20

THE SOCIETY'S MILLENNIUM PROJECTS 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.

IN 1852
CHARLES
DICKENS
AND HIS FAMILY
LODGED NEARBY IN
CAMDEN CRESCENT
WHILE HE WROTE PARTS
OF BLEAK HOUSE
THE AUTHOR
WILKIE COLLINS
WAS A REGULAR
VISITOR

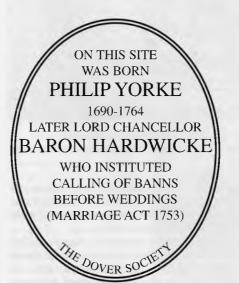
NEAR
THIS SPOT
WAS
DOVER'S
GALLOWS
WHERE
CRIMINALS WERE
EXECUTED
BY HANGING
UNTIL 1823

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 Ill 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



WILLIAM
BURGESS

OF DOVER
1805 - 1861
PAINTER
DRAWING MASTER
AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR
OF EAST KENT
WHO LIVED NEARBY
AT 14 STEMBROOK

Four of the Plaques yet to be installed