

# The Western Heights Preservation Society

The Western Heights Preservation Society (WHPS) is pleased to announce the success of their annual Open Weekend on 5th and 6th June 2010 when over 1,800 paying visitors took the rare opportunity to explore the tunnels and casemates, and enjoy the views from the Drop Redoubt on Dover's Western Heights.

Many more people enjoyed the free opening of the Grand Shaft triple-spiral staircase, Napoleonic living history re-enactments displays and others stalls in the Grand Shaft Barracks area.

Monies raised from the event will be spent on future projects and events on the Western Heights, including tools for work parties that take place at the Drop Redoubt on the 3rd Sunday of every month

Disappointingly the event was marred by the graffiti that was daubed on the Drop Redoubt, a Scheduled Ancient Monument on the Saturday night of the event.

The WHPS would like to thank English Heritage for allowing access to the Drop Redoubt, Dover District Council for the use of the Grand Shaft and Barracks site, and the Town Council who provided the bus service between the Heights and the Rolls Royce Anniversary event on the

Sunday. WHPS are also grateful to the Kent Community Foundation who helped fund the weekend with a grant from the Grassroots fund.

## Note:

One of the most important and impressive fortifications in Britain and Europe, the Western Heights are a series of strong-points linked by miles of ditches on the western hilltop above Dover. They were originally begun during the American War of Independence, were strengthened during the Napoleonic Wars and updated and strengthened again in the mid-nineteenth century. The Western Heights are now also designated as a local nature reserve, providing a haven for some of Britain's rarest and most protected plants, butterflies, birds and reptiles. Further details can be found on the Society's website:

[www.doverwesternheights.org](http://www.doverwesternheights.org)



*Dexters on Drop Redoubt field*

*(Photo P. Sampson)*