Dynamo room beneath Dover Castle. Ramsay left Dover in 1942 after being appointed flag officer, expeditionary force working with General Eisenhower. The following year, appointed allied naval commander, expeditionary force (ANCF), he began planning the invasion of Europe, "Operation Overlord". On 2nd January 1945 he was killed in a plane crash.

Jon went on to describe the Canadian involvement in the evacuation of Dunkerque and many of the other heroes who took part in the action, both on the beach and on the "East Mole". Three routes from Dover to Dunkerque existed, X was 55 miles, Y 87 miles and Z 39 miles – across to Calais then parallel along the coast, later deemed too dangerous when the Germans captured Calais. He detailed the involvement of the RAF, the RN, Merchant Navy and the famous "Little Ships".

The RAF flew 2,739 fighter sorties, 651 bombing raids and 171 reconnaissance flights and sustained heavy losses in both men and machines. During the sea operation a great number of men were lost and many ships sunk or badly damaged. Owing to the extreme number of vessels taking part many collisions occurred, mainly at night. The TSS Isle of Thanet, a cross channel ferry operating as a hospital carrier, when off

Dover and heading for Newhaven, rammed the Dover Guard Ship, which sunk with the loss of all 13 hands of the RN. The Medway Queen, a Thames estuary ferry used as a minesweeper in WWII, made some seven crossings and rescued about 7,000 men. It has been restored and is berthed at Gillingham Pier.

Dover Harbour was a scene of chaos, with, at the height of the operation, some 60 vessels unloading men at any one time. Jon illustrated this with a number of photographs, one showed the Admiralty Pier crowded with British and French soldiers, Gendarmes and foreign civilians, including women and children, all disembarking from ships.

Most ships returning from Dunkerque showed a great deal of damage. The men, including the wounded, they brought back were hungry and tired, with their dirty faces

showing a great deal of strain. But all were glad to be back in England. As soon as they had been landed, the wounded men were taken to local hospitals and over 100 who had died on the returning ships were taken to the town's mortuary. With over 180,000 men landed at Dover, hundreds of East Kent buses took men to destinations in Kent. There were also over 300 evacuation trains used to transport men towards London and further afield. Along with these special trains, the railway managed to keep all of its normal services running. The WVS had a great many volunteers helping to feed people in and around the harbour and station areas

On the completion of the talk Jenny took control of the audience's questions, with Jon supplying the answers. Our Chairman, Derek, thanked Jon for his talk and for agreeing to carry out this experimental meeting and be the pathfinder for future virtual meetings.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS **Sheila Cope**

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE (if you do not pay by Standing Order)

£10 joint for two members at the same address, £6 single membership.

Membership subscriptions can be paid by bank transfer (BACS) or by standing order. The details are; The Dover Society, account no. 80864803, Barclays Bank Ltd Dover, sort code 20-02-62.

You can also pay by cheque, payable to The Dover Society. Cheques should be sent to The Dover Society, c/o Mrs S Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover, Kent, CT16 1HD. Please include the name[s] to be renewed. If you require a receipt then we would appreciate it if you include a stamped addressed envelope.

Thanks to our web page and introductions from existing members, our numbers continue to grow, although we have yet to reach the magic 500 desired by our Chairman. We number 476 at present and always welcome those who are interested in Dover and wish to support us.

Our main links with each other are our thrice-yearly Newsletters which most people enjoy reading in booklet form. Times are changing however and some members now wish to receive the Newsletter online. Please let us know if you would prefer this format when you renew your subscription or by emailing jeremycoppe@willersley.plus.com. We have no intention of abandoning our much-loved paper booklet but new members will be given the choice.

Unfortunately last year's AGM was cancelled and we were unable to stand as a mark of respect for members who had died. This may happen again and so it is all the more important to list here all those whom we have recently lost and to whose families and friends we send our condolences: Mr Pat Cunningham, Mr

John Kemp, Mr Jim Francis, Mr Alan Lewer, Mr Michael Anderson, Mrs Sheila Pople, Mr Ernie Spratling, Mr William McCalden, Mrs Carole Church, Mr Brian Mills, Mr Roy Evans. Miss May Jones, Mr Brian Simmons, Dr Michael Hinton, Mrs Margaret Sharp, Mr Ernie Wheeler and Mr Clive Batcheldor.

We have welcomed as new or returning members:- Dr Brian Philp, Mr Ian Smith, Mr Christopher Cook, Ms Ileana Fernandes, Mrs Alison Christie, Mr Marcelo Warmling, Mr Christopher Burton, Ms Sue Timmins, Ms Carol Duffield, Mr Dan Codrea, Ms Alison Barker, Mr Graham & Mrs Jill Tutthill and Mrs A Burnett.

Dear Members

This is to make you aware that you may receive a digital copy of the newsletter rather than the paper copy. The layout of both editions are identical.

If you would prefer this to the paper version do please contact Jeremy Cope, contact details are inside the front cover, who will put the matter in hand.

One Honorary Freeman Down

A long and full life

Peter Sherred

On the 22nd October 2020 Dover lost one of its distinguished citizens when the Revd Michael George Hinton, Honorary Freeman of the town, died. He was in many ways a commanding as well as a much respected and admired local inhabitant and his life of some 93 years was hallmarked by the many and varied roles that he played in the community of Dover and elsewhere. He was, arguably, best known in Dover for his

Christian work as well as for being a former Head of the Dover Grammar School for Boys where he served for eight years. In recent years he moved from his flat in The Gateway to a clergy retirement and care home, St Barnabas, in Lingfield, Surrey, where he died peacefully after a brief spell in hospital. He had hoped he would return to Dover for his funeral service but because of the Coronavirus pandemic restrictions a service in thanksgiving for his life and ministry was held at the Kent and Sussex Crematorium Royal Tunbridge Wells on Thursday 29th October attended by four of his five children together with their family members.

Known to many people simply as Michael, he was born in Bristol on 25th May 1927, the elder of two brothers. His father, George, was a schoolmaster, his mother, Minnie, a nurse. Minnie died in 1940 when Michael was just aged 13, but he was fortunate in that his father was able to secure the services of a devoted housekeeper – Mrs Louisa Sutton – who cared for the family for many years. Michael attended Bristol Grammar School where he was so happy that the shape of his



Revd Michael Hinton (1927–2020)

future life as a teacher was decided. Due to his young age the disruptions of the Second World War affected him only marginally, and in 1945 he went up to Merton College Oxford with a postmastership (academic award) and a local authority scholarship. At Merton he read history and continued his involvement with the Scout Movement which had begun in 1935 and was one of the chief strands of his life

from then to his seventies. While at Merton he met and fell in love with Jean Lee who he married in 1950. It was a marriage that was to last for 59 years and they were devoted to each other throughout.

There followed, in Michael's own words, "four happy if poverty-stricken years" in Reading, during which time Michael and Jean's first child, Christopher, was born. Also during his period in Reading Michael wrote his first book *A History of the Town of Reading*. In 1953 he was appointed Head of History at Lancaster Royal Grammar School and during his time there his and Jean's second and third children, David and Mary, were born. Michael also completed a Ph.D. he had begun in Reading entitled *The General Elections of 1806-1807*. About this qualification Michael was to write, "There was a time, now past, when I knew more about the General Elections of 1806 and 1807 than anyone else in the world". To augment the family income he became an examiner, and later a chief examiner, in history. The amount of time his out-of-school activities took threw even greater

responsibilities upon Jean, who bore them heroically.

In 1960 Michael was appointed Head of Dover Grammar School for Boys. The eight years which followed were so happy for both Michael and Jean that it became a natural decision later in life to return to the area. A fourth child and second daughter, Sally, was born during this time. Michael combined his Headship with examining and with being a District Scout Commissioner. He also served as a Lay Reader at St Peter & St Paul Church, Minnis Lane, River, and began a long association with the Student Christian Movement in Schools, later to become the Christian Education Movement. He wrote a booklet titled *Ethics* and this was widely used in school sixth forms.

In 1968 it was suggested to Michael that he should apply for the Headship of Sevenoaks School. He did so and was duly appointed. Sadly, it quickly became apparent that the move had been an inappropriate one. For Michael and Jean the only bright spot of the family's two years at Sevenoaks was the birth of their fifth child, Geoffrey. It should be added at this point that Michael had by this time already been converted to the principle of comprehensive education, so he was glad to move to Weston-super-Mare in 1971 to take on the task of combining three schools to become a single comprehensive. Michael embarked on a rapid learning curve which transformed his views about education and life and which was to prove to be an excellent preparation for his subsequent church ministry. Life at Broadoak School was constantly challenging, but there were major compensations in a flourishing family life, happy years at St Paul's church, and ten years' experience of dinghy sailing. Michael wrote his second book, *Comprehensive Schools: a Christian's View* and was for some years Chairman of the Christian Education Movement.

From childhood Michael had been a Christian and had been a Lay Reader for the whole of his adult life to this point, but it was not until 1980 that Jean finally indulged his hankerings after ordination to the priesthood. From 1981 he trained for the priesthood in Salisbury and enjoyed it so much that he secured early retirement in 1984 in order to pursue a non-stipendiary, unpaid and self-supporting, ministry full-time. He was ordained in Wells Cathedral. The then Bishop of Dover enabled the family to return to Kent when he offered Michael the parishes of Shepherdswell and Coldred within a new benefice which also included Eythorne and Barfreston. The ten years at Shepherdswell, from 1985 to 1995, were incredibly happy and fulfilling both for Michael and for Jean and, in his view, were perhaps the best years of their lives. These years were also the time during which Michael and Jean welcomed the arrival of grandchildren and it was during this period Michael wrote his most substantial book, *The Anglican Parochial Clergy: a Celebration*, published in hard cover by SCM Press. A distinguished reviewer of the book, Dr Paul Avis, commented, "This book is a treasury of pastoral wisdom and experience. It enshrines the essence of historic Anglicanism".



Michael and Jean Hinton

In 1995 Michael fulfilled an ambition he had held since 1960; he and Jean retired to The Gateway flats in Dover. Flat number 212 was on the very top floor of the block of flats and offered a commanding view along the seafront towards the Clocktower. Michael was hospitalised at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and underwent major surgery, making a wonderful recovery and earning himself the name of Lazarus within the family! Once the major surgery was out of the way, the first years of retirement were very happy ones for both Michael and Jean, with more time to spend together than ever before and with the continued opportunity for Michael to serve the Church in a variety of ways. Michael played a part in the life of St Mary's Church, Cannon Street, which formed his home parish and he was much respected by all who knew him there. He chaired the Ecumenical Group which ensured that the spiritual dimension to Dover's celebration of the Millennium was not lacking. He edited the *Dover Christian Chronicle* and began to write a weekly column in the *Dover Express*, which he continued even after his move to St Barnabas in Lingfield. He was Secretary of Dover Christian Aid Committee and taught English to immigrants. He joined the Labour party and played a small part in its local activities.

Priests never fully retire and so Michael led worship in most of the local churches from time to time and continued his service to the Cursillo Movement, which had enormously enriched his own spiritual life. This movement of the Church provides a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and so enabled to share God's love with everyone.

Michael's last major literary effort was a considerable achievement, being an abridgement of the Bible. *The 100-Minute Bible* was published in 2005 and became an

astonishing and unexpected success, both in this country and abroad. This publication was designed to bridge the gap that existed, as many owned a Bible but few had read it from beginning to end. Its abridgement meant that Michael's publication was pocket sized and easily portable. It was thought that most people would be able to read it in 100 minutes, making it a very accessible publication and one that could be read during rail or airplane journeys, let alone in the comfort of peoples' homes. Its real value, however, lay in Michael's amazing ability to reduce the essential elements of the Bible itself to universal language, a skill given to few people.

Jean's health became uncertain and from early 2004 was poor. Looking after her became a priority for Michael, who felt privileged to be able to repay in a small way the debt he owed Jean for more than fifty years of looking after him. Jean died in 2009. Michael's own health gradually declined and he had to limit his activities accordingly but, because of wonderful support from his family and his Christian friends, he was still able to lead a full and happy life.

The loss of an eye in a childhood accident meant that Michael was exempt from military service. Michael attributed to this and, in his own words, his "gangling physique" the fact that he was hopeless at ball games. Yet this fact did not prevent him from adoring rugby football, which he played, then refereed, and finally watched, avidly. He rowed at Oxford, and thereafter trained schoolboy oarsmen. He enjoyed the theatre and the cinema and was an enthusiastic, if uninstructed, listener to classical music. However, his chief leisure interest was, always reading, both serious and frivolous. He loved history, theology, Bible study and philosophy. In a different vein he also loved thrillers, which he read in vast and, in his view, excessive numbers.

Michael, despite his busyness, always seemed to have time for other people. He was a leading light in the movement to enable Dover to become a Fair Trade Town and was the oldest volunteer associated with Dover Food Bank. On a personal level, he proved to be an excellent mentor and guide to me personally as I trained for ordination and he attended the ordination service in Canterbury Cathedral in 2000. His support and advice was invaluable. I was delighted when, without his knowledge, my recommendation that his name be considered to be added to the roll of Honorary Freemen was accepted by Dover Town Councillors and I was equally delighted to be invited by him to be his guest at the Mayor Making at which he was accorded the honour of Honorary Freeman in Dover Town Hall on 28th May 2018.

Looking back in later years, Michael felt that he had had an exceptionally happy and fulfilling life. He had found teaching to be rewarding and ministry even more so. He was proud of all members of his family, his children and grandchildren, but undeniably he was especially proud of Jean and understood he had been incredibly fortunate in his choice of wife. In memory of Jean, Michael commissioned a uniquely beautiful carved wooden statue of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child which he presented to St Mary's Church and which occupies a place in its Lady Chapel. Above all it was Michael's faith that had stood him in good stead and he remained deeply grateful to the countless souls who had assisted him on his spiritual journey. Michael said that his life had taught him the elementary but profound lesson that what really matters is love; "when other things have been taken away, nothing is really lost so long as love remains".

Michael and I shared similar journeys in life – we were both members of professions, he

in teaching, I in the law. We both exercised ministries as Lay Readers in the church and we both were ordained as self-supporting Anglican priests. As he became enfeebled, it was my privilege to act as his personal taxi service to ecumenical gatherings of local clergy. He was faithful in his attendance at such gatherings and his views and opinions were much appreciated across denominational barriers. Having been present at his 90th birthday celebrations, it was an honour and privilege to be asked by his family to officiate at his funeral service in Royal Tunbridge Wells where, although no singing was permitted, we were able to listen to three hymns Michael had chosen for his funeral service:- "And can it be" as we entered the chapel, "Lord of the Dance" during the service and "Thine be the glory" to end the service. His daughter Sally Simmonds read a Scripture extract from 1 John 4:7-12, chosen by Michael, and which contained the words "My dear people, let us love one another for love comes from God", while grandson Thomas Hinton read from *The 100 Minute Bible* the event of the raising of Lazarus. Sadly, his daughter Mary was unable to be present as she was herself coming to the end of her life, having terminal cancer and, in fact, she died a week or so after Michael's funeral. It is hoped that at some stage in the future, circumstances permitting, a service of interment of ashes and/or a memorial service will be held in Dover or Shepherdswell.

Headteacher, Author, Lay Reader, Priest, District Scout Commissioner, Christian Aid promoter, pioneer of Fair Trade for Dover Town, Food Bank volunteer, Editor of *Dover Christian Chronicle*, weekly Christian commentator in the *Dover Express*, husband, father, grandfather - just some of the roles carried by our departed Honorary Freeman. It was a long and full life and a pleasure and a privilege for those of us who knew him as a dear friend.

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Refurbishment Committee

Jenny Olpin

Our team continue to meet virtually as we drift into 2021, trying to keep pace with what is happening in our town. Not being 'out and about' looking at issues of litter, or maybe an anti-social problem, has meant that we are challenged to seek alternative methods of meeting our remit. For those who have managed to venture into town it has been very distressing to see the town so desolate and quiet. However, it has certainly been interesting to see so many of our restaurants, cafes and 'pop ups' re-inventing themselves and providing take-away food and drinks. We sincerely hope that they survive the Lockdown.

Our focus, as I mentioned previously, has been monitoring the role of the foodbanks and homeless provision, especially as people are losing employment, or are once again furloughed and the winter has taken hold. We have been pleased to see that The Pantry in the Charlton Centre has been opened for people to purchase good food at low prices. The Sunrise Café is due to open in April in the Outreach Centre (once the Seafarers Mission) for those who are on the streets and need food and sustenance. It is pleasing to see how our community is working hard for the well-being of our most vulnerable, although I am sure there is much more we may need to do as the pandemic continues.

We are all tasked with 'staying local' and our exercise, wrapped in coats, topped with woolly hats, and unfortunately, in wellington boots to help us wade through the mud, is either in our lovely local Rights of Way and bye-ways or on the really pleasant sea front or the fabulous abbey. If there are any problems apparent with the Rights of Way then do contact Kent County

Council online to report it, as they are very responsive once aware of an issue. The Refurbishment team has now been joined, in its virtual world, by Cllr Pam Brivio whom we welcome back and who will be a great asset. Her Dover *Walkers Are Welcome* 'hat' is of particular value at this time as we look to develop and amalgamate some of our local walking routes.

We are aware that despite less footfall there are still litter deposits throughout the town, although it is true to say that without the schools being open there is a visible reduction in certain areas. Refurbishment are aware of these 'hot spots' and that they need to be more pro-active in preventing these litter deposits. Any ideas are welcome!

In January we were able to virtually meet with our new Kent Police, Chief Inspector for Dover, Dan Carter. He is particularly enthusiastic about community policing and has inherited strong links with the Dover District Council Safety Unit and is keen on developing policing teams. There have been low level alcohol issues, due to the public houses being closed, but there has been an increase in domestic and child protection issues. Kent Police continue to be successful but vigilant with respect to county lines and drug issues.

Once again, I will urge you, dear members, to consider joining our Refurbishment Team. Our remit is wide but committed to the fabric and well-being of our developing, changing and diverse town of Dover. Do contact me should you want to know more and/or wish to join our current 'virtual' world.

River Dour

Deborah Gasking

Some wonderful news: Iona Dubienic of White Cliffs Partnership has been a busy bee working with The Wild Trout Trust, a conservation charity working to make a better world for our rivers, lakes and their wildlife, including our native trout. Flourishing wild trout populations are a sign of the health of our waterways and the land around them. The Trust offer practical advice and hands-on habitat improvement projects. Their Trout in the Town project, assessed Our Finest Dour's levels of achievement and activity as a community group, and awarded it their Silver Level accreditation.

Here are a few facts:

Not so Good (in fact, extremely concerning) Pet flea treatments are highly toxic insecticides used on cats and dogs to kill fleas, and recent research shows they are getting into our rivers.

This is worrying for our invertebrate life in rivers, and the fish and birds that depend on them. This was highlighted by Buglife

three years ago but no regulatory action has been taken: "The massive over-pollution of all waterbodies with fipronil is shocking and there is an urgent need for the government to ban the use of fipronil and imidacloprid as flea treatments."

Amazing:

Brown trout have between 38 and 42 pairs of chromosomes. Humans have only 23 pairs.

A typical female brown trout produces about 2,000 eggs per kilogram (900 eggs per pound) of body weight at spawning.

Brown trout eggs need a constant supply of cold, clean and well oxygenated water.

The majority of trout die before their first birthday. Mortality rates in their first year of life are typically 95% or greater, falling to around 40 - 60% in subsequent years.

Brown trout can reach the ripe old age of 20 years.

Trout scales have growth rings, as new hard tissue is added around the edges as they grow. They can be read just like growth rings in a tree.

The River Dour Steps Project

Alan Lee

The access steps to the river, situated adjacent to the new River Education Centre at Buckland Bridge, have now been completed after months of wet weather. The ground water levels remain very high, one of the highest for some years. The stream is even running out of the chalk cliffs onto the seashore, this is most unusual as there has been so much rain. A short video can be seen on Our Finest Dour Facebook page.

Led by Iona Dubienic, Landscape Partnership Officer, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, the project was funded with the aid of Dover District Council and Dover Big Lottery. It is part of a three year scheme with Affinity Water and the National Lottery Heritage Fund to enhance and educate local people about the river, its bio-diversity and the surrounding environment.

COWGATE CEMETERY Deborah Gasking

Despite the virus, lockdowns and stay-at-home's, Cowgate is in pretty good shape. We've managed the few work parties when legislation allowed and, with nature sleeping its chilled sleep of winter, this beautiful site is calming, not so overgrown and (following a few prudent pick-ups) litter free.

A tree from the slopes above the cemetery has fallen across the top wall and onto a grassed pathway, and was reported to a Dover Town Council maintenance worker, (who was conveniently shoring up a bank in the neighbouring allotments).

A little of what you might already know (but there again...):

The site was gifted by Mr. William Mowl of a prominent family. The 2.25 acres of pastureland on the edge of the town

became a burial ground for St Mary's Parish Church whose churchyard, soon be inadequate, was on a site now traversed by York Street dual carriageway. This extension, upon the lower slopes of the Western Heights, was consecrated as St Mary's New Burial Ground and the first interment took place in April 1837.

The layout was completed with a mortuary chapel and a lodge for the sexton.

William Ebenezer Petchey had been born in the lodge and, succeeded his father and grandfather as sexton. He died at the age of 105, at a Whitfield residential home, on 21st February 2006 and was the last person to be buried here.

The cemetery is enclosed on three sides by a high ragstone wall. Its upper boundary consists of a row of vaults excavated in the chalk hillside. This row of vaults has features in common with the terraces or catacombs of London's famous Highgate Cemetery.

At its lower boundary, is a six feet drop to a lane, which runs along the rear of the Sarah Gorely Alms houses, built in 1877. At the junction of this lane and Cowgate Hill, tall double gates adorn the entrance for hearses. A small gate (now bricked up) at the other corner of the lower boundary wall afforded access for handcarts or biers pushed up a path from Snargate Street and the populous dockside district.

The New Burial Ground was closed for interments in the 1870's save to those with existing vaults or tombs, and became known henceforth as Cowgate Cemetery.

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Planning Committee

Graham Margery

Acting Chairman Planning Committee

While our Chairman Pat Sherratt continues his well-deserved break for a few months he has continued to bring his expertise and experience to bear by tackling some of the more complex projects that fall within our remit. More of that to follow but we continue to wish him well.

Despite the current pandemic, with all the restrictions imposed on us, the construction industry seems to be continuing unabated with Planning Applications coming thick and fast. My thanks to Pat and all of the Planning Committee for their invaluable help and support with this very busy portfolio.

Since the last newsletter we have reviewed around 100 applications that are potentially of interest and made formal response to Dover District Council in respect of 22 of them. The Planning Committee is always pleased to receive comments and feedback from the members of the Society.

Members can let the Planning Committee know their views on any application, or on any development that may concern them. This will help form the official Dover Society response. Alternatively they can lodge their views as an individual directly with the DDC Planning Dept. in writing or via the DDC Planning portal at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Applications/Home.aspx>

Inland Border Facility:

In October 2020 local residents received a letter from the Department for Transport that plans were being made to create an Inland Border Facility at a site in Whitfield

adjacent to B&Q and the new Leisure Centre. The purpose of the facility is to create customs and border controls for import and export freight vehicles with a view to it being operational early in 2021. With the decision to leave the EU having been made some four years ago, this announcement has come very late in the day leaving interested parties no time to engage in meaningful consultation and being faced with a "fait accompli". The Dover Society wrote to the Transport Minister and the Local MP Natalie Elphicke to protest at the lack of transparency in the planning process and to object to the proposal. The principal route to Dover for cross channel traffic is the A20/M20 and road signs clearly indicate this but still a significant number of freight vehicles use the A2 despite the fact that most of the A2 between Lydden and the docks is not suitable for such traffic. In this new plan, freight vehicles will be indirectly encouraged to use the A2 in order to access the border control facilities, putting increased pressure on the Whitfield and Duke of York's roundabouts. I dread to think what chaos will ensue when the inevitable delays arise at the docks. In addition, residents of Guston that live close to the site are likely to suffer the effects of noise and light pollution and we fully support the concerns expressed by the Guston Parish Council. Belatedly there is now a public consultation on the proposal and the Dover Society has made formal response.

Dover District Council Local Plan:

The Local Plan sets out planning policies and proposals for new development in the

Dover District and a new Plan covering the period 2020 to 2040 is currently subject to public consultation. This is a crucial document which will be used in the assessment of future planning applications so it is vitally important that, as far as possible, our interests are incorporated within it. Pat Sherratt has been working on the Local Plan Advisory Group to assist in the development of the Plan but in the final stages all lay representatives were removed from the Group without explanation. Nevertheless Pat has continued to provide input to the process and is currently working on our formal response to the consultation on behalf of the Society. So much for him taking a break!

Market Square Project:

You may be aware; a £2.9m project to revamp Dover's Market Square is set to get underway in summer 2021. According to DDC "the work will include a new event space and water feature, and highways improvements to make the square more pedestrian-friendly. The works will create a more attractive street scene and improve links between Cannon St, St James and the Waterfront." This is a controversial modern design that we will be formally commenting on.

King Street/Flying Horse Lane:

Plans have been put forward to develop the site bounded by Fishmonger Lane, King Street, Flying Horse Lane and the St James development. This is an important site that, over the years, has suffered from war damage, inappropriate development and repair, neglect and dilapidation leaving the area in much need of improvement. The Dover Society is therefore not opposed to the principle of redevelopment and indeed would encourage it but we are concerned that it should be carried out carefully. The original character of Fishmonger Lane has already been lost to war damage and the

creation of a new carpark, but Flying Horse Lane is one of the few remaining Dover streets that is typical of the narrow network of streets that would have existed in what was the main part of the town so we are keen to see its character retained in a sympathetic way. The old Post Office / job centre is a particularly interesting red brick building that has suffered from neglect and inappropriate modification over the years and also has an interesting heritage style lantern over the door. The preservation of these features, at least in part, would provide an interesting link for visitors between the new retail development and the old part of the town and seafront. The proposed new building would be a modern four storey building design but with some features reflecting a more traditional style. We consider the height of the building to be too high which with the loss of heritage features has led us to object to the particulars of this proposed development.

Buckland Mill:

Work continues slowly at the old paper mill site to develop the apartments associated with the existing buildings. The new Co-op store has opened on the site and appears to be doing well. The outline planning application for 135 dwellings has now been submitted which is largely in line with the long established expectations for the site. We regard this site as one that particularly lends itself to a much needed quality development to attract professional people to the town which will lead to its increased prosperity. In addition it will open up the river corridor for the benefit of the Buckland Mill residents and the wider community. We have been pleased to support the scheme.

Former Buckland Hospital Site:

The Dover Society objected to the original plans to develop this brownfield site with 188 dwellings and continued to do so when

the number was reduced to 150 on the grounds of over intensification. A new planning application has now been submitted for the construction of 81 dwellings. The mix of two and three bedroom houses in four different types provides much needed quality family accommodation which will help enhance and regenerate the area. There is also included green amenity space with a play area and landscaping at the frontage and throughout the site to include a mix of trees, hedges and shrubs. We have supported the proposal.

Marina Curve:

The principle of hotel and retail development on this newly reclaimed land as has always been part of the Dover Western Docks Revival project and we welcome the beneficial impact that this would have for the town as a whole. But to achieve this by construction of a motel and

other facilities from shipping containers is totally inappropriate for the site. The application clearly regards a commercial port as an appropriate context for such a design but Dover is nothing like Rotterdam and it completely ignores the status of the iconic waterfront setting with its Grade II Listed buildings which has long been a major tourist attraction. We have objected to the scheme.

Shop Fronts in Conservation Areas:

We have long been concerned about the way shop fronts in Conservation Areas have been allowed to be altered in such a way as to destroy the historic character of the area. DDC has a policy "Guidance on Shop Fronts and Signage within Conservation Areas" that is intended to set clear guidance as to what would be considered appropriate but all too often this policy has been ignored when deciding planning applications. However, just recently, some plans that we have objected to have also been refused by DDC citing this policy as the reason. We see this as a significant change for the better in the quality of planning decisions. In particular, with regard to 43 Biggin Street which we mentioned in the last newsletter, the recent decision to retrospectively approve plans placed a number of conditions "In order to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area". We look forward to future decisions being made on the same basis so that the town centre can be worthy of the designation "The Old Town" which DDC aspires to create.

I wish you and your families a belated healthy and happy New Year and look forward to a resumption of more normal life in the not too distant future.

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James A. Johnson – A Note

Clyde Binfield

Mr Johnson, Town Clerk from 1945 to 1968 (Newsletter, No. 99, pp. 9-12), will have resonated with many older readers. It has prompted me to add some brush strokes in the hope of softening a few of Mr Webster's shades. I am conscious that my recollections have been distorted by time and by the fact that I was a boy taking care to listen unobserved to my grandparents' conversations about current municipal affairs; one learns so much when one is a fly on the wall.

My grandfather, Arthur T. Goodfellow (1879-1965), who first entered Dover Town Council in November 1930, was Mayor from November 1945 to May 1949. The first year of his mayoralty coincided, therefore, with the first full year of James A. Johnson's town clerkship. The two men developed a partnership of mutual respect and, I think, liking. My grandparents certainly admired the Town Clerk's ability and they were certainly aware of his foibles, which they probably attributed to his northern upbringing – Bradford, Leeds, and South Shields were as far then as they are now from Dover and the Cinque Ports, and his two years in Poole were neither here nor there. They were also aware of, and perhaps amused by, the dislike which he inspired in some Councillors. It was in these years, however, when James A. Johnson (always "James A." to my grandparents) was in his prime, that there was forged the spirit which resulted, for example, in the acquisition of Kearsney Abbey (regarded as the height of extravagance by many on the Council) and in the ambitious competition which issued in *The Gateway*. Thereafter the post-war mood of reconstruction faltered

and then dwindled away. Or so it might seem.

Perhaps this was the last decade when it really was something to be Dover's first and representative citizen (and in my grandfather's case, Dover's first Labour Mayor, a fact of which my grandparents were fiercely proud) and when it was something else again to be Dover's Town Clerk. Here was no mere Walmington-on-Sea.

To this I would add a more personal memory. As a boy I was addicted to civic events, among them the annual mayor-making. Who could resist that ritual combination of Council Chamber, red-robed Aldermen, black-robed Councillors, mace, mayoral chain, and speechifying? The speeches varied in quality. Some Council members spoke well. I think of Aldermen and Councillors Fish, Williams, John Bushell, Constable, and Eckhoff. I rank my grandfather with them. Their voices carried and their sentences joined up. Others were an embarrassment. I think of Aldermen Norman and Snelgrove, though the latter was so manifestly good-hearted. The dominant figure, however, holding the ritual together, making sense of it, was James A., with his crisp, dry, lawyer's drawl (or is the drawl a figment of my imagination?). It was certainly an accentless voice, with not a trace of Yorkshire.

Perhaps he had noticed that I was riveted, because he intimated to my grandfather – it must have been in 1956 or 1957 – that if ever I thought of Law as a career he would take me on as an articulated pupil and forgo the payment of a premium. It was a

notably generous offer and quite uncalled for, since beyond occasionally shaking hands and saying "How d'you do" I had never spoken to him, but it testifies to the generosity of the man who was to endow the Dubris Trust and whom Terry Sutton was to recall in 1969 as one who "quietly, could be very kind and helpful".

And yes, I had thought of Law as a possible career but James A. Johnson's offer was not taken up because in December 1957 I was awarded a scholarship to Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Any thought of Law turned rapidly into History and Law and even more rapidly into History on its own, which is where it has remained. I did, however, become a member of the college's flourishing Law Society and I have never ceased to be grateful that this

Town Clerk made that offer, and with such tact. It was a tremendous boost to a teenager's confidence.

A postscript might be in order: 1969 was when James A. Johnson received Dover's Honorary Freedom. Nearly eleven years earlier, on 15 May 1958, my grandfather had also been admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Dover. I still have the oak casket which was presented to him. It contains the vellum record of the Council's resolution to convey that honour. It was proposed by the Mayor, Alderman Williams, a Conservative, and seconded by Councillor Eckhoff, who had been my grandfather's Deputy Mayor. And it was signed by James A. Johnson. Those two Freedoms testify to an honourable post-war partnership in civic responsibility.

Dover Society AGM Invitation



The Dover Society are pleased to announce that they are streaming their Annual General Meeting on-line via Zoom on Monday 26th April 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

This will be a free event as usual and will be available for our Members to join. That said, the Event will be recorded and after the meeting will be available for ALL members of The Dover Society on their Web Site at:

<http://thedoversociety.co.uk>

To attend the Meeting we ask that you request a 'ticket' by email from Jeremy Cope at jeremycop@willersley.plus.com by Friday 23rd April and you will be forwarded a link to The Dover Society Zoom AGM.

(It is recommended that you download the free Zoom App from their Web Site – just search for Zoom!)

The meeting will cover the last two years. See the Meeting Notice and Agenda on page 24 of this newsletter.



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Signed: Date:

Practical Help

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

Social events Writing for newsletter Projects e.g. clearance, surveys

Photography Any other interests or expertise

THE DOVER SOCIETY

33rd Annual General Meeting: 7pm Monday 26th April 2021

The meeting will, because of the continuing Covid-19 lockdown, be held virtually through a link usable on devices with an internet connection. Resolutions for discussion and nominations for officers and committee members should be submitted in writing to Jeremy Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD by Friday 7th April 2021. Nominations should be supported by a proposer and seconder and the written consent of the potential candidate.

Because of the cancellation of last year's Annual General Meeting, caused by the Covid-19 lockdown, the meeting will cover the last two years.

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies.
- 2) Minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2019 (circulated with the March 2020 newsletter. Should any member require a copy please apply to the Secretary).
- 3) Matters Arising.
- 4) Chairman's Report: (19/20 Report provided with the March Newsletter 2020 and the 20/21 with March Newsletter 2021).
- 5) Treasurer's Report covering 19/20 and 20/21. (19/20 Report and Accounts provided with the July 2020 Newsletter).
- 6) Election of Officers

The following members are proposed by the Executive Committee.

Chairman	Derek Leach
Vice Chairman	Jenny Olpin
Secretary	Jeremy Cope
Treasurer	Mike Weston
7) Election of the Executive Committee	
Membership Secretary	Sheila Cope
Social Secretary	Vacant
Editor	Alan Lee
Press Secretary	Terry Sutton
Planning & Local Govt.	Graham Margery

Archivist	Dr Glyn Hale
Advertising Manager	Jean Marsh
Executive Members	Deborah Gasking,
Alan Sencicle, Patrick Sherratt, William Parker-Gorman	
Election of New Members of Executive Committee	

- 8) Resolution to amend the Constitution.

The Executive Committee proposes revision of the Constitution to describe the 'area of benefit' to match town and parish councils with that used by Dover District Council. The area as described in the revision is not materially different but brings the definitions up to date. The Constitution allows your Committee to make the changes but requires members to approve with a simple majority at the subsequent Annual General Meeting.

The revised wording, if approved, will read:-

The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising part of Dover District Council, particularly the areas covered by Dover Town Council, Guston Parish Council, Hougham Without Parish Council, Langdon Parish Council, Lydden Parish Council, River Parish Council, St Margaret's at Cliffe Parish Council, Temple Ewell Parish Council and Whitfield Parish Council, which area hereinafter will be referred to as the 'area of benefit'. The Executive Committee may alter the parishes within the Dover District Council area and comprising the 'area of benefit' and subject to confirmation by a simple majority vote of the subsequent Annual General Meeting

- 9) Any Other Business

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Dover Society AGM 2021

Derek Leach

Once again my annual report to be presented formally at the April AGM is with your March Newsletter, which means that I can only cover up to the middle of February 2020. Anything new of inport in March or early April I shall add verbally at the AGM (almost certainly a zoom meeting).

What a year it has been with the Brexit situation almost completely overshadowed by the pandemic – not to mention the Donald Trump saga! The Covid impact upon the Society has been, and is, substantial, but the Society is, I am pleased to say, alive and well and in some ways has been energised by sheer necessity.

Let me start with the downside. Our first and last event in 2020 was our traditional quiz before the first lockdown. The remainder of our winter programmes, including the AGM and Christmas Feast, was cancelled, as were our summer outings and holiday. Our guided tours of the Town Hall were not possible, neither could we organise Dover's Heritage Open Days in September. The traditional ceremonies that the Society attends to commemorate the Zeebrugge Raid on St. George's Day and the town's Remembrance Day service were also casualties. As you know, every November around Remembrance Day, the Society lays a wreath at the Society's plaque to the Unknown Warrior in the former Marine Station. 2020 was the centenary of those remains arriving in Dover, en route to be laid to rest in Westminster Abbey. It was to

be a very special occasion, but was impossible. In the event all that was allowed was for me, accompanied by the Port of Dover Chaplain, to lay our usual wreath in an empty, silent Cruise Terminal.

Against the backdrop of Covid what was possible? Society membership stayed very healthy at 476, with a good number of new members. Sadly though, as usual, we lost some good friends (listed in the Membership News section of this Newsletter). Our highly respected Newsletter continued to be published and distributed on time. Our Cowgate Cemetery working party managed a few sessions when Covid restrictions allowed. Your Executive, Planning and Refurbishment Committees worked tirelessly, thanks to email and Zoom online meetings, which for most of us meant learning fast!

The increased use and value of the internet was also demonstrated by our ability now to offer members the option of receiving their Newsletter printed as usual or via email. All back copies of the Newsletter (back to 1988) are now available to view on our website, with grateful thanks to Paul Skelton for digitising them as well as all the past minutes of the Executive.

With no end to the latest lockdown in sight before Easter, the Executive decided to trial an online winter meeting in January, using one of our previously booked

speakers, Jon Iveson and his subject, *The Evacuation of Dunkirk*. For the trial we restricted the audience to members only, but a recording was also made available for 24 hours afterwards on our website. It went very well with a total audience of about 80, allowing some members in other parts of the country to attend a Society meeting. More are planned.

How did we get involved with developments in the town? We managed a meeting with one of the DDC Directors, Roger Walton, to discuss various concerns. On the very busy planning front there is only space to mention some headlines. An unannounced bus and cycle lane suddenly appeared in Maison Dieu Road, causing confusion and potential dangers. We objected strongly, as did many individuals, and it was soon removed. New national planning regulations, removing many restrictions on planning applications, were resisted unsuccessfully. Whilst we were looking forward to private developers constructing quality buildings alongside the new Western Docks Cargo Terminal, we were dismayed with the prospect of buildings made from recycled shipping containers. Controversial plans for refurbishment of the Market Square are advanced, with work starting in June until December 2021, but we feel that a golden opportunity to lift the public realm has been missed. Our campaign to limit the number of houses of multiple occupation in the town continued, as did our lobbying for sympathetic shopfronts for our attractive buildings, particularly in conservation areas. Brexit reared its head with government plans to impose, without prior consultation, a Customs Inland Border Facility for freight vehicles adjacent to B&Q, with all the consequences for nearby residents, the wider community and the already inadequate road system on and around the A2.

The Society supported DDC's planning application for refurbishment of the Town Hall, following the successful multimillion pound grant application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The Society triggered this project back in 2010; it has been a long and difficult gestation period. We have been an active partner with DDC and Dover Town Council throughout, including a £10,000 contribution made possible from the guided tours and member donations. Whilst we have some reservations, we shall eventually have far more than we ever imagined. It means that the Town Hall will continue to be closed for normal use to enable a great deal of preparatory work to be undertaken before the major work starts in January 2022, with completion scheduled for December 2023. During this time there will be opportunities for the public to see work in progress and to be involved in various activities.

We were pleased to support a revised application for housing on the former Buckland Hospital site since it reduced the number of dwellings from 180 to 81, but we were not happy with the application to build 29 flats on the former nightclub site in Adrian Street because its height would compromise views of the Western Heights. Similarly, whilst we welcomed an application to redevelop the block around the former General Post Office in King Street, we objected to its height.

An important major task in January was to consider our response as part of the DDC public consultation on its 200 page draft Local Plan, covering its vision and objectives for the next 15 years. These range from housing to climate change and everything in between.

In addition, throughout the year, we made our views known to DDC on a substantial

number of planning applications involving individual properties.

The Society has continued to lobby to improve the appearance of the town regarding cleanliness, litter, state of pavements, public toilets and antisocial behaviour. Rights of Way are currently on our agenda, working closely with the national Walkers are Welcome initiative. Twice yearly meetings with the local police commander continue. During the pandemic, community issues such as the Foodbank and accommodation for the homeless are particular concerns.

Finally, may I thank on your behalf, particularly during this very difficult year and without naming anybody, all those members of the Society who play an active role in the work of the Society whether large or small, prominent or behind the

scenes, office holders or newsletter distributors.

Our Vice Chair and Winter Social Secretary, Beverly Hall, is stepping down from the Executive and will be missed, particularly for the refreshments at Wine and Wisdom meetings and for our Christmas Feasts. Jenny Olpin is in line to be the new Vice Chair. Patrick Sherratt, tireless and vigilant Chair of Planning for the last 10 years, is stepping down from the Planning Committee but, despite ill health is prepared to stay on the Executive. Graham Margery is in line to succeed him.

More help is always welcome. In particular, can I urge you once again to consider standing for our Executive Committee? Some of us are well past our use by date and there are vacancies!

AGM

A reminder to all members

The Annual General Meeting this year will be held on Zoom at
7.30pm on Monday 26th April.

Resolutions for discussion and nominations for officers and committee members
should be submitted in writing to

Hon Secretary: Jeremy Cope
53 Park Avenue, Dover. CT16 1HD
Tel: 01304 211348
E-mail: jeremycope@willersley.plus.com

All resolutions and nominations must be received by
Wednesday 7th April 2021

Nominations should be supported by a proposer and seconder and the written
consent of the potential candidate.

*As this is the first AGM since 2019 and the most important meeting of the year, all
members are urged to attend by way of Zoom if possible.*

Dover Community Radio

Barry O'Brien



DCR [Dover Community Radio] was conceived some time ago drawing inspiration from the Radio Authority [precursor to OFCOM] initiative known as Access Radio which saw the introduction of new legislation for an additional tier of radio to sit between Commercial Radio and the BBC. The first UK Community Radio station, as it later became known, went to air in November 2005.

Although the concept of Community Radio is worldwide, it's principles remain constant in that it is 'not for profit', is staffed by volunteers, and provides, mostly, locally produced content, including news, as well as offering training opportunities, at all levels, and an introduction to broadcasting.

DCR has volunteers whose experience includes work with Radio Caroline, as well as Internet Radio and Commercial Radio stations, some previously based in this part of Kent; we also have volunteers who had no previous experience of broadcasting prior to joining DCR.

Having broadcast online for some years, during which time there have been a fair few 'challenges', OFCOM has now offered DCR an opportunity to move to FM by mid-2022.

A previous 28 day FM trial saw volunteers

literally overwhelmed by the positive response and reaction from the area, although the first application for a full time licence highlighted potential issues with the strength of some French radio signals. Fortunately, technical help since received has offered a solution to that problem and test transmissions should now begin, spring, 2021.

Meanwhile DCR continues to grow the online output which will, of course, continue in parallel with the transfer to FM.

DCR offers an opportunity of a voice for East Kent and the Dover district and a platform for the community to talk with each other, to share information and promote events. Community Radio can help build a stronger Community, in OFCOM's words: "rather than 'talk at' its community the station should become a part of it". It can prove a tricky role to fill relying as it does on input and interaction from what might otherwise be a passive listener who has an opportunity not only to influence the station's output but to also take an active part in that output.

DCR is 100% staffed by volunteers and always welcomes more. It takes a lot of people to keep a radio station on air and not only presenters: it needs a lot more besides. DCR needs news-gatherers, sound engineers, people who know their way around a computer, trainers, fund raisers, designers, editors and plenty more besides; all contact can be made via e-mail to studio@dcrfm.co.uk

Listen in at <http://www.dcrfm.co.uk/>

Unknown Warrior Commemoration 2020

Alan Lee

Our Chairman Derek Leach managed to lay a wreath at the Dover Society Plaque for the Unknown Warrior.

He said that it was a strange, but moving, experience carrying out the commemoration with the lack of people present in the hall.



1921 Parallel Times?

Terry Sutton

AS WE LOOK FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE TO THE YEAR 2021, TERRY SUTTON LOOKS BACK ONE HUNDRED YEARS TO DOVER, IN TURMOIL, IN 1921

One hundred years ago, in 1921, Dover in turmoil was facing a slump with increasing unemployment, the threat of anger in the streets, and, until that December, the danger of civil war in Ireland to where Dover-based troops were sent.

To add to the town's problems there were severe epidemics of scarlet fever and diphtheria.

Dover's population continued to dwindle, down to 39,985 as industry suffered, but the number of unemployed in the town increased to more than 1,400. There was a fear of the spread of Communism throughout the nation.

Dover Town Council, trying the devise schemes to create employment, was facing financial pressures, with the rates higher than they had ever been. One of the job-creation ventures was the building of about 200 houses on Buckland Estate. Some other schemes were delayed over the issue of who, the State or local ratepayers, should meet the cost.

This was at a time when, nationally, there were political moves on the right wing of the Conservative Party to slash government expenditure. Newspaper owner Lord Rothermere founded an Anti-Waste party, demanding a cut in income tax.

A general election in Dover resulted in the Anti-Waste candidate, Colonel Sir Thomas

Polson, defeating the Hon. J. J. Astor (Conservative-Coalition) by 13,917 votes to 10,817 votes. Polson, supported in 1921 by the dodgy Horatio Bottomley, was defeated by Astor in another election the following year. The Dover Express reported that in November 1921 a Receiving Order was made against Sir Thomas Polson as a partner in a firm of leather merchants. By this time Horatio Bottomley was on his way to jail for massive fraud.

Following the war years of 1914-18, from which Dover and the nation was still recovering, there were ambitious expectations that East Kent would enjoy expansion through the increasing number of coal mines being opened, resulting in a big increase in Kent coal exports from Dover. But miners' strikes caused local coal shortages and in Dover street lighting was restricted, while Dover's electrical tram system was affected with no services on Sundays.

The wave of strikes in the mines resulted in a drop in the availability of Kent coal to be exported. American coal exporters were not slow to take advantage of winning coal markets in the UK and, in a few months, 200,000 tons of US coal was imported through Dover docks.

In September 1921 there was a packed meeting of the unemployed in the Connaught Hall of the Town Hall, when there were many angry words about the lack of progress in job creation schemes. The Dover Express pointed out that although up to 200 houses were being built on Buckland Estate there was little demand to live there because of the high rental and rates costs.

At the port, where the naval authorities had given up using the harbour, a number of big warships remained to be broken up but, with a worldwide drop in the demand for steel, little demolition of ships was in progress.

When the miners' strike began, a brigade of British army infantry was hastily brought home from the occupied Rhine to be stationed in Dover, such was the fear of a Communist-led rebellion. But by the summer that danger appeared to have passed and the troops were sent to Ireland, where there was plenty of trouble and the imposition of martial law.

In December, a historic settlement was reached, Ireland was to receive

independence with 26 southern counties to become the Republic of Ireland while the other six counties in the north remained in the UK.

There was no definite progress in 1921 in the provision of a 1914-18 war memorial in Dover, but at St Margaret's in July, on top of the cliffs, the Dover Patrol memorial was unveiled by the Prince of Wales.

Another bright spot in 1921 was the glorious weather. It proved to be a magnificent summer, resulting in a big boost of visitors to south coast resorts, including Dover, despite a drought in some parts of the country.

The Dover Lathams

— Derek Leach —

Based upon a Dover Express article in the Joe Harman archive

The story of the Dover Lathams begins modestly with the arrival in Dover in 1664 of Samuel Latham from Lewes in Sussex. Nothing is known of why he settled in Dover or how he earned his living. Perhaps it was business connected with the sea, preparing the way for the first well known member of the family, John Latham, born about 1720.

John Latham developed a large business as a merchant, shipping agent and ship owner, becoming wealthy in the process. A freeman by birth (his father having acquired it) he was elected to the Common Council and a Jurat/Magistrate. John was also mayor in 1767, 1779 and 1788. During this period England was fighting France, Spain and America. John

helped organise the local volunteer militia and was involved in construction of four gun batteries each with 28 guns to protect the town and harbour: North's Battery, Guilford Battery, Amherst Battery and Townsend Battery.

Dover's first Paving Act in 1778 was during his mayoralty and as Mayor he was Chairman of the Paving Commissioners responsible for enforcing the Act, being responsible for streets, paths and passages, paving, cleaning, lighting and watching (policing). He was also appointed Commissioner of the Court of Requests in 1784 to enforce the recovery of small debts. Turnpike roads appeared during his mayoralties including the new road to Folkestone

(current Folkestone Road). As Mayor he was also the town's sole representative on the Harbour Board (or Commissioners as they were then known) involved in attempts to enlarge, deepen and improve the approach to the harbour. He was appointed Treasurer of the Harbour in 1773 until his death in 1800.

His son, Samuel Latham, together with Edward Rice and Captain Larkins, established the Dover Union Bank in Union Street, which he managed for 50 years. Union Wharf was owned by his family. It was a very popular and prosperous local bank. Shipping and other interests continued, although affected by the commercial stagnation and depression following the end of the Napoleonic Wars. The introduction of steam ships from 1821 also meant sailing ships were devalued. Samuel died in 1834.

Samuel's two sons, Henshaw and Samuel, overcame these problems. Henshaw managed the bank and became mayor at 31 in 1814. After Waterloo he organised a local collection for the wounded and the widows of the battle. During the next 15 years he was mayor twice more. He, too, became Treasurer of the Harbour Commissioners, dining frequently at Walmer Castle with the Duke of Wellington (Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and automatically Chairman of the Harbour Commissioners). In 1836 he gave evidence and was closely questioned for almost two days by the Select Committee of the House of Commons looking into the management of the harbour.

Brother Samuel concentrated on the shipping interests. Both of them acted as consuls for several European countries including the issue of passports.

Lathams was the last private bank in Dover. Fector's Bank merged with the National Provincial Bank, the London and County Bank arrived in Dover becoming a strong rival. Lathams struggled and in 1846 Henshaw died suddenly. The bank closed and its debts consumed all the assets. Samuel lived for another 40 years in the Pier District, dying in 1886 and bringing the Lathams Dover 'dynasty' to an end.

This article is based on one entitled The Latham's of Dover and was published in the Dover Express of October 1906.

In 1993 Lorraine Sencicle published a book, still in print, entitled "Banking on Dover" which gives a more in depth account of the Latham family.

Editor



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A Unique Life of a Former Deputy Constable of Dover Castle

Peter Sherred

One of those attending the induction of the 215th Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, Brigadier Peter Rowell, on 5th December 2019 – reported on page 35 in issue 97 of Dover Society Newsletter – was a predecessor in the post as the 197th Deputy Constable – Major-General John Badcock CB MBE DL.



l to r: John's wife Gillian, daughter Rosie, son David, daughter Daphne, then John

At the age of 97 John Badcock was the oldest surviving former holder of the post at the time. Wheelchair-bound he held court in the time-honoured way as 'the life and soul of the party' in Constable's Tower before and after the Induction ceremony. He was an exceedingly jovial character, full of life and humour so it was very sad to learn that he had passed away on the 10th June 2020, having contracted Covid-19 in hospital whilst being treated for a separate infection during the pandemic-induced lockdown. The Confederation of the Cinque Ports mourns the loss of two distinguished Deputy Constables in the space of twelve months, for in July 2019 one of John Badcock's successors in post as Deputy Constable – the 200th – Maurice

Atherton, former President of the Dover Society, died at the age of 92 and his Thanksgiving Service held in Canterbury Cathedral on 23rd September 2019 was reported at pages 6/7 in issue 96 of the November Dover Society Newsletter. These two nonagenarians gave long and conspicuous service to the Army and their Country and were contrasting characters who, in their distinctive ways, enriched the post of Deputy Constable where they both executed their duties with great dignity. While Maurice was a mild and somewhat self-effacing character, John was a person with an infectious sense of humour and extremely outgoing. John was appointed to the post of Deputy Constable in 1968 and held the post during the Lord Wardenship of Sir Robert Menzies until 1970 - while Maurice was appointed in 1976 serving until 1981 during the Lord Wardenship of Sir Robert Menzies and the beginning of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's appointment to that historic post. John Badcock attended Maurice Atherton's Thanksgiving Service at Canterbury Cathedral where he is pictured in the Chapter House seated in front of the Lord Warden, The Lord Boyce, standing left, with three other former Deputy Constables.

John Badcock was born in 1922 in Nazareth in what was then the British Mandate of Palestine. He was born into a distinguished and proud military heritage on both sides of his family so it was no surprise that, after education at St Peter's Preparatory School in Seaford and being a pupil in Sherborne School in Dorset, school motto 'Dieu et Mon Droit' – 'God and my right', this Old Shirburnian was



l to r: the Lord Warden The Lord Boyce, Trevor Minter (DC 1998-2001), David Godsal (DC 1995-1998), Christopher Claydon (DC 2013-2015), seated front John Badcock

keen to join up in the army, volunteering as a Signaller in the Royal Corps of Signals. Ostensibly the reason for doing so was that when at Sherborne he had been a drummer in the School's Combined Cadet Force and he thought that drumming rhythms would give him a good understanding of Morse Code! He was commissioned in 1941 following a six-month course at Worcester College, Oxford, reading Electronic Engineering, and while there he rowed for the College. He was assigned to the 79th Armoured Division billeted near Penrith in the Lake District and later as the allies made their way through France and into Germany the "cheerful signals officer" supplied the signals for customised Sherman and Churchill tanks named "Crocodiles", fitted with flame throwers, "Crabs", fitted with rotating cylinders of chains that exploded mines in the path of the tank as well as tanks that dropped bundles of wooden poles to fill ditches. There was a tank that fired a 40lb mortar projectile known as "the flying dustbin." The "Double Onion" tank carried two large demolition charges that could be placed against concrete walls and detonated from a safe distance. Serving under General Sir Percy Hobart, John Badcock was proud of the "Hobart

funnies" and their contribution to the success of the European Campaign. As he recounted in an interview with WarGen, John Badcock apparently kept a very straight face as he used a zoological glossary to explain to military top brass the customised military vehicles, including tanks, that floated and tanks with strobe lights that dazzled the enemy. The interviewer opined that such presentations and demonstrations "could have graced an episode of Dad's Army". John took part in the Normandy landings in June 1944. He landed at Ouistreham and commanded the signals element of Hobart's tactical HQ. He took part in the battles for Brest, the Scheldt estuary, the forced crossing of the Rhine and the drive to the River Elbe.

John witnessed the German High Command surrender to Field Marshal Montgomery on the 4th May, 1945 on Luneberg Heath and on VE day, John recalled how, as a result of the 79th's successful confiscation of a very large stash of naval rum found in a warehouse in Hamburg, they enjoyed a huge bonfire on the Heath and "at the end of the night we were all as tight as ticks".

Following his adventures in Europe, being demobbed and then converting into a career soldier, he was sent to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) as an acting major in command of the Signals squadron, tasked with keeping communications open to the Far East. Upon his return to the UK he enjoyed a successful career in the General Staff. He was GSO 2 (Intelligence) on the staff of HQ 1st (British) Corps in Germany when, as a result of his time at the School of Amphibious Warfare, he was mobilised to play a significant part in the Suez Crisis of 1956. He went on to command a brigade signals squadron in Cyprus and during that time again found himself mobilised to lead the signals operations in Oman, before

becoming a Sovereign Company Commander at Sandhurst and then a colonel commanding 4th Divisional Signals Regiment in Germany. He was appointed Brigadier and the first Signals Officer to command an Infantry Brigade, based at Shorncliffe Barracks, Folkestone when he assumed the role of the Deputy Constable in Dover and after 2 short posts with the MOD he became Director of Manning (Army) with the rank of Major-General in 1972 where, as an independent thinker and problem solver, his talents were directed at meeting the challenges of under-manning at the time. He was the first Royal Signals Officer to be appointed a defence adviser and head of British defence liaison staff in Canberra, Australia in 1974. He retired from the Army in 1977.

In 1979 John Badcock became the Chief Appeals Officer for the Cancer Research Campaign and under his leadership income to the Campaign doubled. He became Chairman of the Royal Signals Association and was appointed Master of Signals in 1982 remaining as such until 1989. He was chairman of a large fruit-growing company and was a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent from 1980.

While in Ceylon he met his future wife Gillian Atfield, the daughter of Tea Planters. They married in 1948 and were married for one year short of a Diamond Anniversary before she died in 2007. They had three children, two daughters and a son: the eldest, Rosie, a medical secretary predeceased John. He is survived by his daughter Daphne, a retired Primary Schoolteacher, and son David, an Industrial manager and trouble-shooter. An extremely inventive man, John Badcock would never travel without a Swiss army knife on his person, which was a hazard when passing through airport security X-ray machines but due to his

forethought for solutions meant he never got caught! After he found his ceremonial sword awkward to carry when travelling, he re-engineered it by shortening the blade and fitted the scabbard with a hinge half way down its length to allow the whole thing to be fitted into a suitcase. John Badcock was a man of immense character verging on the preserve of the British eccentric. He was well known for pranks at his cocktail parties. In the large, vaulted dining-room in Constable's Tower, there were two uninhabited suits of armour. In an effort to put this right, John obtained two mannequins from a local department store. When these proved a bad fit, they were taken through a door leading from the dining-room, carried down a flight of stone steps and laid to rest in the dungeon. Some time afterwards, a decorator arriving to paint the dining-room asked where he could leave his pots of paint. John, with a wink to members of his family, suggested that they were put in the dungeon. Moments after the man disappeared, he came haring back up the stairs crying out that he had found two dead bodies there!

At the age of 96, in 2019, he drove to the annual jamboree weekend for the RCS at Blandford Forum and thence to Devon to visit his daughter. Relatives expressed concern that he was undertaking such a long journey on his own at that age but his riposte was that if he was involved in an accident and he was not at fault the dash camera would prove his innocence but if it was his fault the dash camera would be thrown into a hedge!

It is frequently said that a person is fortunate to have had a long life and John Badcock was certainly fortunate in that regard but more important and more telling is what he put into that long life – scholar, keen sportsman (he represented the Corps at shooting, cricket and hockey), a man of duty and service in the army,

inventive, practical joker, humourist, husband and father. John Badcock did not waste his life. He appeared to enjoy life to the full with considerable zest until, sadly, he fell victim, as have many others, to the virus that has swept the world reshaping lives and nations as it went. John's funeral took place at Barham Crematorium on 23 July 2020 under Covid restrictions where his son David gave a fulsome and affectionate tribute to his father. John was brought into the Chapel in a palm coffin to mark his birth in Nazareth and the palm trees that grew in abundance there. His coffin was draped in the ensign of the Royal Corps of Signals on top of which was his military cap signifying the apex of his military career together with his military sword to represent his ability to improvise

novel solutions. His daughter Daphne and other members of the family were also in attendance. Following John's death the family was inundated with tributes to John, many of which commented on his sense of humour. Two examples from outside the family were "they don't make many like John and I miss his wisdom, friendship and humour greatly" and "he was a remarkable man and a person for whom all those who had served under him had great affection". One of his grandchildren said "Mum told me there was nothing I couldn't do but Grandpa showed me there was nothing I couldn't do".

For an all too brief period Dover and its castle was home to this outstanding man of many parts.

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Dover's Slave Owners

Ann Tomalak

The slave trade is an ignoble part of British history, long ignored. But recently we have been forced to take another look at it by public demonstrations, the toppling of statues, and discussions of the ways slave owners used their wealth to win prestige and power at home.

Essentially, the trans-Atlantic slave trade involved the transportation of people from Central and West Africa to the Americas, where they laboured on plantations and in other industries. The fruits of their work were then shipped back to Europe to be sold for profit. But they were not migrant workers in the modern sense. They were captured in raids and sold as slaves to European owners. We will never know how many were transported during the three centuries from 1526, but a recent estimate suggests 12 million, with millions more dying en route.

With the discovery of the Americas, the British settled along the east coast and in the West Indies. The islands had the perfect climate to grow sugar cane in particular, but there was insufficient local labour. By the late 17th century, one in four ships leaving Liverpool was engaged in the triangular slave trade, carrying goods to Africa to be exchanged for slaves, which were taken across the Atlantic. The ships then brought home items like cotton and rum but, above all, sugar, which was in great demand.

By the beginning of the 19th century, people such as William Wilberforce were noisily opposing the slave trade. In 1807 an

Act was passed which prevented slaves being carried on British ships. However, it was still legal to own and trade slaves until the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833. Even then, most were re-designated as "apprentices" and had to continue working for their former masters for another five or seven years. The 1833 Act only passed because the British government made available £20m as compensation (40% of Treasury income at the time, a debt finally paid off in 2015) to be paid to the owners, not the former slaves!

Records of the claims for compensation have been held by The National Archives since that time, largely forgotten. But at the beginning of the 21st century University College London began a series of projects investigating aspects of British slave ownership. They have now set up The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slave-ownership and continue to expand their database (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>) which is available to the public.

One ugly surprise is the number of people who made claims, 46,000 in all. Not all were technically slave-owners. Some held an interest in an entailed estate in the West Indies, or were bankers who had given a mortgage or loan to an estate owner, or were executors of a will, but all wanted compensation for the loss of "property". Among those who could be classed as slave-owners, not all were rich and powerful. Slaves were a good investment for the respectable middle classes. Because slaves were treated like other property, 25% of

claimants were women, who inherited slaves from husbands or fathers, sometimes as their sole income.

The other awful truth is that the compensation money, like the income from the slave trade previously, was reinvested here in a multitude of other projects. It fuelled the industrial revolution, developed infrastructure, bought influence and bolstered philanthropy. The UCL database lists thousands of British companies, public institutions, museum collections, stately homes, political legacies and appointments that owe their existence to money from slavery. Wherever we look, the buildings, institutions and organisations that give us pride today are likely tainted by slavery, even in Dover.

The UCL database lists 214 claimants in Kent. Of these, six have Dover addresses.

Helena de Rochemont Maxwell lived at 5 Marine Place. The 1851 census describes her as an 'officer's widow', aged 54, born in the West Indies. She was living with her daughters Susan (aged 25, born in Jamaica), Henrietta (aged 21, born in Kent) and Louisa (aged 19, born in Ireland). By 1861, Helena (now giving her age as 67) was living in Mortimer Street, Marylebone, London, with Susan. She died there in May 1868, aged 73. The second daughter, Henrietta, had died a spinster at 5 Marine Place, Dover, in October 1863. Administration of her estate, worth less than £100, was granted ten years later to her sister, Susan, also a spinster, then living in Folkestone.

Helena was awarded the compensation money for one enslaved person on Curacao in 1863.

This suggests her husband left her and their three daughters comfortable, but not

wealthy, with various assets including a family house and, presumably, other investments, among them a single slave. With roots in the West Indies, they would have had first-hand knowledge of the slave trade.

Elizabeth Wood Arrowsmith nee Wallace, was previously married to Edward Atherton (born 21/08/1768). Edward's uncle William (d. 1803) owned Green Park and Spring Vale Pen estates in Jamaica, which he bequeathed to his brother John. John then bequeathed to Edward half of the Jamaican estates and £35,000 in trust to buy property.

Edward Atherton married Elizabeth Wood Smith, a widow of Dover, Kent, in Marylebone in December 1818. He was buried in St James, Dover, in August 1820 and his will was proved the following year. As his widow, Elizabeth inherited an annuity from his property (the estate slaves included), even though she got married again in March 1821 to Harrison Arrowsmith of Camberwell, London.

The Atherton family retained an interest in their Jamaican estates until 1910. Green Park produced sugar, rum and cattle and had around 550 slaves. Spring Vale Pen (nearly 200 slaves) additionally produced corn, coffee, cotton and other livestock like mules, reminding us that not everything was exported; money could also be made from the local economy.

John Hamilton (1782-1859), was tenant-in-tail (i.e. next in line to benefit from an entailed estate) of the Riseland and Indian Walk plantations, Tobago, which he inherited from his father, also John Hamilton. John Sr. (b. 1744) was owner of several estates in Tobago by 1789, "a gentleman of considerable property and influence on the island". He also set up a United Brethren ministry there.

John Jr. was born in Tobago in 1782, but educated at Eton (where the notes say "owned most of the Island of Tobago") and Cambridge. The compensation records give his address as Cliff, near Rochester, but by the 1851 census he was living at 8 Guildford Lawn, Dover, with his daughters Susannah and Margaret, three female servants and one male servant. He is described as a "West India Proprietor", age 68. John Jr's brother, the Rev. James Hamilton, had a claim on his father's estates too.

John Jr. also had sons, Henry Rose Hamilton and the Rev. John Hamilton. Henry's will describes him as "administering the Government of the Island of Montserrat", and leaves estates there (400 acres), plus a town house, to his wife and children. Henry and his son, William (the next tenant-in-tail), give Guildford Lawn as their address for the claim. The Tobago estates had more than 400 slaves, those on Montserrat 276.

George Mathew (d. 1846) was originally to inherit estates in Tobago and Antigua from his father, Daniel. But Daniel revoked the bequest in 1776 and ordered the estates sold, with George receiving instead £10,000 and the purchase money for a lieutenantancy in the Guards. However, George also inherited an estate called Willoughby's on Antigua from one Archibald Cochran. George died in Switzerland, but his will says he was "formerly of Dover". He left substantial sums in cash and stocks to his children. There is no further mention of Willoughby's, but his nephews, Charles and Frederick Gambier, made unsuccessful compensation claims for estates on St Kitts with 300 slaves. It would be good to think Daniel had a conscience but, most likely, he needed ready cash.

Emma Reignolds neé Absolon, (1811-1874) married her husband, Robert, in

fashionable St George's Church, Hanover Square, London in 1835. In the 1841 census, they and their three young daughters were living in York Street, Dover. Robert's father had died at Waterloo. His mother was the daughter of Richard Welch of Jamaica.

Together with her brother-in-law, Thomas Scott Reignolds, Emma was awarded a small part of the compensation for the Hyde estate in Jamaica (147 slaves, sugar and rum) as part of a consortium of mortgage holders. About 1855, Emma and her daughters moved to America and became actresses. Emma died in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1874. Her daughter, Catherine Mary, known as Kate, made quite a name for herself on the stage. She married Alfred Winslow (thus narrowly avoiding being the original Kate Winslet).

Crisp Molineux Montgomerie (1783-1850) is described as "of Dover" both in his will and in a family memorial window in the church of St John the Baptist, Garboldisham, Norfolk. He was the main heir under the trust will of his grandfather, Crisp Molineux, as well as inheriting from his father, George. He made a joint claim with his mother, Elizabeth, and brother, Thomas, for the Tomlinson estate on Antigua (145 slaves). Thomas received further compensation for the Nicola Town estate on St Kitts (175 slaves, producing sugar). The wider Molineux family also had estates on Montserrat, and may have been known to Henry Hamilton.

Three other local men made claims: Henry Dawkins and heirs. The first Henry (1728-1814) is listed as "of Portman Square [London] and Jamaica". His son, Henry II, was an MP for Yorkshire constituencies which his son, Henry III, later took over. In 1821, the family built Encombe Park at

Sandgate, Folkestone, with funds derived from the Jamaica trade. Henry III made compensation claims for the York estate (400plus slaves, sugar, rum, livestock and metals) and Gales Valley estate (250 slaves, sugar and rum).

In 1924, Encombe House featured in Country Life magazine, with new owners and a newly renovated interior, well-illustrated by photographs. It was destroyed by fire in 1978.

James Alured McLean (1871-1881), was living at Langhorne Gardens, Folkestone, with his much-younger wife, Maria, at the time of his death. He was described as a "landed proprietor" born in Jamaica, though claim documents say "of Bordeaux, in the kingdom of France." In the 1871 census of Langhorne Gardens, he is an "English and foreign bondholder." He made a claim on the Main Savanna estate in

Jamaica as mortgagee. The award was split with the owners, George and Sarah Townsend, but James got almost all of the compensation. The estate produced sugar and had 140-180 slaves. Maria died ten years after James, a wealthy widow, leaving about £12,000.

George Joad, (d. 1837), was a London ropemaker, shipping agent and mortgage lender, with homes in Blackheath and Walmer. Among his clients were two London merchants, John Plummer and William Wilson, and the descendants of a planter, Thomas Kaylet. The case was quite complicated as Plummer and Wilson declared bankruptcy, but Joad still received compensation from their estates in Jamaica, Anchovy Bottom (231 slaves, producing sugar and rum) and "Mount Thirza" (the details correspond to Mount Zion in St Elizabeth parish, some 200 slaves over three plantations, one of which produced coffee and also rented out slaves). Additionally, Joad received compensation for the Maverly estate (224 slaves, producing sugar, rum and molasses).

Joad's son, also George, born 1837, left more than £91,000 when he died in 1881, though we cannot know how much of that inherited wealth was from the slave trade.

British complicity in slavery was never just about a few rich people getting statues. It permeated the whole of British society. Many estates (and their slaves) were owned by groups of people, each drawing a small income, spent on goods and services in their home communities. By the 19th century many estates were mortgaged, some failing. The compensation money wasn't returned to help the West Indies but invested in new projects in Britain. It kick-started the development of the modern era and made us what we are. Slavery's legacy is with us still, mostly unacknowledged.

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The Tale of Two Plaques in Commemoration of Wartime Surgeon and GP

— Peter Sherred —

As reported in the Newsletter of November 2018 (no. 93 p. 31) on 17th August 2018, the life and work of Gertrude Toland, the well-known surgeon and Dover GP who saved the lives of many Dunkirk soldiers and civilians during World War Two, was commemorated when a plaque in her memory was unveiled in Buckland Hospital by her son Gordon Toland. The Rotary Club of Dover had taken the initiative in arranging for a replacement plaque in memory of his mother to be placed in a location accessible to members of the public in the new hospital. The reference to a replacement plaque arose because the Rotary Club of Dover had commissioned a memorial plaque in the Rotary year 1990-1991 to this outstanding lady which was unveiled by the then President of the club near to where she operated in the former Buckland Hospital and was the first fixed memorial to Gertrude Toland's work. When the former hospital was disused and then demolished enquiries were made as to the whereabouts of the plaque that had been erected in the presence of Gordon Toland and his family only to be told that in the demolition of the former hospital it had been lost. With the replacement unveiling in 2018 it seemed that the chapter was closed on a memorial to Gertrude Toland in the hospital so that her life and works were retained for posterity by the replacement plaque.

Out of the blue in December 2020 the President of the Rotary Club of Dover, Tony Cook, received a telephone call from the Maintenance Manager Estates at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Malcolm Stubbersfield, to advise that the original plaque had been recovered among other

effects that had been transferred to Canterbury from the former Buckland Hospital. After consultation it was agreed that it should be placed alongside the replacement plaque in the entrance area of the current Buckland Hospital. Mr Stubbersfield attended to this immediately. On Thursday 17th December 2020 President Tony Cook and myself, as the President who had unveiled the original memorial plaque, attended at the hospital at the invitation of Mr Stubbersfield, to view both Rotary plaques in place side by side and below historic pictures of operating theatre activity presented by the League of Friends of the hospital. The thanks of the members of the club for his excellent work of discovery and of mounting of the original plaque were given to Mr Stubbersfield. Tony Cook said "It was a pleasure to see the two plaques, commissioned by the Rotary Club of Dover, side by side in Buckland Hospital commemorating the life of Gertrude Toland, a surgeon heroine of wartime responsible for the saving of so many lives. Together they make a fitting tribute to a quite remarkable woman".

Fulsome tribute should be given to the Health Trust for remedying the loss of the first plaque by offering a location for a replacement and great credit is due to Malcolm Stubbersfield for his recovery of the original and for ensuring its siting beside its replacement. Gordon Toland has been advised by the club of the resurrection of the original plaque and its placing beside the replacement in the hospital. Next time you have occasion to visit Buckland Hospital go and visit the site of the plaques which are located to the left of the Reception Area on the right-hand wall.

So We Say “Thank You for the Music”

—Peter Sherred—

During the years 2014-2017 Dover hosted a music festival which was attended by thousands of people who were entertained with exciting live music of all genres. The first two festivals were held in Pencester Gardens while the 2016 and 2017 festivals were staged at the Dover Cruise Terminal courtesy of the Dover Harbour Board who generously gave the space free of charge and collaborated with the organisers of the music festival in a successful partnership.

The Dover Music Festival hosted top acts including the cult band Toploader, The Blockheads, China Crisis, the 1960s Paul Jones The Blues Band as well as Toyah Willcox together with many local bands. The organisation and presentation of these events provided formidable challenges to the organisers and, by common consent, the driving force for the festivals was Roger Marsden.

A seed of an idea for a music festival emerged in or about 2012/2013 when the company Dover Music Productions Ltd was incorporated with Roger as a Director. A second company, Dover Music Festival Ltd, was incorporated in January 2014 of which Roger was also a Director. Both companies have, since the last festival, been dissolved. In conjunction with his collaborators Roger's companies set out with a three-year plan of providing a substantial prestige music event on an annual basis in Dover. In the event they were able to manage four very successful festivals in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. By 2016, taking into account the generosity of the Dover Harbour Board



Roger Marsden

providing first-class facilities for the music festival, Dover Music Festival scrapped ticket prices and the general public benefitted from prestige performances during afternoons and evenings free of charge. The 2017 festival ran over two days, 26-27 August, and was live from 2pm to 11pm each day and was sponsored by the port contractors VSBW (Volker,

Stevin, Boskalis, Westminster). These dates coincided with the Dover Regatta and also enabled Roger and the Dover Music Festival to permit appeal collectors to collect for the Kelly Turner Fund during the course of the Festival, at the end of which the collection for the appeal amounted to £11,186.

By late 2017 a decision had been taken that no music festival would take place in 2018, in part due to operational reasons of the Harbour Board and in part because Dover Music Festival was not able to continue in its then current form. Dover Music Festival Ltd was dissolved on 7 May 2019 having provided Dover with four hugely successful headline-catching musical events.

Roger, who died in August 2020 aged 66 was, in the words of one of his friends, a 'larger than life character' and his contribution over many years to Dover life was amply acknowledged by the number of people attending his funeral at St Paul's RC Church, Maison Dieu Road and held concurrently at St Peter and St Paul, Temple Ewell, the village in which he and his family had lived for over 30 years. As well as the service being streamed online people also stood outside the church and many lined the route of the cortege through the village.

Roger was born in Deal on 3 October 1953. His younger brother Bernard followed in 1956. He attended St Paul's Primary School adjacent to St Paul's Church in Maison Dieu Road, Dover and continued to St Edmund's School, Old Charlton Road. In essence he became a Dover boy and man for the rest of his life. In the 1970s he lived with his parents on Buckland Avenue Dover. Having had a successful school career Roger had a passing dream of becoming a laboratory scientist. He attended evening classes at Canterbury College before starting his first job with the Post Office. Subsequently he went into business on his own account with another local person, Peter Grilli, by opening a laundrette which he ran in River just beyond the old bus terminal in the parade of shops opposite the village church. Later he opened another laundrette in Pencester Road in Dover and a further laundrette on the High Street located opposite what was then the H. J. Sawyer garage and undertaker's business and where a portion of the Charlton Centre currently is sited. Having spent many years in the laundrette business he then started an amusement machine business, CBS Amusements, with David Grilli where he remained for 25 years. Another of Roger's ventures was undertaken in partnership with others in establishing Dover's first Pool Hall in a shop on London Road, not far from Beaconsfield Road. He and his long-term friend Nick Charlesworth played in several pool teams around Dover managing to win a few trophies.

Roger met his future wife, Carole, at a social club party being introduced by a mutual friend. They married in 1984 at the United Reformed Church in Dover. Carole was the love of his life and they were blessed with three daughters - their first-born Carrie was followed by twins Jessie and Sammie. At his funeral service Carrie, in her moving tribute to her father, said "he gave us the most amazing childhood, full of holidays and

adventures". Roger loved boats and it seems that every family holiday had a boat story of some kind attached to it.

Apart from business and family commitments Roger undertook much work in the local community. He was passionate about helping people and if he could he did. He was a keen member of the Rotary Club of Dover where his organising talents were put to good use in the annual Beer Festivals which raised many thousands of pounds for good causes. Noticing there were at least three members of the club called Roger he elected to be called Rufus for the purposes of distinguishing himself from others! He also took a keen interest in the Rotaract Club of Dover and was often found, as the visiting Rotarian, at their meetings to encourage and support the young people between the ages of 18 - 30. He was proud of his successes with the Dover Music Festivals for which he worked extremely hard and he was immensely passionate about them and their ability to provide entertainment for Dovorians and especially younger people.

His interest in music was longstanding and he was often playing the guitar and singing. His enthusiasm probably outstripped his talent but he was very happy when his daughter Carrie agreed to duet with him at home. As he played the guitar she sang. Music brought Roger together with many others and with Nick Charlesworth in particular, with whom he was a member of a band. Roger and Nick played guitar with their friends, Peter Grilli and Phil Medgett on bass and on drums respectively. They rehearsed at the Mill Club in River and the YMCA in Dover. After several personnel changes the band eventually became the Charlesworth Young Band and Roger became the band's 'roadie'. The band members travelled around East Kent for various gigs in Roger's Commer van which was loaded also with all their equipment.

The band did very well and supported some major acts at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone.

Roger's main interests in life centred on providing amusements for others but he was a very good snooker player himself. He was indeed a 'larger-than-life' character and because of his business interests and community engagements, which included being a Parish Councillor, it was little wonder that when she was a child his eldest daughter, Carrie, thought he was a local celebrity as he seemed to know everybody they saw. He had many hobbies and, in his youth, excelled at basketball, confirmed by his brother Bernard. He also enjoyed squash, shooting and poker. Roger was a member of the Boar's Head Golf Society and was recognised as a good golfer. He played at home and abroad on holidays with golfing friends often referring to such holidays or any weekends as "drinking holidays (weekends) with a golf problem". He liked a drink and in later years when restricted in movements would often walk the short distance from his home in Temple Ewell to the local pub, The Fox, run by fellow Rotarian Steve Grayson and his wife Alyson.

In his last years Roger was not as active as previously and was treated for bladder cancer but he continued with his Rotary commitments and community activities for as long as he could, being very philosophical about his future and life, summarised by his comment to a family friend: "We've all got to die sometime, so we might as well make the most of it". His premature death hit his family, his many friends and acquaintances very hard for they had lost a jovial character who has left behind many memories and stories ranging from the failed launching of a boat called "Glayvar", a caravan fire at the back of the High Street laundrette, an exploding fire extinguisher in an undertaker's premises, a wandering

Madonna statue at a Portuguese villa and an amazing ability to fall into several rivers in his time.

Roger was a pragmatist and a man who would give a considered and honest view on anything for which his opinion was sought. His opinion was much valued as is shown by the following tribute from the current President of the Rotary Club, Tony Cook: "Roger was a popular and valued member of Dover Rotary. If he undertook a task you could be sure that not only would it be done well but with panache and his trademark love of life. He also had a very incisive mind; I recall sitting with him at Club Council especially during some difficult and lengthy discussion. Roger would sit there quietly taking everything in and then, just as it seemed all was concluded, he would come out with the most intuitive comment which would sum up the debate and often sway the result. We miss his fellowship, his integrity and that big brain too. I often used to listen to him and think, 'I wish I'd thought of that!'

Roger's enthusiasm and energy for community engagement will be much missed by many people and in particular his fellow Rotarians but it is the four successful Dover Music Festivals that will live long in the memory and will remain a significant tribute to a man who packed much into his life, often with the benefit of others in mind and for which Dover has much to be thankful. His enthusiastic and tireless approach to life was an inspiration to others and was clearly the basis for the major successes that were the Dover Music Festivals. Nick Charlesworth finished his tribute to Roger at his funeral in the following way "I am quite sure that many fond recollections will be shared later today as we celebrate the life of this quite remarkable man." Yes, thank you to Roger Marsden for the music in our lives given in so many ways.

Letter to the Editor



Dear Sir,

I would like to share my observations on the destructive impact that the proposed Inland Border Facility will have on the roads and businesses around Dover.

This new customs post is being clamped onto a massive logistical operation. The Port of Dover receives over 2.1 million heavy freight vehicles every year.

Informal counting of HGVs suggests that peak flows are quite regularly around 16 per minute. An educated and informed recent analysis suggests that currently around half of all heavy freight vehicles are now using the A2/M2 route. That's half a million HGVs travelling each way along the A2.

The proposed 'Inland Border Facility' is the only one on the Department for Transport web site linked to the A2, so it is reasonable to assume that it is the primary check point for all A2 traffic.

Unfortunately there is a bottleneck on the A2 London bound carriageway, just short of the turn off to the Facility. This bottleneck, almost a mile long, is a single carriageway, in each direction, to allow the road to pass under a bridge.

The distance from the end of the bottleneck to the entrance gate to the proposed 'Border Facility' is just over half a mile (960m) long. Since an articulated HGV is about 16.5m long, that length of road translates to a queue of less than 60 lorries before the A2 to London stops moving.

A single P&O ferry can carry 180 HGVs. Add to that the HGVs from DFDS ferries and then add all the lorries heading towards the port which will be directed to the Facility over the bridge (and will have priority over the lorries coming up the slip road).

With HGVs arriving at a rate of 16 per minute, it could take less than 4 minutes to reach the critical mass of 60 standing lorries needed to stop up the London bound A2. The rapidly building queue behind it will quickly reach the Dover / Deal roundabout and just keep on growing.

The clear potential for this problem to occur as a regular feature of A2 traffic makes a nonsense of all other arguments in favour of this location for the Inland Border Facility. This facility has to be built elsewhere, not here.

One option amongst others would be to take the traffic off the A2 at the Lydden lights where the Husk facility already exists.

I strongly object to what is being proposed on the grounds of its massive and negative impact on our road infrastructure and demand that a new site be found immediately.

Yours sincerely
Charles A, Lynch RIBA.
Member of the Dover Society



Organised and sponsored by Cllr. Graham Wanstall the judging of this annual festive competition took place between

16th December 2020 and 6th January 2021 Epiphany “12th Night”

The six Cash Prize Winners were at

103 Folkestone Road

173 Folkestone Road

8 Norman Street

11 Knights Templars

95 Maison Dieu Road

Castle Hill House

About 50 consolation prizes were also awarded to residents in over 25 roads within the competition area

Whilst judging this competition I had a serious accident, falling down a flight of steps, in Folkestone Road. I wish to thank the first aider at 103 Folkestone Road, who assisted me and called an ambulance. Her prompt professional action made a difference, for which I am very grateful.

Report - Updates by Cllr. Graham Wanstall

Vera Lynn Path Project

This proceeds well and I publically wish to thank Vera Lynn’s family and Cllr. Trevor Bartlett, the leader of D.D.C. for their support and excellent co-operation.

Unknown Warrior Way Project

I propose that the area in front of Dover Priory station be combined with the very short approach road leading to it and be renamed *The Unknown Warrior Way* to mark the 100 years since the train carrying the body of the *Unknown Warrior* passed through the station heading to London in 1920.

This page has been purchased by Cllr Graham Wanstall to inform the Dover Society members of some of his activities over the last six months.

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PROGRAMME 2020

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.

26 April Monday 7pm	Annual General Meeting This meeting will be held electronically on Zoom. See AGM Reminder on page 27 and the meeting details in the centre pages of this newsletter.
October Monday	Meeting will be as normal or electronic depending on Coronavirus restrictions. The time and date to be notified in the next newsletter.
November Monday	Meeting will be as normal or electronic depending on Coronavirus restrictions. The time and date to be notified in the next newsletter.
December	Society Christmas Lunch Depending on Coronavirus restrictions. If this is to go ahead the time and date to be notified in the next newsletter.

Dover Society Summer Trips 2021 - Rodney Stone

Society Day Trips. None are planned at the present. It remains too early in the progress of COVID-19 to organise trips with any certainty. But the following have been provisionally arranged.

Sellindge Gardeners' Association

Monday 4th to Friday 8th October 4-night trip to Exmouth, to include trips to Exeter, the Donkey Sanctuary and the RHS Garden at Rosemoor, and a cruise on the River Exe. Cost: £399 per person, plus £88 single room supplement, if available. Deposit £50. Payments refunded if the trip cannot take place, but under standard travel trade conditions, there would be cancellation charges if members themselves withdraw after booking.

If interested please notify me on Tel 01304 852838 or Email randdstone29@gmail.com and I will arrange to have full publicity, application and conditions' forms sent to them and register their interest with the Gardeners' Association.

Silver Phoenix Travel Club

30 June to 5 July. 5-night trip to the Isle of Man. Non-members, cost £645

12 to 16 September. A 4-night trip to Snowdonia. Non-members, cost £465

14 July - Homes of the Rich and Famous, £55

17 August - South Pacific show in London, £65

Pick-up point for all trips is likely to be the Wincheap Park and Ride in Canterbury.

The Society is not involved in the arrangements, but members can contact Iain direct on Tel 07842 124094 or Email tourop2002@yahoo.co.uk.

We apologise but at present we are unable to make any firm arrangements for any of our programme of activities

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

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