

These are an upper layer of gravel, then chalk rubble, fining sands and a lower layer of gravel. Differences in the shaping of the two layers of gravel indicate that the lower layer was part of a stable beach, possibly the old beach, whilst the upper layer may well be part of a storm beach, deposited almost at one go and, apparently, there was such a storm in the Twelfth Century. The fining sands indicate the presence of an estuary after the sea had moved from the area.

Roman Dover may well have existed on a ridge coming down from the Western Heights to where the Heritage Centre is now and proceeding along Pencester Gardens. On the other side of the valley was the Russell Street area. Large gravel movements have taken place over the last 10,000 years contributing to variations in the drop to the sea level — variations of perhaps a metre since Roman times.

Drs Barham and Bates gave a fascinating description of their work and mentioned the interest of the non-archaeologists in their audience. They also dealt expertly with questions that were asked and finished with an appeal for help and information. Some members of the Dover Society may well be able to respond to

their appeal. If anyone involved in the building of hotels, shops, houses etc in Dover over the last 50 years has any records of the contents of the site concerned, especially records made by consultants, architects, builders, and so on, they would welcome the chance to see them. If you have any such records the Society will put you in touch with the archaeologists. Further they said, they had no opposition when asking if they could sink a borehole or investigate an already open trench. So if a knock comes to your door and a request comes to drill in your garden let your pride in Dover prevail and say "Go ahead, please do!"

K. W. BERRY

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## DOVER HARBOUR

Marjorie Wiggins would like to recommend the romantic and historical novel DOVER HARBOUR by THOMAS ARMSTRONG to other members.

The novel is set between 1792 and 1800 when the prospect of an invasion from France was greatly feared. The harbour, not for the first time, was in danger of being choked by the shingle brought up the Channel by south-westerly gales. Smuggling was a very common part-time occupation among the inhabitants.

Fiction is interwoven with fact in the story of the rivalry between two families. Detailed descriptions of the town and port in the late 18th century provide the setting for the lives of these and other characters.