

## Historic Plaques Update

Report by Sheila Cope and Terry Sutton

In April we installed two more plaques, the third and fourth of the series of ten plaques the Society is hoping to put up in the town to commemorate the Millennium. Dover Town Council and Dover District Council have both paid their agreed contributions towards the first four.

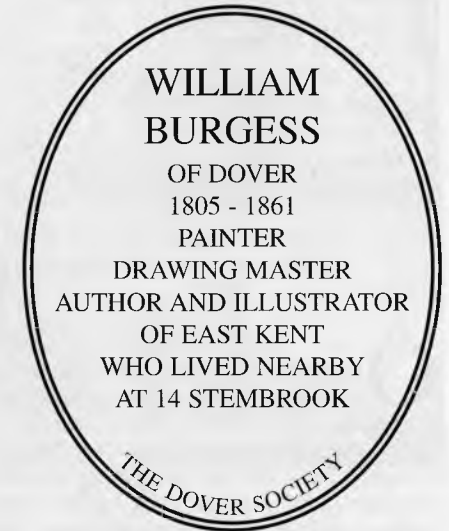
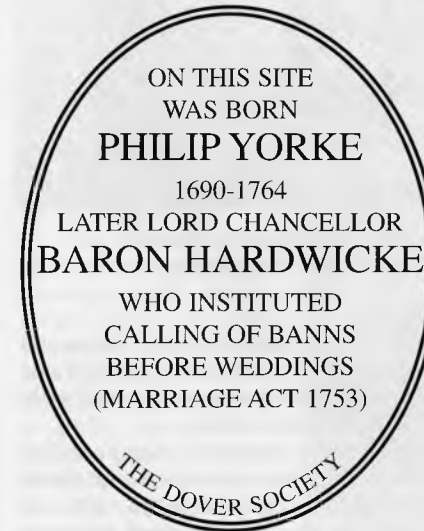
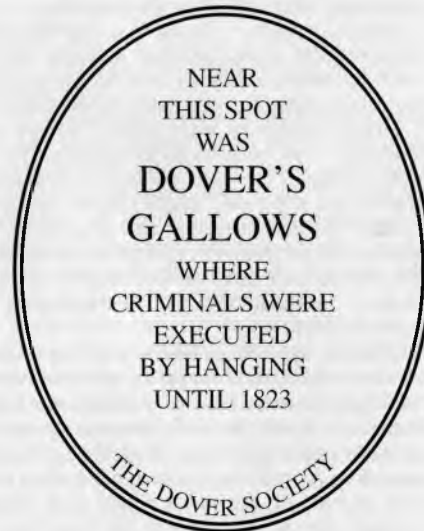
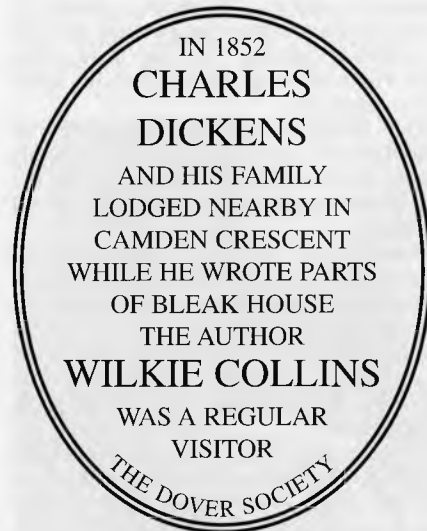
The days when convicted felons were punished in Dover's market square were recalled when a commemorative plaque marking the spot was unveiled by our President Brigadier Maurice Atherton on Monday April 17. In earlier times the civil authority erected a pillory, stocks, cage and whipping post in Dover's Market Square. A cut-purse would have his ear nailed to the pillory and given a knife so that he could cut off his own ear to free himself. It is recorded that during the reign of Queen Mary a woman innkeeper called Agnes Jarman was caught breaking the law in 1558 by roasting mutton on a religious feast day. She was placed in the stocks, with the mutton around her neck, and left.

The fourth plaque, unveiled the same day, marks the spot where Dover's 3,600 year old Bronze Age Boat was discovered by archaeologists at the corner of Bench Street and Townwall Street.

We are grateful to Christine Waterman who, in early April, initiated the application for the "Zeebrugge" plaque on the Museum and we await permission for its installation. Christine's assistance has been invaluable in providing a blueprint for other listed building applications, for the Dickens plaque at Camden Crescent and the Napoleon III plaque on the former Lord Warden Hotel.

Fortunately our deadline for Dover District Council support funding has been extended to December. We have received goodwill from the owners of the buildings on which we are hoping to install the remaining five plaques. Now that we have received manufacturer's drawings we are able to proceed with what we trust will be the final negotiations.

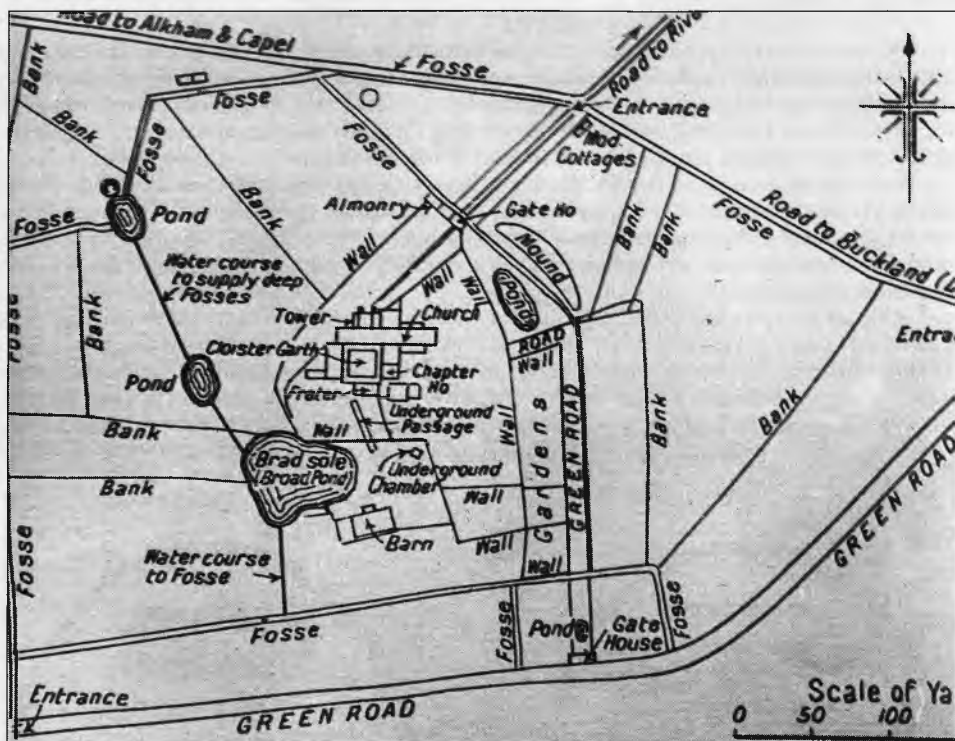
Editor's note: We have chosen as the cover of this issue a picture of the Bronze Age Boat with the plaque marking the site of its discovery. This should have been the first plaque to be placed but the installation was delayed and it was finally unveiled on 17th April 2000



### Four of the Plaques yet to be installed

# LOST VILLAGES NEAR DOVER.

Ivan Green. BA., FCCEd.



*A 19th century ground plan of the plain on which St Radigund's Abbey sits.  
The area round the Brad sole or Broad Pond was the site of Bradsole*

Over the centuries, living communities rise and fall. Some of them, where conditions are favourable, grow into towns and cities, some are swallowed up by larger communities, others remain as modest villages, and others still, sometimes having survived for generations, die away, often leaving but scant evidence of their former existence.

Dover has several local communities of these kinds. One, of which only a few

written records and a single memorial stone survive, is Poulton, sometimes written as Polton, in the valley half mile from St Radigund's Abbey.

The elevated plateau above the valley on which the abbey stands, some three miles from the centre of Dover, is much older as a settlement site than the 12th century abbey which stands upon it. With its open aspect and several ponds fed from springs, it must have been a desirable, if lonely, living site for



*The Poulton Stone, now almost illegible. Some years ago I managed to decipher this:*

HERE DID STAND THE PARISH CHURCH OF POULTON MENTIONED IN DOMESDAY BOOK VI UNDER THE TITLE OF CHENTH IN THE HUNDRED OF BEWESBOROUGH.

generations of our early forefathers.

The discovery of very early and Roman pottery and shards from time to time indicates Roman interest and probably occupation, - whether as a villa, or as a small Roman army camp is debatable. Its situation at the junction of three ancient track ways may indicate the latter. The track ways are still used today as country lanes, leading

to Alkham, River and Buckland respectively, all of them very old living places.

This place was named Bradsole the Saxon 'broad water' referring to the great pond which rarely ran dry. Bradsole however is not mentioned as a village in Domesday Book or any other early document, as far as I can discover, and it is not known whether it was ever separately occupied as a hamlet before the 12th century abbey was built, or whether the land was farmed from Poulton, a Saxon village in the valley half a mile to the southwest, where there was a Saxon village with its little church.

Poulton however is well documented. Its Domesday Book entry reads: 'Herfrid holds Poulton from Hugh. Wolfwin held it from King Edward. It answers for 1 sulung. Land for 2 ploughs. 3 villagers and a small church. Value before 1066, 40s; later 15s; now 30s' Herfrid, a Norman interloper, also held land at Throwley, Shalmsford Street and Boswell.

Until its dissolution in the 16th century Dover Priory seems to have



*A 1735 drawing of the remains of old St Mary In Castro church at the castle and the Roman Pharos. The church was rebuilt in the 1860s.*



*The remains of Holy Sepulchre, the church of the Knights Templar  
at the lost village of Braddon on the Western Heights*

held some rights in the parish, but Poulton church, dedicated to St Mary, was held by St Radigund's Abbey, which supplied the priest for its services. Since Poulton's decline seems to have occurred at about the same time as the abbey was dissolved it is probable that some at least of its labour force worked on the abbey lands, and moved away when there was no longer work for them there.

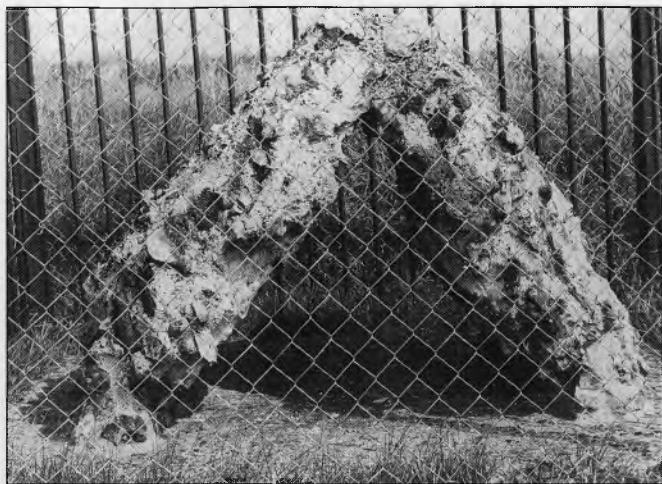
The parish of Poulton and its records survived however until early in the 20th century. Now all that remains is the farm and a memorial stone, placed there by a 17th century owner of the area, to mark the site of the altar of the tiny Saxon church of St Mary at Poulton.

Now we come to an enigma. There is a school of thought which suggests that the land surrounding the Roman Pharos on the Eastern Heights was in early times a separate village. Quantities of Roman masonry survived round the Pharos, some of which was reused to

build the Saxon church of St Mary in Castro, and these remains indicate that there were in Roman times a number of Roman buildings there.

The area must also have been substantially populated in Saxon times because the church was built there early in the 11th century, a large undertaking in those days. But why was it built there if the area did not form a separate community? St Mary in Castro is one of the finest Saxon churches surviving in the country and, after all, the town already had other religious establishments, including the great church of the canons at the west side of the Market Square. Or was the elevated site, remote from the town centre and its guildhall and other buildings, chosen as a fail-safe measure because of a continuing risk of seaborne piratical invasions by northern tribes?

We also know that the Saxon community there was evicted by William of Normandy when he



*The remains of the Roman Bredenstone  
which was also in the area of Braddon village*

works on the Heights, principally in the 18th and 19th century. We know that Braddon village included the Templars' house, other small buildings and store-houses, the church and the Bredenstone, the remains of the last two having been uncovered during further excavations in 1806.

The Templars originally had four settlements in Kent, at Strood Manor, at Deal, where all trace seems to have been lost, at Temple Ewell where

established his strong point in the old earthen and timber defences before he moved on to Canterbury and London. The status of this community which was reborn early in the 12th century, whether it was in any way separate or whether it always formed an integral part of Dover town, must remain for the time being a mystery until other evidence to prove or disprove it is discovered. But that will not be found in the usual textbooks.

The little village of Braddon surrounding the remains of the Knights Templars' church on the Western heights likewise has lost its habitations. The ground here has been greatly disturbed by major defence

they had a preceptory, and on Dover's Western Heights at Braddon, where they had their house and the little church dedicated to the Holy Sepulchre. This



*The 19th century garrison church at Braddon on the Western Heights. It was demolished to make room for flats to house officers of the Young Offenders' institution.*

26 church, of which the foundations survive and can be seen, was a remarkable building, the nave, 27 feet in diameter and circular in plan, was one of only ten such churches in England.

Like most early buildings in East Kent it was built largely of the flint found in layers in the chalk subsoil, but the walls were faced with blocks of Caen stone, very carefully worked and laid. Several courses of these facing blocks remain near ground level.

On the opposite side of the road, under the playing fields, foundations of their barns and some houses still survive. These were covered over in extensive military works in the nineteenth century. Many plans and details of these works used to survive in the records of the old Ministry of Public Buildings and Works at Fortress House in London, where I have seen them, but whether they still exist is not known.

It is thought that the Templars had a small quay on the side of the harbour somewhere just below the church and that their ships were provisioned from

the barns near the church. Their work ceased when they were suppressed throughout Christendom in 1312 and the foundations of their church is all that survives at Braddon, indeed of Braddon village itself.

One other lost village is Maxton, not lost through depopulation, but by becoming joined to Dover by ribbon development. Maxton manor house once occupied land near where the Diahatsu garage now stands, next door to the post office.

An interesting nineteenth century lord of the manor of Maxton was Major Munn, a man before his time, much concerned with the need to show humanity to all wild creatures, even honey bees. Previously bee hives were made from straw and, when the honey was harvested, the hives were destroyed and the swarm dispersed.

The Major invented a 'bar frame hive', which could be taken apart to extract the honey and then put together again without destroying the swarm. He went to see who produced and sold

improved bee hives in his manufactory in Snargate Street, as the illustration shows. Mr. Pettitt's hives were forerunners of modern examples which are now always made in sections so that each section can be removed to gain access and then replaced in its original position.

**HUMANITY TO HONEY BEES.**



**W. J. PETTITT,**  
**SOLE INVENTOR AND**  
**MANUFACTURER OF**  
**BEE HIVES.**

Catalogues Gratis on  
application, or Post Free  
on receipt of Stamps.

These Hives afford  
every facility for the  
EXCHANGE OF QUEENS,  
the bar frames being  
movable. The LIG-  
URIAN QUEENS are easily  
introduced, and to all  
who are interested in  
the collection of HONEY  
and WAX, PETTITT'S BEE  
HIVES are invaluable.

**MAJOR MUNN'S BAR FRAME HIVE.**  
**MANUFACTORY—151, SNARGATE STREET, DOVER.**

*Mr Pettitt's 19th century  
advertisement for his  
Dover beehives, made to  
conform with Major  
Munn's ideas. Major  
Munn was once lord of  
the manor of Maxton,  
where was his  
manor house.*