

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 107
July 2023



*King George V and Queen Mary – Coronation 1911.
In 1928 they visited the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Guston*

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THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

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

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Contents

2	Editorial	Alan Lee
March General Open Meeting 2023		
4	“A Saint, a Chapel and a Policeman” A talk by Derek Leach	Terry Sutton
April AGM Meeting 2023		
5	“The Duke of York’s Royal Military School” A talk by Andrew Nunn	Alan Lee
7a	The Dover Society – New President	Terry Sutton
7b	Membership News	Ann Burke
9	Planning Committee	Graham Margery
11	The Electric Motel Company of Brighton Their Architect – His View	Terry Sutton
12	Lorna Bomford Plaque Unveiled	Alan Lee
15	Marconi and Fort Burgoyne	Barry O’Brien
18	Britain’s First Aircraft Spotter?	Harry Harris
19	Business Up - Port of Dover Annual Consultative Meeting	Terry Sutton
20	The River Dour	Deborah Gasking
21	Dover Society Badges	Alan Lee
22	Application Form for Membership	
23	The Dover Society Festive Lunch 2023 Booking Form	
25	A Fond Diversion	Barry O’Brien
26	Bacon, Eggs and Making Beds	Patricia Knight and Adeline Reidy
28	Dover Plays Host to Distinguished Visitors With a Connection to the Town	Peter Sherred
31	Death of a Memorable Head Teacher Philip Headon PHF	Peter Sherred
32	Around Dover Museum – Queen Elizabeth I	Veronica Ward
33	Cowgate – Life among the Dead	Deborah Gasking
34	Environment Committee	Janet Dagsys
35	Bin It To Win It!	Alan Lee
37	Memories of Dover A Nostalgic Personal Perambulation. Part VII Recollections Off the Main Street - Castle Street	Peter Sherred
41	Oliver’s Mount	Barry O’Brien
Inside Back Cover		Programme 2023/24

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, archaeology, 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 Dover Town Council, Guston Parish Council, Hougham Without Parish Council, Langdon Parish Council, Lydden Parish Council, River Parish Council, St Margarets at Cliffe Parish Council, Temple Ewell Parish Council and Whitfield Parish Council.

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

The Annual General Meeting this year saw a number of changes take place on the executive committee. It also saw Derek Leach elected as the President of The Dover Society after a number of years without one. All changes are detailed inside of the front cover of this edition.

The various sub-committees are always ready to welcome additional people to assist in their important work for the Society. If you are interested, then please contact the relevant committee or any member of the executive committee.

The restoration of the Masion Dieu (Town Hall) continues apace. The upgrading of the Market Square area is moving forward with the awarding of a number of new grants from our local councils.

A number of events have been arranged this summer in and around Pencester Gardens, the Roman Lawn, the Market Square, the seafront promenade and the Marina curve area. Visit the revamped Kearsney Abbey, Russell Gardens and Bushy Ruff for a tranquil and pleasant day. Or explore some of the many interesting places that the town and district have to offer.

We are slowly changing the appearance of our website and increasing the amount of content and information it contains. Notably is the addition of Lorraine Sencicle's series of articles "Dover's Around the World". We have also been posting more events within the calendar section. If you have any appropriate local event you would like included, then please contact the editor.

The Christmas lunch, will again, be held at the Marina Hotel situated on Dover's waterfront. A booking form can be found in the centre of this newsletter. There are a few spaces still available for the boat trip from Runnymede to Windsor, with a Ploughman's Lunch, and a visit to Savile Garden, with a cream tea, on 5th September. Please contact Rodney Stone for availability and further information.

Alan Lee, Editor

Errata - March Edition page 34 & 35

Anti-Aircraft Battery D3 Frith Farm, Guston

All reference to "Nissan Huts", should read "Nissen Huts"

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DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 108 will be Wednesday 4th October 2023. 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 01 304 213668 to discuss details.

Publication in the Newsletter does not imply the Society's agreement with any views expressed, nor does the Society accept responsibility for any statements made.

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* * * * *

DOVER GREETERS

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

Tel: 01304 206458

MARCH MEETING

A Saint, A Chapel and a Policeman

A talk by Derek Leach

Reported by Terry Sutton

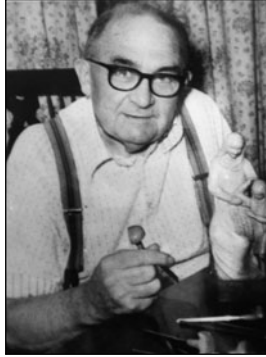
Our vice chairman Derek Leach, who is playing a major role in the restoration of the Maison Dieu, cleverly weaved three stories linked to the 800-year-old centre when he gave a talk to members in March.

He entitled his fascinating talk, 'A Saint, a Chapel and a Policeman,' relating to his trio of subjects: St Richard of Chichester (who died in the Maison Dieu in 1253), the thirteenth century St Edmund's Chapel in Priory Road, and the 20th century Dover police sergeant Bob Forsyth who carved many beautiful statues including the impressive one of St Richard of Chichester that stood in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu.

Much of Derek's presentation was about the legacy of Bob Forsyth's carvings, several now decorating churches in Dover. One yarn, related to Derek by a member of the Forsyth family, was that Bob was seeking a facial image he could recreate for St Richard's statue.

It came to Bob Forsyth one day when his front door was answered to the gaunt face of a door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesman. "Thar's the face I want" exclaimed Bob who then continued carving his St Richard statue.

Derek, our former chairman, screened a series of images to supplement his very



Bob Forsyth

detailed explanation how this trio of subjects were all linked with the Maison Dieu, now closed to the public for the multi-million pounds restoration task work.

The evening's talk was completed by a short presentation by the Town Hall's community engagement officer, Martin Crowther, who told what had already been achieved and the programme ahead to

which the public will be invited.



St Richard – Carving by Bob Forsyth

APRIL MEETING

The Duke of York's Royal Military School

A talk by Andrew Nunn

Reported by Alan Lee

Pointing out that the school clocktower is visible to all passing traffic and passers by was the way Andrew led the meeting into his subject.

In the early 19thC only six women were allowed to travel with the troops when on overseas duties. These were drawn by lot. Woman with two or more children were not allowed to travel.

On 19th June 1801 Fredrick the Duke of York and Albany laid the foundation stone to the original school at Chelsea which opened in 1803. Now some 222 years later the school is a fee-paying co-educational establishment for 11 to 18 year-old pupils. Between 1801 and 1892 the school was known as 'The Royal Military Asylum'. The name was then changed to 'The Duke of York's Royal Military School'.

The school originally came into being following a proposal that the army should look after the children of their troops.

A report published on 25th March 1812 put the start up costs in 1801 of land and structures at £104,187 4s 2½d.



The Duke of York's Military Asylum, Chelsea 1804

At the outset there were three schools, based at Southampton, the Isle of Wight and at Chelsea. Entry was by petition, laying out reasons for the child/children to be allowed entry to the school.

The brief was that the three Rs had to be taught - Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

At the beginning the children's diet was poor and 4% of them died of malnutrition. Food was set at beef, or mutton, four days a week providing a meal of 4oz of dressed beef, milk pottage, mild rice and pease pottage. [Pottage is likened to a thick soup]. Three days a week bread was set at half a loaf three times a day, butter, when there was no meat and 2oz cheese at supper. Weekly rations for the sergeants and nurses were Meat 1lb, Bread 1lb, Potatoes 1lb, Beer 2 quarts, plus ½lb butter and 1lb cheese for sergeants and 1lb butter and ½lb cheese for nurses.

Soap for the laundry was controlled by the steward, in 1801 the soap bill for the year was £321 16s.

For heating the hospital used 180 to 200 cauldrons of fuel a year, a cauldron is a large kettle and was a measure for fuel.

Light was allowed at the rate of 1lb of candles per person per week.

The committee choose iron bedsteads as wooden ones tended to harbour bed bugs.



Captain William Sibourne

A n d r e w mentioned that C a p t a i n S i b o u r n e , Adjutant of the school made a huge model of the Battle of Waterloo, 24 feet times 19 feet. Sibourne set his diorama of the battle at 7.15pm showing the true position of all troops at that

time, the completed model included over 90,000 hand-painted lead soldiers and went on display in 1838. He also wrote a book on the subject which the Duke of Wellington took exception to. In consequence Sibourne was never paid for his model.

Andrew then showed a series of slides depicting characters and views associated with the school during the 1800's. He also told us that since 1863 the name of every child who died is inscribed on a plaque.

In 1897 a second set of Colours was presented to the school.

The move from Chelsea to Dover came in 1909 when a site for the school was found at Lone Tree Hill, Guston. The first 167 boys led up to the school were those who had nowhere to go in the summer holidays. At that time the school consisted of a dining hall, eight boarding houses, four on either side of the dining hall, a chapel and housing for the staff. A Company Sergeant Major was in charge of each house.

Each boy had a walking out cane. Every pupil, on their left breast pocket, wears the

regimental badge of their father's regiment. If their father has no regiment, then the school badge is worn.

During the two world wars the school was evacuated. In August 1914 to Hutton, near Brentwood, Sussex and in WWII briefly to 'Benhall Farm', Cheltenham, between 30th July 1940 and 5th December 1940, before moving to 'The Saunton Sands Hotel', North Devon.

In 1928 King George V and Queen Mary visited and since then the school has seen royalty visit on a number of occasions.

Between 1920 and 1994 the school has gradually de-militarised opening up admissions to all. Now, some 222 years later, the school is a fee-paying co-educational establishment for 11 to 18 year-old pupils. Concentrating more on education coupled with a strong sports ethic.

A school magazine "The Yorkie" is produced at regular intervals.

Andrew said he is willing to organise a guided tour of the Duke of York's Royal Military School and grounds for members of The Dover Society.



DYRMS Guston

The Dover Society - New President

Terry Sutton

Derek Leach OBE, the former Customs Officer behind so much of Dover's life, is the new President of The Dover Society of which he was chairman for many years. The office of President has been vacant since the retirement of the late Brigadier Maurice Atherton.

Mr Leach, of River, was elected to the post at the society's annual meeting on March 17th when Mrs Jenny Olpin was re-elected chairman.

Mr Leach, former chairman of the port community group, is the inspiration behind the multi-million project to upgrade Dover's 12th century Maison Dieu Town Hall, now in progress. For several years he organised the annual opening to visitors of many of Dover's historic buildings. He is also the

author of a string of books about Dover's history.

At the annual meeting, re-elected, were Graham Margery (Vice Chairman), Jane Jones (Treasurer), Carol Duffield (Secretary), Ann Burke (Membership Secretary), Alan Lee (Newsletter Editor), Lyn Smith (Winter Social Secretary), Lesley Easton (Environment), Graham Margery and Ann Burke (Joint Chair Planning and Local Government), Jean Marsh (Advertising), Alan Lee (Webmaster) while Deborah Gasking was appointed for Ecological matters, Martyn Webster for siting the society's Blue Plaques, Mike McFarnell Deputy Webmaster and Jeremy Cope Email Correspondence. John Widgery and John Morgan were re-elected as the Audit Committee.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hot Summer Reminder - Ann Burke

What a warm season of weather we are having, everything in the garden is blooming and growing with the recent rain. Our numbers are growing too, and we have had quite a few new members. We also have some members who are yet to renew, we are still only charging £6 a year! What a bargain in these difficult times. You can pay by cash, my address is at the front of the Newsletter, or by cheque. Standing Order is becoming more popular now and if you wish to do this, let me know and I will get a form to you quickly.

When you look around Dover there are so many things that the Society is part of, and we are all proud of our town. If you have an email address or a new email address, can you let us know please, my email

address is annandjeff02@gmail.com, sometimes we hear of events that you may be interested in, and it would be nice to let more people know what is happening around Dover.

Our new members are Jane East, Rod and Flo Springett, Mrs Madeline Heley, Sian McEwen, Teresa Kilroy, Dennis Tansley, Dr & Mrs Carrick Richards, Mr Shane Batten, Robert Walsh, Peter Greenless, Gordon Little, Eleanor Brooks, Gillian Weaver, Derek Aston and Mrs S Reynolds

We have sadly heard of the passing of Bill Browning, Mr Phil Headon, Mrs Helen Miller and Gloria Morgan, we pass on our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

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Planning Committee

Graham Margery - Co Chairman

Statistically, this has been a relatively quiet period since the last newsletter, with fewer planning applications for us to review, but the number we have felt needed comment has been normal. In total we have reviewed some 63 applications that are potentially of interest and made formal response to Dover District Council in respect of 22 of them.

The Three Cups, Crabble Hill: We mentioned in the last newsletter the planning application to convert the former Three Cups public house into four self-contained flats. Whilst regretting the loss of the pub we supported the application as the accommodation was of a reasonable size and quality. We now know that planning approval has been granted. In addition, another application has been approved for a dwelling in Dodds Lane at the end of the existing terrace and utilising part of the pub garden. The height and width are in keeping with the existing terraced properties and amounts to a restoration of a building destroyed in the war. We also supported this application.

Bench Street: We mentioned in the last newsletter Dover District Council's plans to redevelop the Bench Street area. Things are now progressing and the details of the scheme are becoming clear. DDC have now purchased numbers 8,10,11,14 & 15 and already own the car park.

Number 11 is the former Castle Amusements building, once sporting a Banksy artwork. This has fallen into dilapidation and has been assessed to be in an unsafe condition, such that demolition is the only viable possibility. Similarly, numbers 14 & 15 are the former Funkey Monkey bar, and this too is considered to be

in such a poor state that demolition is necessary. At our regular meetings with DDC executives we have challenged this view as the buildings are architecturally significant and of historic interest, but we understand they will be demolished anyway. This despite the recommendation by Historic England that Dover should "Invest in historic buildings: Do not demolish them! They are an irreplaceable and necessary asset that should be re-used." (Historic Places Panel Review Paper Dover July 2021).

DDC have since submitted a planning application for their demolition and gave it approval without advertising it, making the decision in the minimum legally permitted time scale such that there was no opportunity for public comment. We have challenged this approach also and have been advised that, under the circumstances, there is no legal requirement to advertise the application. Nevertheless, we consider this lack of transparency to be underhanded and is somewhat reminiscent of the infamous demolition of Brook House in the early hours one Saturday morning in 1988. If new buildings have to be the answer, we have asked that they should reflect in some way the features of the old and not be 1960's style rectangular boxes.



Bench Street Dover

And what of the Banksy artwork? We are told that it has been accurately scanned using sophisticated digital technology so that it can be recreated at some suitable site at some time in the future.

Creative Centre: Earlier in the year a public engagement event was held together with discussions with stakeholders to consider proposals for the new Creative Centre planned to be built at the junction of Bench Street and Fishmonger Lane using part of the existing car park. This is an integral part of the larger Bench Street redevelopment project. Amongst other things, the centre will provide for exhibitions, functions, gallery, meetings, and presentations as well as studio/making spaces and a café. Architecturally, the building is being presented as a modern cube-like structure which, although arguably suitable for a Creative Centre, is quite unlike anything else nearby and lacks any features which reflect the heritage of this part of the town. We have expressed our concerns about this. As far as we are aware, nothing definite has been decided yet and we continue to engage with DDC to influence the decision-making process before it is too late to change anything.

In addition, DDC have commissioned a local firm of architects to produce a Cultural Strategy for Dover and there have been a number of consultation events that we have participated in. It seems rather odd to be formulating a strategy when important decisions have already been made.

Roman Painted House: Discovered in 1970 by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit under Dr Brian Philp, the Dover Roman Painted House is one of the finest Roman town houses in Britain with magnificent wall paintings and is of international significance. Although the site is owned by Dover District Council, it is

managed and made open to the public by a board of trustees. Sadly, in recent years, the full potential of this important site as a tourist attraction and educational experience has not been realised, with access to the site being somewhat haphazard at times. This is in part due to the restrictions imposed during the Covid pandemic and also due to the difficulties the trustees now face in fulfilling their role. A number of the trustees are unable properly to fulfil their obligations due to ill health or other reasons, with the result that the archaeology is not being properly managed, and visitors are denied the opportunity to view such an important site in the way that it could and should be seen. Worst of all, we understand that the wall paintings themselves may be deteriorating and are in need of professional conservation work to ensure they are well preserved into the future. We have raised these concerns with DDC and have also written to the then Leader of the Council urgently to engage with the trustees in discussion about overcoming these problems. There is a long-held vision for this site in which the archaeology is preserved and displayed in a modern, high-quality manner, the building modernized, and access to the site made from the Market Square across the Roman Lawn, with the archaeology buried under the Roman Lawn also being re-excavated and put on display, enhancing the visitor attraction. We urge the parties involved to bring this vision to realisation so that this important site can become the major tourist attraction that it deserves to be, for the wider benefit of the town.

Malvern Road: Some of you may have seen in the local press recently that a planning application for a block of flats in Malvern Road has been turned down. We applaud this decision as it is something we strongly objected to. The original application was for 45 self-contained flats in a block with up to

seven storeys reducing to four further up the hill. The structure would be completely out of character with the existing houses and would totally dominate the street scene. This first application was refused, but a second application was made for 52 self-contained flats also in a block of seven storeys, but reducing going up the hill. This too was refused because "The proposal, by reason of the scale, form and design would appear as a dominant and incongruous form of development that would not be visually attractive, would cause visual harm and would fail to add to the overall quality of the area." Dover does not need this kind of development.

North Military Road: Dover District Council has submitted a planning application for a three-storey building comprising eight self-contained flats on what is currently the car park at the bottom

of North Military Road. Although not in a Conservation Area, the site is adjacent to three others namely, Town Centre, Dover College and Western Heights, so its setting has a potential to impact upon them. It will also be clearly visible from the Priory Street roundabout. The plan is well thought out, using the difficult topology to best advantage and preserving the tall, mature trees to afford screening. The building and flats are of high quality and include energy efficiency measures and also solar panels wherever possible. The provision of quality affordable housing like this is something we have been pleased to support despite its sensitive setting.

As I write this, we have blue skies and sunshine but with a cold north easterly wind. O the joys of an English summer! I think I'll look at some more planning applications.

The Electric Motel Company of Brighton Their Architect - His View

Terry Sutton

A major project to construct a 90-room hotel on Dover's waterfront is set to start next year (2024), says the providing company.

An architect representing the company, The Electric Motel Company of Brighton, says the hotel on the Marine Curve is part of Dover Harbour Board's massive £250 million regeneration of the western docks.

The architect was attending a Dover Harbour Board public meeting when he had a chat with Terry Sutton, representing The Dover Society. He made no bones about his contempt for The Dover Society,

denying it had 500 members. Anyway (he said), it had no official consultation representation. He argued there were only five objectors to the original shipping container scheme and they, were all members of The Dover Society.

In the early stages of planning, in 2020, the Electric Motel Company suggested the construction would utilise old shipping containers, but that idea is now dropped, and construction will use conventional materials. The proposal from the hotel company is also to provide a swimming pool, restaurant, bar and workspace, all of which have received planning consent from Dover District Council.

Lorna Bomford

Latest Dover Society Plaque Unveiled Milestone House, Temple Ewell, Dover

Reported by Alan Lee

At 2pm on Monday 26th June 2023 a small group of people gathered, including three members of the family, just down the road from Milestone House. They were there to witness the unveiling of the latest Dover Society plaque. Our Chairman Jenny Olpin said a few words of introduction and then handed over to Martyn Webster, the organizer of the plaque.

Martyn briefly outlined Lorna Bomford's life and the reasons why she deserved to be publicly recognised.

Lorna Bomford was born on 29th December 1883 in Calcutta, India and baptised there on 23rd March 1884. Her father Sir Gerald Bomford, an army surgeon, was then Director General of the Indian Medical Service until retirement in 1910. The family came to settle thereafter in Dover as did many British military people returning from India at that time. As a family they first lived for some years at 13 Park



Lorna Bomford 1933

Avenue which later became a hotel and is now divided into flats. After the death of her mother in 1939 Lorna moved immediately post second war to Milestone House, Temple Ewell.



She worked in the Food Rationing Office in Dover during both World Wars. From 1919 to 1921 she was the first female Councillor of the Borough of Dover and became actively concerned with early Council Estate buildings. From 1927 to 1945 she was a Justice of the Peace. Much of her spare time was devoted to painting in oils and pastel, and she exhibited in the

Paris Salon. Lorna was an active local suffragist before women were given the vote and she is commemorated as such with others on a brass plaque in the Maison Dieu. Remarkably she was also one of the survivors of the 1917 Dover tram crash on Crabble Hill in which 11 people were killed and 60 injured. She died unmarried on 25th February 1962 aged 79 years at her home, Milestone House, and was buried in the grave of her parents at Charlton cemetery where their memorial inscriptions may be still read today.

Lorna Bomford has already been honoured twice in Dover.



Lorna Bomford Pre Plaque Unveiling



Stone Hall, The Maison Dieu Plaque



Jenny Olpin and Glenn Mousley unveil Bomford plaque

As well as the Maison Dieu plaque, Dover District Council (DDC) has honoured an unsung hero of women's rights with the naming of 24 brand new council homes in Dover as part of its largest housing development in a generation.

The £12.5m redevelopment of the former brownfield site provides 65 new homes with a mix of tenures, including social housing for affordable rent, shared ownership, and private sale.

The social housing element comprises 18 two-bedroom apartments, and six one-bedroom apartments in a three-storey building on Harold Street. The properties will be occupied by local people on the Council's housing waiting list.

The building has been named Bomford Place in honour of Lorna Bomford (1883-1962), a leading light in Dover's Suffrage Movement.

This latest blue plaque by the Dover Society is therefore well merited and overdue. I commend it to you.

The group then moved along London Road, opposite Milestone House, to witness the unveiling of the plaque. Our chairman, Jenny, then invited Glenn Mousley, Chair

of Temple Ewell Parish Council, to perform the unveiling.

We are immensely grateful to Carole and Chris, the house owners, to have agreed for this plaque, the eighteenth in the Dover Society's series to be given its place of honour here. The group were then invited into the house for refreshments.

Milestone House is marked by a stone set in the wall below it, facing London Road. The building's history is not altogether clear, but it must date from at least the seventeenth or eighteenth century with various additions over time. It was once known as Pembroke Villa and is believed to have served variously as a vicar's house, a public house and in various other interesting guises and ownerships. Any further information about the building's history would be welcomed not only by the present owners, but also, by the Dover Society for the local record.

This fine house stands on what was the main mail coach road to Canterbury, Rochester and London and must have witnessed the passing by of a multitude of royalty, personages and travellers making their way to and from the port of Dover. If only it could speak to us.



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Marconi and Fort Burgoyne

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Guglielmo Marconi Inventor and Engineer who developed, demonstrated and marketed the first successful long-distance wireless telegraph.

Many of us are aware that East Kent and the “pioneer of wireless,” Marconi, are inextricably linked.

With the Italian government unconvinced by Marconi's inventions and propositions, he brought them instead to England where his family had significant established contacts; his mother, Annie, was from Wexford in Ireland and was a member of the Jameson's Whiskey family.

Signor Guglielmo Marconi went on to successfully demonstrate the first ‘over-the-sea’ communication, which he achieved between the South Foreland lighthouse and the East Goodwin lightship on December 24th, 1898; this was also the first occasion on which wireless was used within a British lighthouse.

Three months later, on March 27th 1899, Marconi achieved the first international wireless message between Britain and Europe, linking across the English Channel

from Wimereux, in France, to the South Foreland lighthouse.

By 11th April, three stations, at East Goodwin, South Foreland and Wimereux, were involved in successful trials to establish multi station communication. With sufficient progress having been achieved South Foreland was able to communicate with East Goodwin without a single dot being received by Wimereux.

The Marconi Company used the South Foreland lighthouse again in September, 1925, for an experimental transmission of a radio guidance system and the story continues.

But what has all this to do with Fort Burgoyne? Only 16 months prior to Marconi's success at South Foreland his relationship with the British General Post Office, GPO, his main benefactors until that point, had significantly soured, primarily as a consequence of his having formed a private company The Wireless Telegraph and Signal Company, founded by Marconi in July 1897.

As a consequence of these actions, which, effectively, reclaimed Marconi's patent on wireless telegraphy, the Engineer-in-Chief at the GPO, William Preece, established a series of tests designed to build on those discoveries but with neither the knowledge of nor the benefit of advice from Marconi.

Writing to the Admiralty on Sept 7th 1897, Preece invited their representative to witness these tests, advising them, in the process, that in the light of Marconi's recent commercial actions “the results of

these further experiments should not be made public". Clearly the GPO and, in turn, the British Government, were aggrieved.



*William Henry Preece
Engineer-in-Chief at the GPO*

The tests began with the transmitting equipment, modelled on Marconi's own, located within a casemate at Fort Burgoyne and despite Preece's request for secrecy, the press was soon reporting that

secret tests were being undertaken from Fort Burgoyne toward South Foreland, all of which soon made Marconi fully aware of the GPO's actions/intentions.

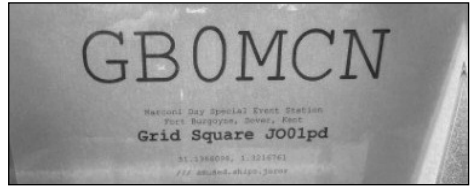
Within weeks it had become apparent to both Preece and his opposite number at The Admiralty, that they were unable to repeat the earlier successes of Marconi's experiments and an invitation was duly issued for Giuliermo himself to visit Dover and assist in any way he felt able to offer.

Marconi arrived at Fort Burgoyne on Wednesday October 6th 1897 and was soon able not only to improve on the results of the GPO's experiments but also those of his own earlier explorations.

The relationship between Marconi and the British Government, however, never truly recovered which did little to prevent Marconi's continued progress and success, so much so that International Marconi Day, a 24-hour amateur radio event, is now held annually to celebrate the career of communications pioneer, Guglielmo Marconi. The event taking place on the

Saturday closest to the inventor's birthday, April 25th.

This year's celebration was held on April 22nd 2023 and a licensed station was established for the day at Fort Burgoyne using the call sign GB0MCN thereby re-establishing the Fort's connections with Marconi.



Marconi Day Transmitter Licence 2023

Our OFCOM licence ran from 12:00-17:00 and, having arrived on site at 09:45, the aerial and transmitter were all in place by 10:45 ready for a prompt start.

As the event coincided with Earth Day this year, an annual event held to demonstrate support for environmental protection, our station was powered entirely by a battery which had been charged by a combination of solar panels and wind turbine. The only mains electricity used on the day was to boil a kettle!



Marconi Day 2023



Marconi Day Fort Burgoyne 2023

It was also noticeable that Fort Burgoyne's relative remoteness gave rise to a lack of electrical interference such as would have been anticipated in a modern town centre.

Our first contact came at 12:28 BST, ironically from Finland, the furthest point we had contact from all day, a distance of some 1400 miles.

In all, over a period of 4 hours we achieved 78 contacts from Eire to Germany, Finland to Spain, Folkestone to Co. Durham and Braintree to Malmesbury including someone who once worked for the Marconi Company and another who delighted in telling us how much, whenever he came through Dover, he enjoyed sitting on top of the cliffs a while watching the port traffic come and go before boarding a ferry himself.

There were also several contacts from Belgium and France as well as from Souter Lighthouse Tyne & Wear; we also had a good long chat with Amberley Museum in Sussex.

After a much-needed cup of tea followed by a prolonged silence from the receiver, it was decided to cease transmissions for this year a little after 16:00 and we had cleared the site by 17:00.

Fort Burgoyne's association with Marconi had, though, been fully restored and people from all over Europe made aware of that association.

Plans are already afoot to celebrate Marconi Day 2024 at Fort Burgoyne as well as further afield.

Marconi was the shared winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for Physics in 1909 for his contributions to wireless telegraphy; he was also credited as sending the first radio transmission across the Atlantic Ocean, in 1901.



*Signor Guglielmo and Mrs Beatrice Marconi
1910 Portrait*

Britain's First Aircraft Spotter?

Harry Harris

My father was an early aircraft spotter in two senses of the term. He was early because it was early in the morning when he saw his first aeroplane, and he was also early in the sense that he was one of the first of the breed.

In 1909, he saw Louis Blériot's monoplane land on the cliffs of Dover. That summer day, July 25, 1909, Blériot had set out from France in the early hours to become the first man to cross the English Channel in an aeroplane.

The Daily Mail had offered a prize of £1,000 to any aviator who could accomplish this feat. Others had tried but had failed. Anglo Frenchman Hubert Latham was Blériot's main rival for the prize.

My father, then a boy of ten, lived with his parents at The Plough Inn at Guston, some three miles east of Dover. To supplement their income from the pub, my grandparents kept pigs behind their dwelling, and my father, the second eldest of 13 children, had the task of fetching swill from the nearby Duke of York's Royal Military School, which is situated between Dover and Guston.

Guston itself was to figure in aviation history, as it was to become the site of an early airfield. It was from there that the aeroplanes of the British Expeditionary Force departed for France in 1914. An aircraft crashed there in 1917.

Blériot landed at 5.17½ hours that summer morning after his 36½ minute flight across the Channel. His wife was on board the French destroyer Escopette (Blunderbuss), escorting Blériot. It could not, of course,

keep up with him, as he flew at about 42½ mph at an altitude of approximately 250ft.

He had taken off from Sangatte, near Calais, having decided to make his attempt after taking into account the weather and wind speed. He had to walk with the aid of crutches, as he had burned his foot in an earlier incident. He had built ten aircraft of widely varying configurations, and his No. XI monoplane, designed by Raymond Saulnier, was his mount for his successful attempt on the Daily Mail prize. A signal was sent from Sangatte to the Lord Warden Hotel in Dover that Blériot was about to make his historic flight.

The battle between Latham, Blériot and other aviators to be first across the Channel had been the subject of wide publicity in the press and talk of the prize and the aspirants must have been a central topic to most Edwardians. The excitement and adventure of human flight in heavier-than-air machines captured the imagination of young and old alike.

On that historic Sunday, July 25, 1909, my father, also named Harry, must have risen early to go on his errand to fetch the pigswill. Daylight would already have dawned on that July morning,

My biggest regret is that I did not get my father to talk more about this event and record it as oral history. I can only surmise that, as he arrived at the Military School, the staff had been informed of the arrival of Blériot on the cliffs, less than a mile away. The general excitement can only be likened to that of an alien spaceship landing in one's own back garden today. The fact that it was early on a Sunday might have meant fewer people

attended the triumphant arrival than if it had happened later in the day, or in the middle of the week. However, early morning or evening was the best time to fly the lightly loaded pioneer aeroplanes, with their low-powered engines. The local police were soon on the scene, mainly to protect the flying machine from some predatory souvenir-hunters. The photographs of the recently arrived Louis Blériot, who just managed to nurse his machine over the clifftops on to Northfall Meadow to land near Dover Castle after his 22-mile flight, show a motley group of spectators. I have often tried to identify my father in the photographs, but there are several boys of his age, all with similar caps, and all could pass for him.

My father was probably asleep or preparing to start work when Blériot left Sangatte. A short while later Blériot and

his aeroplane were firmly embedded in my father's memory, to be recalled from time to time for those interested in it.

Before my father died, in 1974, we (Homo Sapiens, that is) had put men on the Moon and built Concorde. In one man's lifetime we progressed from the Wright brothers' first successful powered, sustained and controlled flights on December 17, 1903, and Blériot's 1909 cross-Channel flight, to supersonic airliners and Space Shuttles.

As far as I know, my father flew only once in his life. That was to Canada, after he had retired, to see my elder brother. I am sure his mind must have gone back to that Sunday in 1909 when, as a boy, he witnessed that significant episode in history. I doubt whether even Blériot himself could have imagined where it would take us.

Business UP

Port of Dover Annual Consultative Meeting

Terry Sutton

Profits were up at the Port of Dover in 2022, with an increase in business in all sectors except truck traffic (down seven per cent). As a result, Dover Harbour Board was able to donate more to local charities and, at the annual consultative meeting on May 24 2023, a further £109,000 was presented to a fund that finances scores of local charity organisations.

"This is the most we have given away in any 12 months and it's possible because of our improved profits," DHB's chief executive, Doug Bannister told the packed meeting at one of the port's two cruise terminals.

The meeting welcomed Jason Holt, DHB's

new chairman, who introduced his fellow Board directors.

A series of top port officials reported on 2022 successes with increases in ferry revenue (£60 million), cargo (£5.5 million) and cruise sector (5 million). Coach traffic increased and it was claimed that Dover was now taking virtually all cross-channel coach traffic as the Tunnel dropped out of the market.

The meeting was reminded it was 70 years since Dover led the way with cross channel car traffic with the opening of revolutionary drive-on drive-off ferry berths at the Eastern Docks. On display was DHB's new "brand image" with the logo of "Closing the Gap Every Day."

The River Dour

Deborah Gasking

River Cleans with Volunteers.

Every 2-3 weeks White Cliffs Countryside Partnership continue to have a positive impact, and presence on the river too.

These are attracting new and regular volunteers and always generate interest and gratitude from the public as they pass by.

And, just like that... *Our Finest Dour* is in its final year of funding.

School Engagement.

Schools and river dipping activities are booked up each week. These sessions focus on learning about the River Dour and how to help it. They continue to be extremely popular and efficient at getting children interested in their local river wildlife.

The River Dour Centre Celebration Week.

This will be held Monday 14 August – Sunday 20 August. The aim is to have the River Dour Centre, at Buckland Bridge, well used by the public, contractors and interested parties now that COVID-19 hesitance has passed, and the River Dour



River Dour Clean Up 2nd June 2023

officer is back from leave. Nature walks, storytelling, archaeological presentations, children's activities and art/craft workshops are all to take place during the week. Some of these will have to be bookable given how small the space is!

Water Crowfoot Translocation.

Chalk stream water crowfoot is a key plant species for chalk rivers. It regulates flow and helps oxygenate the water, is vital habitat for river fly and provides trout and bird life with shelter and food.

Sadly, it was lost from much of the upper Dour a few years ago, perhaps from a pollution event in River. White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, with a local Parish councillor, wants to see if it would be possible to re-establish it up stream once again. It has never been done successfully, but we will learn from this experiment whether it works or not to get the chalk stream water crowfoot back throughout the River Dour. During the next few river cleans we will collect seed to distribute in the river to see if we can get this important plant flourishing in the upper Dour as it should be, once again.

World Rivers Day Discover the Dour

This World Rivers Day join White Cliffs Countryside Partnership on Sunday 24th September on behalf of Dover Arts Development to discover the River Dour on a 'walk, stop and talk'.

As funding for the *Our Finest Dour* Heritage Lottery Fund project will end this November, a strategy to leave some legacy (if more funding is not secured) is ongoing.

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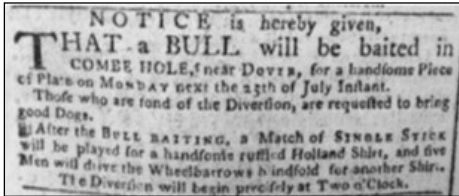
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A Fond Diversion

Barry O'Brien – Dover Tales

The following announcement appeared in the Kentish Gazette July 1785



Whilst it is, sadly, all too obvious what is meant by the term 'Bull Baiting', especially with the advice given in the above article, to "bring good dogs", there may not be too many people today who are familiar with the sport of 'Single Stick' nor indeed, that many amongst us who are aware what a Holland Shirt might be. Emerging during the 16th Century, Singlestick, perhaps unsurprisingly, uses, as its weapon, a single wooden stick about 1 inch (25mm) in diameter and 34 inches (86 cm) in length. Traditionally, made of ash the Singlestick became popular as a way of training soldiers in the use of the backsword, a type of sword characterised by having a single-edged blade and a hilt with a single-handed grip; the weapon was so called because the cross section gives a flat back edge. Being easier and cheaper to make than double-edged swords, backswords became the favoured sidearm of common infantry, although they were also often the secondary weapons of 17th Century Cavalrymen.

The 'guards', 'cuts' and 'parries' used in Singlestick play were at first identical to those of backsword play with no 'thrusts' allowed. Although, in the early days, it was considered unfair to hit below the waist, as the sport evolved into the 18th Century other parts of the body came into play with bouts sometimes only being decided by the

drawing of blood from one of the contestant's heads.

By the time of the event advertised in the Kentish Gazette the rules of Singlestick had, though, become even more clearly defined with the players now placed closer together, their feet remaining immovable, and all strokes being delivered with a whip like action of the wrist. As far as can be ascertained no protective 'armour' was used at this time. Blows were, once again, restricted to any part of the body above the waist although each bout was decided only by the delivery of a blow to the head that drew blood. The prize for the eventual winner of that 1785 competition held in Combe Hole, was a Gentleman's fine bleached shirt. The whiteness of a man's shirt, at the time, being, outwardly, even more socially important than his own personal hygiene. Whilst a plain woven unbleached or dull-finish linen was used to make a labourer's, 'Holland', shirt, of rough Osnaburg, a term widely used for general utility and housework materials, with Grades containing from 10 to 15 picks per inch.

The sport of Singlestick is still practised by some fencing veterans and also has a degree of popularity within the, British, Royal Navy. A version was even included in the 1904 St Louis Olympics although it most likely, by this time, bore closer resemblance to the less aggressive French sport of Canne de Combat, the 'canne' or stick being much lighter and made of chestnut wood and slightly tapered. Furthermore, participants now wear a padded suit and fencing mask for protection.

So, that's the Bull Baiting and the Singlestick taken care of, Blindfolded Wheelbarrow Racing anyone?

Bacon, Eggs and Making Beds

Patricia Knight - Past Secretary

Adeline Reidy - Past Chairperson

Forty years ago, when guest houses were at their prime in Dover, Adeline Reidy of Number One Guest House, identified the need for a local organisation to bring together like-minded businesses. With the enthusiasm of colleague Patricia Knight of East Lee Guest House, Patricia and myself came together to form the Guest House Group

Other small establishments soon joined, hence the birth of The Dover Guest House Group. Eventually, local hotels joined the organisation, and the title was then renamed The Dover Hotel and Guest House Group. With Dover Castle being a top tourist attraction, the guest houses and hotels thrived on visiting tourists from all over the world. Dover was the perfect steppingstone, providing close proximity to Canterbury, Folkestone, Deal and London now only just over one hour on the fast train.

The Group held monthly meetings, sometimes with representatives from the council and other governing bodies, keeping our industry informed and educated on localised matters. We became a voice to be heard when making representations to local government, tourism initiatives, and fundraising for local charities. Also working closely with the ferry companies, restaurants, and many tourist attractions, offering discounted rates.

Hotels already had their own star rating with the Tourist Board. In order that guest house establishments had some criteria to aim for, our own crown rating was introduced, giving assurance and credibility to the local industry. Visitors were able to identify their specific requirements from all

the advertising in tourism guides, and book directly or through the local tourist office.

As technology evolved, we moved forward with our own managed website, advertising local establishments, providing a booking platform incorporating comprehensive detailed information on all tourist attractions, where to eat, what to do, and numerous discounted vouchers.

Many other towns in the UK already had the brown tourism signs, Dover did not!! Once again, this sparked yet another flame. We worked closely with the local authorities, and after much determination and deliberation, our initiative brought about the implementation of the Tourism Brown Signs in and around the town, some of which are still in place today.

As the organisation grew, we proudly hosted a yearly Grand Ball at Dover Town Hall, always with a theme, black and white, spring, maypole, masked, Caribbean to name a few. Tickets were always sold out prior to release and became one of Dover's most popular social calendar highlights, with all profits going to local charities.

Over many years, the group continued to thrive with the valuable help and enthusiasm of the committee and members, of the Dover Hotel & Guest House Group.

With the introduction of various booking agencies now taking a prominent role in establishment reservations, the whole industry witnessed a monumental change, some for the good, some not. Corporate hotels and discounted chains have had a

great impact on the local industry with private owners unable to compete. The infrastructure of our roads and highways also enabled quicker journeys to Dover Port, with less people needing an overnight stay.

Sadly, to date, many guest houses have been sold, owners retired, others moved on in different directions. Unfortunately, we have witnessed the demise of many local establishments, some of which had been in business for over forty years. Guest houses, were and still are, a valuable British institution, not only providing extensive knowledge of the area, but also an invaluable personal service.

What was once a thriving local industry in Dover, sadly has now been reduced to just a handful. However, we wish the remaining establishments continued success for the future.

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Dover Plays Host to Distinguished Visitors with a Connection to the Town

Peter Sherred

When the barque 'Katherine Stewart Forbes' sailed from London in July 1837 en route to South Australia among the two hundred or so passengers on board was a man from Dover together with his wife and some nine children. His name was Richard Hamilton, formerly a tailor who lived and worked at 119 Snargate Street, and the eldest son of a man of the same name who was a Freeman of Dover. It took some three months to reach Holdfast Bay South Australia and Richard Hamilton's subsequent history and that of the generations who followed him was recorded in Dover Society Newsletter No 98 of July 2020 and No 99 of November 2020. Dover's legacy to South Australia was the founding and subsequent development of a prominent winery family owned and run.

On Friday 26th May 2023 the great, great, grandson of the 1837 emigrant, also named Richard Hamilton, paid a visit to Dover with his wife Jette (pronounced Yetta) to



Richard and Jette Hamilton in Dover Market Square

visit some of the places associated with his ancestor who had lived and worked in Dover. The current Richard Hamilton is not only an owner of Richard Hamilton Wines and Leconfield wines but is also a plastic surgeon in Adelaide. My wife, Mary, and I had the privilege of meeting up with Richard and his wife to spend the day with this delightful couple taking them to various sites in Dover associated, in one form or the other, with the Hamilton family. The obvious place to start was Snargate Street where Richard and Jette were able to see the present site of 119 Snargate Street and the current building of which 119 forms part. (As with other areas of Dover previous buildings had been destroyed and the sites redeveloped. Enemy bombing and shelling resulted in Dover being referred to as "Hellfire Corner" in WWII.) Through the courtesy of Philip Smye-Rumsby our visitors were given a guided tour of the business premises occupied by the Smye-Rumsby business which is in a former Roman Catholic church which went by the name of Our Lady and St Martin. Richard Hamilton and his wife were then taken to a unique structure his ancestor would have known well and may even have used - The Grand Shaft - specially opened for them by Phil Eyden. The visitors were able to stand at the bottom of this triple staircase and look up to the top of the structure.

Following Snargate Street the party moved on to the ruin of Old St James's church adjacent to The White Horse and inspected this tidy ruin before making its way to the Market Square and a visit to the Dover Museum. Of interest here to our visitors was the Bronze Age boat gallery and the

images and detail of Dover in and during World War Two. A visit to the church of St Mary the Virgin in Cannon Street was on the list of requested sites and this was easily achieved en route back to Castle Street. The church had a long association with the local Town (Borough) Council in times past. The Church is a very important site in the Hamilton history as it is believed that Richard and Anne Hamilton were married, and their children baptised there in the C19th. The visit included a meeting with the current Interim Town Rector of Dover based at St Mary's church the Reverend Catherine Tucker. Prior to a break for lunch and refreshments the Hamiltons enjoyed meeting Mike McFarnell, Honorary Freeman of the Town, who interviewed them on The Curve at the seafront for the next Dover Film. This was slightly hampered by somewhat windy conditions but, with luck, an element of their visit will be included in the 2023 version of the film which will be seen in 2024.

Lunch was taken, courtesy of Jim Gleeson, at Cullins Yard where the visitors were quite interested in the restaurant with its numerous collected items on display whether on the walls or hanging from the roof. They also had the pleasure of talking with Jim who has relations in Australia.

Those familiar with the history of the development of the vineyards and the wineries in the story of the emigrant Richard Hamilton will be aware that one area utilised for these purposes was called Ewell and his great, great, grandson expressed a wish to visit Temple Ewell and, possibly, to see the source of the River Dour. The name Ewell was very important to the family because a vineyard and winery was named after it although it was not certain why that occurred. As Richard Hamilton in the C19 was in business and

lived in Dover the inference was that the name Ewell of the winery derived from Temple Ewell the village outside Dover on the road to Canterbury. This recent request necessitated a visit to the village and a walk up the main street to the church of St Peter and St Paul followed by a journey further along the Canterbury Road to Watersend and meeting up with residents to be shown a large pond deemed the source of the Dour (although another train of thought suggests the source is along the Alkham Valley). Thanks are expressed to the licensee of The Fox pub in Temple Ewell for permission to use the pub carpark as a place to park during these visits. Thanks, therefore, to Steve Grayson and his wife Alyson.

Sadly, because of the fact it is currently a massive refurbishment site/exercise, the Hamiltons were unable to visit the Maison Dieu, surrounded as it is by scaffolding, but they did view it from Priory Road as they did with St Edmund's Chapel. A compensation for this disappointment was a visit to the church of St Mary in Castro where the visitors signed the visitors' book. How could they have visited Dover without a visit to its internationally renowned castle? This was the completion of a very busy day with a packed agenda and as they were due to be driven back to London in the early evening their visit to areas of Dover concluded at the Dover Marina Hotel where they had stayed the previous evening.

This was clearly an emotional or sentimental visit to sites associated, in some way or the other, to the Hamilton name in Australia and the product of its wineries. Dover's legacy to South Australia was its burgeoning wine industry initiated by Richard Hamilton in C19. It is good to know the current Hamiltons are members of The Dover Society. Long may the connection continue!

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Death of Memorable Head Teacher Philip Headon PHF

Peter Sherred

Society members will be saddened to learn of the death of Phil Headon on Tuesday 18th April at the age of 93. Phil was the former Head Teacher at Whitfield Primary School and Aspen Unit who made a lasting impression on his primary school pupils. He was a much-loved member of the Rotary Club of Dover where he had been Secretary and was the President of the Club in 1979-80, the 75th anniversary year of Rotary International. For his outstanding work for the club and the local community he was made a Paul Harris Fellow and latterly given the highest honour the club could give of Honorary Membership.

A full biography of Phil was included in Society Newsletter no. 96 (November 2019) page 31. He and his wife, Margaret were married for just short of sixty years and enjoyed twenty years of retirement together before she predeceased him in 2009. Margaret had also been a primary school teacher teaching at St Mary's Primary School and then River Primary School.

Phil will be greatly missed by the many societies and local organisations with which he was associated, among others these

included Dover Choral Society, the L'Arche Community, Dover Rugby Club, Probus, Cancer Research Committee and, of course, the Rotary Club of Dover. He was a keen enthusiast of both rugby and cricket, particularly Welsh rugby as he was born in Brynmenyn, Bridgend. Parkinson's disease had a serious impact on physical aspects of Phil's life in recent years necessitating carers looking after him in his own home in River.

His funeral service was held in Barham Crematorium Chapel on Wednesday 10th May at 4pm and was very well attended by family, friends, and former colleagues. It was a moving service that celebrated a long and productive life. The Welsh connection was significant with both entrance and recessional recorded music being provided with two elements performed by the Treorchy male voice choir singing 'Myfanwy' and 'Sospan Fach' respectively while the congregation gave voice to the hymn Cwm Rhondda, 'Guide me, O Thou great redeemer.' Our sympathies extend to his two sons, David and his family and Nick who was a member of The Clash who enjoyed considerable success with that group.



Margaret and Phil Headon

ben elsey
piano tuner

phone: 07579 008 217
ben.pianotuner@gmail.com

Around Dover Museum

Veronica Ward

The painting, 'Elizabeth with the Cardinal and Theological Virtues' in the History Gallery was purchased by the Corporation of Dover in 1598 for 25 shillings! The name of the artist is unknown, and s/he was probably a local painter; very few artists had the opportunity to paint Queen Elizabeth I from life and most worked from approved 'face patterns' derived from official portraits.

Elizabeth I (r.1557–1603) was 40 years old at the time and was a woman in her prime. It is one of very few known portraits purchased for a civic setting and was previously displayed in the Maison Dieu as evidence of the town's loyalty and devotion to the Crown. With her naturally red hair Elizabeth could be easily regarded as the original Ginger Spice from the band the Spice Girls!

In those times few of her subjects would have ever seen her in person; her image would have been seen on coins, seals, medals, prints and panel paintings. The painting portrays the Queen as a great leader and features a number of female figures designed to associate the Queen with the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, and the cardinal virtues of justice, prudence, temperance, and fortitude.

The Queen is portrayed as the head of state in her parliament robes of crimson-velvet lined with ermine. The function of royal portraits was not only to capture the likeness of a person but to also serve as an emblem of monarchy. The aim of this painting was to glorify Elizabeth's authority and the stability of her reign.

As she aged, Elizabeth's image became more tightly controlled, with an official

proclamation of 1596 ordering any 'unseemly' portraits to be destroyed. While the so-called 'mask of youth' was flattering to Elizabeth, it also served a broader purpose, as Elizabeth became an icon of stability and national independence. It's possible the Queen wanted her image to remain youthful.

In the words of Ginger Spice. "Say you could handle my love, Are you for real? I won't be hasty, I'll give you a try. If you really bug me, then I'll say goodbye. So tell me what you want, What you really, really want, I wanna (Hey!), I wanna (Hey!) I wanna really, really, really wanna "zig-a-zig," ah!" ... just like Elizabeth who had numerous suitors, but she said goodbye to them all. Elizabeth I, with her strength as a leader, her style and swagger, she was the epitomé of today's Girl Power.

Come and view her portrait here at the museum. We open: Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 5.00pm. Open Sundays in the summer 10.00am to 3.00pm. Admission is FREE. Tel: 01304 201066.

www.dover.gov.uk/museum



Elizabeth I

Cowgate - Life Among the Dead

Deborah Gasking

Did you know, UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world? Fortunately, cemeteries can provide a peaceful place for nature to thrive – sanctuaries for wildlife – as well as offering pleasant places for us to enjoy. There's a wealth of research which shows that time spent in nature can have a positive impact on our health and wellbeing.

The importance of cemeteries as urban green spaces is often overlooked. Furthermore, old cemeteries, such as Cowgate, can act as a sanctuary in urbanised areas, as they are not as intensely managed as other urban green spaces, and attract birds, wildflowers and small mammals. Relatively untouched by surrounding urban development, they often act as green oases, providing a range of important natural habitats for a variety of plant life and animals.

In an old cemetery, the graves, stone walls, shrubs and hedges provide plenty of nooks for wildlife to hide; old trees offer places for birds and bats to nest; and undisturbed areas allow plants to grow.

With their array of rock surfaces and different aspects, gravestones provide a diversity of places for mosses and lichens to grow. Gravestones not only offer a stable surface, but they also provide a date, helping researchers to judge the age of the lichen. The British Lichen Society say that lichen growing on graves can be as old as the grave itself.

Mosses and lichens play an important role in ecosystems. By soaking up water and acting like an insulation layer, mosses keep the ground around them damp and

the ground or rock underneath them cool, which can be helpful for plants. Mosses and lichens also provide nesting material for birds and create microhabitats crucial for a variety of organisms. They create sheltered places for insects to live in, lay their eggs and find food.

Cemeteries were conceived and designed both as gardens of the dead and as memorials. The inscription on memorials, the design of monuments, the choice of stones, the architecture of building and landscape design shed light on past social customs and events and combine to make a cemetery an irreplaceable historical resource. As an important record of the social history of the area, each cemetery is also the biography of its community. Church cemeteries in the mid-19th century became overcrowded with burials, so locations for alternative burial grounds were sought. The cemetery developers were invariably local authorities who commissioned leading architects and designers to lay out the landscapes and build chapels, lodges, gates and walls. With Cowgate, when the nearby St Mary's churchyard was closed for burials in 1873, the Mowl family donated about three acres on the foothills of the Western Heights for the creation of a new cemetery. Its layout is attributed to Stephen Geary (1797-1854), an architect who designed London's famous Highgate Cemetery.

There is a strong link between the design of cemeteries and Victorian public parks, hence the garden character of these last resting places for the dead. The tradition continued with the design of the crematoria landscapes into the 20th century.

Environment Committee Janet Dagsys, Chair

The Environment Committee continues to meet at the Dover smART premises next to the Yacht Club on the second Monday of January, March, May, July, September & November. Members also communicate and share information through a WhatsApp Group. We continue to focus on the appearance of the town, cleanliness, litter, rights of way and tourism, taking action when and where we can be effective and can make a positive difference. The Dover Society includes many rural areas around the town, and we would welcome new members from these areas to have their voice heard on these topics.

Ongoing areas of interest have been the Market Square development, the Dover Beacon Project in Bench Street, the campaign to save the Discovery Centre Theatre, the Painted House, the state of buildings in the town centre and along the seafront, litter and conservation of listed buildings and trees.

When we have seen a litter problem or a building in a serious state of disrepair, we usually contact Dover District Council and/or post a photograph to the DDC website.



Prince Regent Pub 1926

A member of the Environment Committee saw excessive litter and an old fridge dumped in the alley between a building and St. Edmund's Chapel. After quite a bit of follow-up with Dover District Council, the

eyesore was cleared. Another member has been following-up with Crown Estates which is responsible for five badly rusted light poles on the seafront close to the Eastern Docks and awaits dates for this issue to be resolved. A photo of the very poorly maintained building above the Post Office in Biggin Street has been posted by a member of the team to the DDC website and a Section 215 maintenance notice is now in place.

We encourage Dover Society members to post photos of excessive litter they see to the DDC website at <https://forms.dover.gov.uk/xfp/form/1184> also, buildings in a poor state of maintenance in the town centre at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Report/Report.aspx>

Work continues on a project to post photos of listed buildings in our area to the British Listed Buildings website at <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/> where a photo for a building is missing. Photos of all listed buildings in Dover have been posted to the website with the exception of the Prince Regent Pub in Market Square, demolished in the 1990s and the Medieval Undercroft at 10 Bench Street. All photos of listed buildings in St Margaret's have been posted to the same website, with the exception of four which are on private land.

We continue to liaise with our colleague and Dover Town Council 'Walkers are Welcome' promoter Pam Brivio on walks in the town, Jayne Miles (Town Centres Manager, Dover District Council), Chris Townend (Growth & Development, Dover District Council) local Kent Police and other local town, district and Kent County Council councillors.

Bin It To Win It!

Alan Lee

Not widely reported is an initiative by Dover District Council (DDC) to help clear our streets of litter. To this aim, for an initial 12 month period, DDC have partnered with litter pioneers, LitterLotto, to help reduce street litter.

The LitterLotto is a free mobile phone app which provides the opportunity for users to win on-the-spot prizes and weekly jackpots for 'doing the right thing and putting their litter in the bin'. It is downloadable from both the App Store on ISO and Google Play store on Android phones. Once you have downloaded the app, you simply take a photograph using the app as you place your litter in the bin. All litter counts, from a single cigarette stub to an abandoned bottle or takeaway box.

Each time you bin a piece of litter, you get another entry into the LitterLotto national £1,000 weekly jackpot, instant spot prizes and their brand new "LitterLotto Coins", which may be redeemed for a variety of prizes and extra jackpot entries. You can submit as many entries as you like, just 'Bin It To Win It!'

David Landsberg, founder and CEO of LitterLotto, said: "We are delighted to partner with Dover District Council, we are proud to support them in their mission to ensure that Dover remains a wonderful place to live, work and visit."

DDC is also offering a local jackpot of £100 each month for users of the app who bin litter in our district.

Plus, in support of the Great British Spring Clean Campaign, DDC offered two

additional weekly local jackpots of £100, with the first winner drawn on 20th March. Anyone participating in the Great British Spring Clean was also able to use the LitterLotto App.

All you need to do is pick, bin and snap via the free LitterLotto App for a chance to win.

Cllr Martin Bates, Cabinet member for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, said: "We are delighted to be working with LitterLotto to encourage our residents to dispose of litter responsibly. We hope that people will give this app a try, see how easy it is to enter and win, and help us to spread the word. Every little helps as far as litter is concerned and this scheme directly rewards those who do the right thing and put litter in the bin."

Extra information

Helpful videos and all you need to know are on the app. The app is not intended for use by children under the age of 13. Other users under the age of 16 must have obtained the consent of a parent or legal guardian to use the app. Terms and conditions can be viewed at litterlotto.com

The 'perfect' LitterLotto submission:

- 1) A picture of either a hand or a litter picker holding the item
- 2) The item should be positioned just above the lip/entry point of a bin (or bin bag in the case of a bulk litter pick).
- 3) The image should clearly show the item.

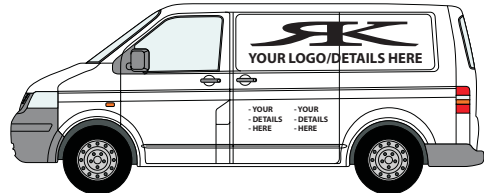


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Memories of Dover

A Nostalgic Personal Perambulation.

Part Seven - Recollections Off the Main Street – Castle Street

Peter Sherred

A street deserving of attention in my perambulations is Castle Street. Some people live on or work (or have worked) in Castle Street and, therefore, may have good recollection of the post-war nature of the Street. What follows is only what I can recall from a personal perspective, so any errors or omissions are entirely down to me. Where exactly does Castle Street start in conjunction with Castle Hill Road? Ashen Tree Lane is the answer and there were (and are) three impressive buildings between there and Eastbrook Place but, for the purposes of this article, Castle Street runs between Eastbrook Place and King Street (Market Square)!

Growing up in the 1950s I recall Castle Street as being a genteel place 'inhabited' only by important business and professional people – where for example accountants and solicitors were to be found. Castle Street was two-way for road traffic for many years after the war and, guessing now, I think the street's one-way system came into being in the late 70s or 80s. Castle Street has its own Society, one of the prime movers and shakers of which has been Dover Society member Adeline Reidy appointed in recent years as an Honorary Freeman of the Town and who is a member of Inner Wheel. Addy and I go back decades in service to our town having both been very active in the Chamber of Commerce and other arenas back in the 80s and 90s (so last century). I know if I record anything wrongly Addy will probably put me right!

Walking down the right-hand side of Castle

Street from the traffic lights at the junction with Eastbrook Place on the corner is a shop frontage that decades ago was the office of Ronald E Handley a surveyor and estate agent. Adjoining were the offices of Lewis and Pain (Reginald and Roger Pain if my memory serves me well) a firm of solicitors and Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public where Society member, John Morgan PHF, first started work in 1963. A little further down one came across Bradley, Chitty and Scorer solicitors where the likes of John Powell, Robert Riddle and Barney Lock practised. Robert Riddle is in retirement while John Powell and Barney Lock are both deceased. Also, on this side of the road was another solicitors' firm called Aldington and Davies which came to a sticky end when both solicitors were struck off by the Law Society. Oh dear! Later another firm called Hatfields appeared on the scene. Prominent on this side of Castle Street was James B Terson estate agency and names like George Norman, Jeremy Barford, Chris Burnham, Rodney Galliers and Simon Crowley (among others) spring to mind. The firm still operates alongside the imposing former residence of one of the founders.

Among the many buildings and various uses on this side of the street, both before and after the Terson buildings, there was a chiropodist and masseur called Cyril Eades. I remember Cyril very well. I think I am right in saying he was the masseur and physio for Dover Athletic Football Club. My memory is now running riot, remembering the Dover and Folkestone

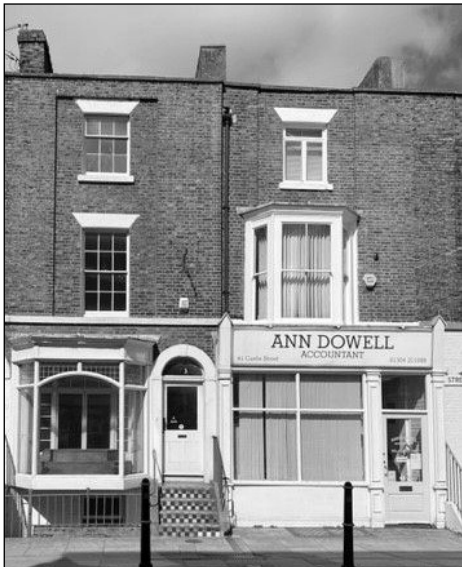
Building Society offices which started life above Tersons before moving into its own premises further down the street, a vet (named John Douch?), Adams printers, and Wrights electrical contractors whose shop front showed no concession to modernity, but Edward knew his electrics! Beside Wright's property, I am advised, by a former school colleague Elizabeth Disdale, was a shop (currently Ann Dowell accountant) run by her father in the 1950s called Castle Candies and the family lived above.

The sweet shop was immediately opposite Russell Street. Elizabeth (né Chambers) gave her name to the coffee bar that was once located in the Market Square, and from which emanated on a regular basis the aroma of roasted coffee beans.

Rolf Hair fashion salon now springs to mind in Castle Street as does a tea shop bordering the Dour but I am sure I have forgotten others. Between the River Dour

and Stembrook the Martin Walter Motor showroom existed. Between Stembrook and Church Street was a vacant space previously occupied by large buildings which had the unenviable record I believe of being demolished by the last shell of World War Two to fall in Dover – here in Castle Street. Igglesden and Graves formed the corner property with Market Square and Church Street and now called The Market Square Kitchen.

Wandering down the left-hand side of Castle Street from Eastbrook Place/Woolcomber Street I recall a garage or car showroom on the corner - it may have been Southern Autos – where I am reliably told, by my friend Reg Hoare, Monte Carlo Rally cars used to congregate before attending the Rally (the site was developed for the current flats found at this location and prior to that a Lidl store). Walking on, Knocker, Elwin and Lambert (Solicitors) had offices here where I believe Peter Pigott practised before he went elsewhere and ended his professional career in his own firm in Victoria Crescent. Stilwell and Harby, solicitors, also had an office nearby and Dudley Marsh Son and Partners, architects, had an office then came Mowll & Mowll, more solicitors! Their offices went round the corner into Russell Street. On the opposite corner of Russell Street was a printer and stationers shop W E Giraud but probably better known latterly as Denis Weaver. Between there and Dolphin Passage there were several shops or buildings some four or five having rather nice classic multi-paned glass bay windows on the ground floor. I recall The Old Curiosity Shop, an antiques dealership run by the Gibbs family. I cannot recall what was located where my favourite fish and chip shop is currently, but is my memory playing tricks with me if I suggest a chemist existed where Blakes restaurant now operates? Things then became very



Castle Street

commercial as opposed to professional because where the large Bridal Boutique wedding dress shop is now was once something to do with the motor trade. Henleys' name springs to mind – possibly an accessories shop? I think Leney's Brewery had an outlet here too before one reached the large corner building, which was Hawkesfield, later Corralls, coal merchants. The Old Brewery Building currently fronts onto Dolphin Passage.

Crossing Dolphin Passage there was, I think, another garage and then the Granada (or ABC) Cinema. In the 1960s all the top bands played here such as Dave Berry, Herman's Hermits, Del Shannon, The Shadows and Cliff Richard, among others. Flashman's furniture shop and salesroom brought the Street into the Market Square where there was something of a 'pinch point' as Castle Street narrowed significantly.

If you have stayed with me thus far you may know many changes have affected names I have mentioned. The solicitors' firms Lewis and Pain, Bradley Chitty and Scorer and Knocker Elwin and Lambert merged in 1968 to become Knocker Bradley and Pain solicitors (and then,

subsequently, Bradleys) which operated in the offices of Bradley, Chitty & Scorer. The firm is now located in Maison Dieu Road adjoining Dieu Stone Lane. Mowll & Mowll left the Street and re-located in Whitfield nearby to the pub The Rock Rose while Stilwell & Harby relocated to Maison Dieu Road adjoining the St Mary's School playing fields (site of the former 'new' St James's Church). On the right-hand side of Castle Street, the former Martin Walter site on the Castle side of Stembrook was most recently a carpet shop and the Co-Innovation building recently vacated before demolition. The vacant site caused by the last shell was developed to provide Martin Walter with new premises for their Austin cars at ground level and flats above. The ground floor is currently a local authority unit called The Gateway.

On the left-hand side Hawkesfield Coal Merchant premises are now an estate agency, Thomas & Partners and the Leney's Brewery is no more – now forming part of the St James' development. Between Dolphin Passage and Market Square all the buildings, including the cinema and Flashmans, were demolished and the 'pinch point' removed.

The cinema site remains vacant but beyond that a new shop with flats above (Craigton House) was built and the road widened with the pavement straightened at the junction with Market Square. The shop was 'Pricerite' and currently is a beds and sofas shop plus a British Heart Foundation outlet.

Castle Street, a Conservation Area, continues to be an interesting classic Street in many ways, constantly evolving as businesses move elsewhere or move in and redevelopment has taken place. We can be sure the Castle Street Society monitors changes constantly!



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Oliver's Mount

A Significant Feature Within the Landscape

Barry O'Brien – Dover Tales

Once more I am indebted to an online History forum, this time to Paul Wells' excellent Dover History site where a cutting recently appeared referencing "a circular earthwork some 60 metres in diameter adjoining the east side of the road to Guston village, some 580 metres north of the castle keep. This feature in the landscape is marked as 'Oliver's Mount' and plotting it on a modern map, places it immediately to the south of Fort Burgoyne in an area long occupied by Connaught Barracks."



Oliver's Mount Location

As the article continues, the earthwork was "a significant feature within the landscape" until at least the mid-18th Century, although its exact date and purpose are lost to history. There is, though, the somewhat obvious suggestion that the name Oliver's Mount is suggestive of a Civil War earthwork.

There again, as is suggested elsewhere: "Over time, as is common throughout England, anything Civil War is linked to Oliver Cromwell who almost certainly never went there!"

Dover was, in fact, taken by the Parliamentarians in the early days of the Civil War in an act that could almost be portrayed as bordering on the comical. Dover Castle was in a somewhat neglected state in 1642, held for the King by a group of approximately twenty-five soldiers, when a band of eight daring men, led by Richard Dawkes, a Dover Freeman, met at the Flying Horse Inn, King Street, a little before midnight on August 20th and resolved to seize the castle for parliament. Having formulated their plan, they agreed to depart the Flying Horse separately and convene an hour or so later at the Northfall Meadow, near the castle cliff. Climbing the slope near the Ashford Towers, they were able, owing to the decayed state of the walls, to scale the old wall south of the Roman oval and surprise the guard who, assuming that their assailants were numerous, surrendered without resistance.

The Kentish Royalists set out to re-capture "The Key of the Kingdom" the following month, September 1642, but this was successfully resisted by the, by now presumably reinforced, Parliamentary garrison. No further attempt was made to win back the castle until 1648, when the Royalists, led by Sir Richard Hardres, undertook to re-capture all the Kent coast fortresses previously seized by the Parliamentary forces. Having seized the castles of Sandown, Deal and Walmer, they removed the captured ammunition and guns to Dover, where they assembled 2,000 foot soldiers alongside the Kentish Yeomanry before opening fire from batteries on the high ground north of the spur. Might this have been Oliver's Mount? With the northern walls of the castle



Colonel Nathaniel Rich

successfully breached, a storming party was readied but were duly thwarted by a Parliamentary force under Colonel Nathaniel Rich, who arrived from Maidstone and “dispersed the besiegers.”

Dover Castle thereafter remained in the possession of Parliament until the Constable, the Earl of Winchelsea, handed it over to Charles II at the time of the Restoration.

Perhaps the most likely interpretation of Oliver’s Mount, the article suggests, is that it relates to the field works thrown up by the French during the siege of 1216 and could perhaps represent a temporary earth castle in the form of a motte or ringwork. Taking place in the latter months of the reign of King John, the 1216 siege occurred when the English Barons invited Louis, Dauphin of France, to take the English crown. Louis landed a great army at Stonar, near Sandwich, and advanced on London, leaving Dover Castle, which was



*Arrival of Louis of France in England
Chronica Majora, Matthew Paris, 1236-1259*

held for King John by Hubert de Burgh, untouched.

When the Dauphin’s Father, Louis VIII, heard that his son had advanced on London without first taking Dover Castle he sent a message that Prince Louis could not consider he had gained a foot in England until he had captured Dover Castle and so the prince returned to Dover. Having used battering rams to effect breaches in the Castle walls, on June 24th, 1216, the French attempted, unsuccessfully, to take the fortress by storm. Louis then spent the month of August, 1216, attempting to starve out the castle garrison while French miners dug a deep trench from the foot of the hill, throwing up a high mound of earth to the south in consequence, hoping to shield themselves from the anticipated bombardment from the castle walls. While the miners were engaged with the trench, Sir John de Pencester, along with a strong body of cavalry, bringing provisions, made a dash across the Northfall Meadow and successfully entered the castle, offering new heart for the garrison. Louis’ siege was, however, still in place when, on October 19th, King John died of a fever at Newark Castle, having lost some of the Crown Jewels during his flight from Lincoln. Louis duly sent a flag of truce with the news of the King’s death, calling for a surrender, with the threat that if

Hubert de Burgh continued the struggle he would be hung in front of the castle walls. To this Hubert replied: "Let not Louis hope that I will surrender as long as I draw breath. Never will I yield to French aliens this castle, which is the very key and gate of England!" The French abandoned the siege soon after. So, temporary French field works, Civil War earthwork or perhaps something that dates back far earlier than the mid-18th Century? As Oliver's Mount no longer exists we may well never know.

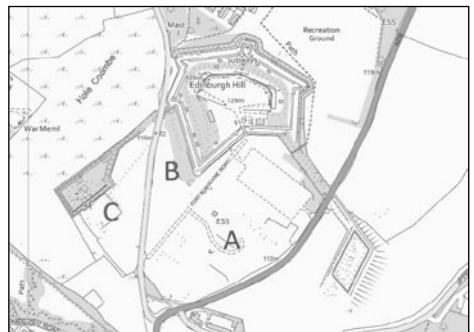
There is a similarly named area of high ground overlooking Scarborough in North Yorkshire, which as well as offering views across the town, is also the location of a tribute monument to Scarborough's War dead, a site for camping and caravanning at selected times of the year, 10 football pitches and a rugby league pitch. Although this particular Oliver's Mount is primarily known for its motorcycle races, its 2.4 mile (3.9km) circuit also hosts car rally and car hill-climb events. Formerly known as Weaponness, its present name may be derived from the mistaken belief that Oliver Cromwell placed batteries on it during the siege of the castle.

Closer to home, another Oliver's Mount could once be found in Hanover Square Mayfair, London, pretty much equidistant between Grosvenor and Berkley Squares, the tavern or beer house so named being recorded as early as 1808 until at least 1882.

Finally, to the suggestion that over time, as is common throughout England, anything Civil War is linked to Oliver Cromwell the website devizesheritage.co.uk references Oliver's Castle, an iron age hill fort thought to date from around 600BC. This particular earthwork should more properly be known as Bromham Hill Fort, the name Oliver

having become associated with it as a result of the Battle of Roundway, when a 2,500 strong cavalry, under the command of parliamentarian Sir William Waller, camped nearby. The Battle of Roundway Down took place on July 13th 1643 and, although thought to have lasted no more than two to three hours, Parliamentarian losses were high with between 3 to 4,000 killed, 800 captured and many wounded. Additionally all eight pieces of artillery were captured along with 28 colours. Royalist losses were considerably less with between no more than 100 to 150 killed and wounded.

This decisive Royalist victory opened-up the west to the King and allowed the subsequent storming of Bristol and the siege of Gloucester. So, given evidence of an Iron Age fort being renamed, seemingly to mark a Royalist victory, might this unlock the key to Dover's Oliver's Mount? Probably not, as the Parliamentarians held Dover throughout the Civil War, the stronghold only being relinquished when, in the early afternoon of May 25th 1660, Charles II landed on Dover beach at the invitation of the Convention Parliament, thereby marking the end of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland and the beginning of the Restoration of the British monarchy.



Possible location of Oliver's Mount at 'C'. Paul Wells



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PROGRAMME 2023/24

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.

2023

Tuesday **Dover Society Thames Trip**
September 5 Boat trip on the Thames from Runnymede with views of Windsor and a
£69 pp Ploughman's Lunch. Return to the splendid Royal Savile Garden to explore and
 with a Cream Tea

Coach pick-up points; The old Railway Bell pub, London Road, Temple Ewell, Buckland Bridge by Hollis Motors, the Girl's Grammar School in Frith Road, the Car Park behind the NHS building in Maison Dieu Road.

When booking could you kindly let me know where you would prefer to be picked up on the morning. I will notify pick-up times in due course. Please let me know as soon as possible if you want to come along. Rodney Stone, Bahia, 10 Lighthouse Road, St. Margaret's Bay, CT15 6EJ Telephone: 01303 852838 Email: randdstone29@gmail.com.

Silver Phoenix Travel Club: Trips can be found on their website www.silverphoenixtc.com. Including shows at London theatres and the Royal Windsor Horse Show on 11th May. If interested in any of these contact Iain direct on mobile 07842 124094.

October 16 **General Open Meeting**
Monday 7.30 **Speaker: Ben Harding** "Dover's Sky at Night"

November 20 **General Open Meeting**
Monday 7.30 **Speaker: Graham Tutthill** "Scoop!"

December 3 **Dover Society Festive Lunch The Marina Hotel, Dover Waterfront**
12.30 for 1pm Menu details along with the booking form can be found in the centre pages of
£30.95 pp this newsletter.

2024

January 15 **General Open Meeting**
Monday 7.30 **Speaker: Andy Milton** "Dover Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)"

February **Dover Society Quiz**
 Details and booking form will be in the next newsletter.

March 18 **General Open Meeting**
Monday 7.30 **Speaker: David De Min** "Developing the Citadel"

April 17 **Dover Society Annual General Meeting**
Monday 7.30 **Speaker: Josianne Murrel** "Alkham Valley Community Project"

*All indoor meetings are held at St. Mary's Parish Centre
Non-members are welcome on all society outings.*



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