

Dover Bowls Club

By Jeremy Cope

A commonplace of living in a town like Dover is the fact that always there are anniversaries of one sort or another. I am sure local historians could find something to commemorate on most days of the week. However it is a very considerable achievement for a club, or for that matter, any organisation, to survive continuously for a hundred years, an event which should be recognised. Sheila and I represented the Society at such a particularly friendly event, the Dover Bowls Club Centenary, being welcomed by Chairman Peter Greenfield and Secretary Barry Late. The Club bowling green and clubhouse are situated beside the Dour close to the Town Hall. The Dover Institute took on the green from Dover Town Council in 1907 and formed the Club.

The Society awarded £50 in recognition of the centenary and this was used for trophies for a special tournament. The game was without handicaps so that the best person won. The winner was Sheila Swinard and the runner up Malcolm Bessant.

Our Society has been in existence for only twenty years and has a long way to go to catch up but I invited the club to make a presentation to us in eighty years time, perhaps to celebrate the demolition of Burlington House.

I would strongly recommend anyone wishing to take up bowls to consider membership of the club. Sheila and I were made very welcome and were both struck by the affability of members and the happy atmosphere.

Remembrance Weekend

By Terry Sutton

On Friday November 9th, ringed by the standards of ex-service organisations, our chairman Derek Leach laid a wreath at the plaque commemorating the Unknown Warrior.

It happened at the conclusion of the annual service of remembrance at the former Marine Station (now Cruise Terminal One) when members of the port community pay homage before the huge memorial at the station to railwaymen who died in two wars. The service was much bigger this year and attended by more than 200 people.

With the ending of that ceremony, our chairman, headed by a bagpiper, walked to the cruise terminal's reception area where the Unknown Warrior's plaque is situated. There, Derek explained how the body of the Warrior was selected in France, rested in Boulogne and carried across the Channel to be landed at that spot at Dover before being carried by special train to London to be buried at Westminster Abbey.

Before laying the wreath he also told us how in 1997, with the approval of Dover Harbour Board, the Dover Society had provided a plaque to mark the spot where the body of the Unknown Warrior was landed on British soil in 1920.

The initiative of the Unknown Warrior wreath laying ceremony resulted from a suggestion by society member David Atwood who was instrumental in the idea of placing the wall plaque in the first place.