

Newsletter

No. 73 March 2012



Camp Pass Western Sledge Journey

© Guss Jones



THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

Affiliated to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies Registered Charity No. 299954

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The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archæology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- and commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton, Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All members receive three Newsletters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events – talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

Editorial

First a reminder that the AGM will be held on Monday 16th April. This is also the last of the winter meetings. All nominations for elected posts within the committee and any resolutions must be received by the secretary no later than 14 days before this meeting.

The guest speaker will be Bob Hollingsbee with a selection of slides and photographs of old Dover. This should prove to be a most interesting and nostalgic look back on how things used to be.

The cost of membership remains the same for this year. It was back in 1996 that the subscriptions were last increased. We have moved from a somewhat shaky position to the stable financial position of today. This has been largely achieved due to our treasurer Mike Weston and his excellent handling of the accounts.

The first summer outing is to Sissinghurst and Scotney Castle on 18th May. The second is to The Goldsmiths Hall and The Grand Masters Lodge of Freemasonry, London on 15th October. Full details and how to book are on the inside of the back cover.

The local masons have extended an invitation to the society to tour their building in Snargate Street. The best time would seem to be the middle of August or in November. The cost would be minimal, or free. If anyone is interested in this visit then please contact the editor on 01304 213668, or any member of the committee. Could you please indicate your preference as to which month the visit should be?

Dover's next large event is the Diamond Jubilee Tattoo on 1st and 2nd June, Details in this and the last edition of the newsletter. This is followed on 23rd/24th June by the *Annual Forces Day Weekend* held in Pencester Gardens and run by the Hellfire Corner Association. Then the Olympic torch will coming through Dover on Wednesday 18th July. The local *Knit and Natter Group* who meet weekly at Amina's, have an unusual project. They are providing bunting for the route that they have knitted.

The tours of the Maison Dieu now take place every Wednesday with the History

Room enhancing the experience - well worth a visit.

Mike McFarnell and his team must be congratulated for their efforts in producing the successful annual Dover Film Festival. They have continued the high standard set by Ray Warner.

Last but by no means least the annual commemoration of the Zeebrugge raid takes place on St George's Day in St James' cemetery at 11.10am on 23rd April. This concludes with the ringing of the Zeebrugge bell at the Town Hall.

Alan Lee

* * * * *

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 74 will be Wednesday 16th May 2012. The Editor welcomes contributions and interesting drawings or photographs. 'Paper copy' should be typed at double spacing. Handwritten copy should be clear with wide line spacing. Accurate fully proof-read copy on computer discs is acceptable; please ring 01304 213668 to discuss details.

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NOYEMBER MEETING

1st Talk —

Dover's Caves and Tunnels

A talk by Derek Leach reported by Terry Sutton

Our chairman Derek Leach OBE treated a packed meeting on Monday evening, November 21st, to a most interesting talk about the scores of tunnels and caves that riddle the ground under our feet.

Derek admitted he had little idea of the extent of tunnelling around Dover until he began researching for his latest book Dover's Caves & Tunnels (Riverdale Publications).



Guston Mystery Cave

@ Paul Isles

He told us how he was greatly assisted in his research by former Dover firemen John Walton and Allen Cook who, in their spare time, collated much information about the tunnels to assist the fire brigade when they were called to fires or trapped people in tunnels.

One set of helpful documents about tunnels around Archcliffe Fort were marked "Secret" but that problem was

> overcome when the donor just ripped off the corner bearing the notice!

> Derek detailed some of the reasons why many of the civilian-constructed tunnels were built or used. They were provided as living accommodation, for the storage of wine and champagne, smuggling, and even the growing mushrooms. A number of the tunnels were extended to provide air raid and shelling shelters in the wars.

> Much work was carried out on the various tunnels, especially those in the cliffs, by the military in the two world wars

to serve as observation posts and gun sites.

Derek's tour of tunnels and caves ranged from Capel gun site (now the Battle of Britain memorial complex), to Dover Castle and on to St Margaret's Bay where the latest system at The Droveway was constructed in the 1950s for the RAF to accommodate a top secret radar system to give early warning of a nuclear attack.

Although "top secret" the pile of excavated chalk from The Droveway complex was as high as the Dover Patrol memorial and when the work was completed (it is alleged) the Russian Embassy sent a letter of congratulation to the Ministry of Defence!

Derek also described the massive storage tunnels built into the cliffs with 32 entrances from the Eastern Docks. Here mines and fuel for warships were stored in the 1939-45 war.

There is one tunnelling system that remains a mystery to Derek. He told us of a well shaft leading to a brick-lined 40 feet long tunnel, with passages leading off, that has its entrance underneath a cottage at Guston.



Winchelsea Cave

© Dover Museum



Winchelsea Cave

O Dover Museum



Capel Battery Underground Construction

O Dover Museum

2nd Talk

The Dover War Memorial Project

A talk by Marilyn Stephenson-Knight and Simon Chambers reported by Alan Lee

Marilyn and Simon are cofounders of the Dover War Memorial Project (DWMP). They have seen it grow from its inception in 2005 to the wide ranging and inspiring project that it is today. They

are also justly proud of the virtual memorial they have helped to create on the internet.

Dover's War Memorial commemorates members of the armed forces who gave their life in the Great War of 1914-18. At present there are over 800 names recorded here.

As well those named on the War Memorial there are over 400 people commemorated in the "Book of Remembrance" held in Dover Museum. This remembers those who died in the Second World War.

It was realised that neither of these memorials are complete so Dover Town Council has agreed that every three years they will add names of those who have previously been omitted. The first of these updates occurred on Armistice Day 2009. One of the names added was Roy Sutton, brother of our vice-president Terry Sutton.



© Mike McFarnell

There are requests for 22 names to be added in November 2012. the next amendment date. One is William Champion who survived WWI only to be killed by a whilst shell in London Road

1944. Just before his daughter died she asked how his name could be included. "This is the last thing I can do for my darling brother." she said.

Marilyn stated, "That promise will be kept. His name will be put forward." If you know of any Dovorian who fell and you think that he/she should be included please let the Dover War Memorial Project know.

Marilyn has three relatives named on Dover's memorial. One died in France in 1917 another one of the earliest casualties died aboard HMS Cressy in September 1914. These made Marilyn think about others on the memorial.

Over the last six years along with Simon and aided by other volunteers working worldwide a large number of these names have been researched. Many of these people are not buried in Dover but where they fell throughout the world.

There are many people not recorded on either memorial but are commemorated on Parish memorials. There are also many plaques and tablets in churches, schools and colleges that tell of former pupils or members of their congregations who gave their lives in the fight for freedom.

Dover's Virtual Memorial records over 2,500 people who lived or were born in the town and lost their lives as a result of war. Many of them are not recorded elsewhere. On the Dover War Memorial Project website you can find part of the history of Christmas. It is said that the first Yule Log cake in Dover, and possibly anywhere, was created by George Bates. He worked in Holmes Morris the bakers and became one of the casualties of the Great War. You will also find a selection of ghost stories linked to those who perished during the hostilities.

To keep alive memories of our fallen various exhibitions have been staged. The latest "Wee Willie" is in the library. William Galbraith was the model for the figure and lived in Dunfermline. His son has since confirmed that William and his brothers all came safely home after the Great War.

The project runs educational programmes for schools. Completed so far are "Walter Tull", "The Unknown Warrior" and "Not Forgotten". All three have been a resounding success. Schools and colleges involved carry out their own projects and research. One of highlights from St Martin's school was the staging of a musical tribute. Written by a professional composer this was held on

the 90th anniversary of the return of the Unknown Warrior through Dover.

Through this project many people have discovered the names and details of relatives who fell during worldwide conflicts. One of the casualties studied was "Pom Pom" Whiting a former Player with Chelsea Football Club. This year for the first time his granddaughter Diane Parson laid a wreath at the Dover Society's plaque for the Unknown Warrior. It was only two months before that Diane and her sister Julia discovered his name and that he was a soccer player.

On November 21st 1941 James Wilkieson was killed in Libya. He had married his wife Ada two years before at Christ Church - sadly now gone. It was only later his parents realised that his brother Andrew had been killed in the same battle.

This year the project gained the Dover Civic Award and a Kent County Award from the Royal British Legion. Lord Boyce became a patron of the DWMP and joined the first, Dame Vera Lynn.

Marilyn ended her talk with the poignant words "we will – and we do – remember them".

The Dover War Memorial Project is a voluntary organisation which is part funded by Marilyn and Simon. To cover the remainder of the costs they rely on donations and grants from groups and individuals. Dover Town Council helped get the project off the ground with a generous donation. If you would like to help with research or with a donation then please contact the Dover War Memorial Project.

JANUARY MEETING

1st Talk

Scott's Forgotten Surgeon Dr Reginald Koettlitz - Polar Explorer

A talk by Aubrey A. (Gus) Jones reported by Alan Lee

D'r Koettlitz was born in Ostend,
Belgium on 23rd December
1860. His father, Maurice, a
minister of the Lutheran
Church, moved to Dover
with his family and by the
late 1860's they were living
at 75/76 Folkestone Road,
Dover where his mother,
Rosetta, ran a boarding
school. Along with Reginald
were his three brothers
Maurice, Robert and Arthur and
two sisters Rosetta and Elise.

In 1873 Reginald, with his brother Maurice, entered Dover College where he

studied Greek, French and German which would prove a great help during his later expeditions.

In 1878 he entered Guy's Hospital to study medicine, qualifying as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. He then moved to Edinburgh and graduated as Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians. Here he first became interested in geography and exploration.



Dr Koettlitz

Koettlitz at Butterknowle Surgery

© Gus Iones

His first post was as a general practitioner at Butterknowle, County Durham where he remained for nine years.

Here he became medical officer and public vaccinator for the Hamsterley district, advisory GP to the Auckland Poor Law Union and surgeon to the Butterknowle, Woodland and New Copley collieries. Appointed Acting Surgeon to the 2nd Volunteer Battalion the Durham Light Infantry

he was later promoted to Senior Lieutenant. He resigned his commission

in June 1894, prior to joining the expedition to Franz Josef Land, Antarctica. It was at Butterknowle that he became a member of the Barnard Castle Lodge of the Brotherhood of Freemasons. He later transferred to his local lodge in South Africa.

In the early 1890's he passed his practice over to his brother and cycled back to Dover from Durham. On 9th July 1894

he signed the papers and became a naturalized British subject.

Two days later he was aboard *S.Y. Windward* as she set sail from St Katherine's Docks. He had secured a position as surgeon with the Jackson - Harmsworth expedition to Franz Josef Land at the North Pole. It was planned for a stay of between two and five years.

They set up base, a single cramped hut, at Cape Flora on Northbrook Island on 17th November 1894. In the first two years it housed eight men and in the third seven. Owing to the cramped conditions, tempers were short and many ridiculous arguments took place. For the first winter one party lived in the hut and the rest on board the *Windward* which had become trapped in the ice.

They supplemented their dried and tinned rations with fresh meat which Koettlitz thought was essential to prevent scurvy. This included 94 polar bears, walrus, pony meat and loons (a species of bird).

The polar bear he brought back from this expedition stood in his brothers' surgery at Charlton House, London Road for many years. Now on display at Dover Museum it is still in an excellent condition and an impressive sight.

Good with his hands he made himself garments, boots and a face and nose mask. He made snowshoes and harnesses for the ponies, harnesses for the dogs and improved the tents.

Much of the uncharted part of Franz Josef Land was mapped and some islands and features named after expedition members. One such was Reginald Koettlitz Island. After three hard years they agreed to return and arrived at Erith in September 1897.

On his return to Dover he produced a substantial paper for the Royal Geographical Society in London detailing the construction, size and shape of the islands visited, illustrated with many detailed drawings and diagrams. He gave a series of lectures, one in the Norman Hall of Dover College, to the pupils and townspeople. This was reported in the Dover Telegraph at the time. Between lectures he joined the Blundell Expedition to North East Africa and completed a solo trip up the River Amazon.

By 1899 the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Society were planning a joint venture to the Antarctic. After much disagreement Lieutenant (later Commander) Robert Falcon Scott, an experienced naval officer but with no polar experience, was appointed leader. By now Dr Koettlitz was a well known, but slightly eccentric, expedition surgeon, geologist and botanist. He sat on the planning committee prior to joining the expedition in March 1900.

Never a rich man and to raise funds he was appointed as the ship's doctor aboard the Red Cross Line steamer *Sobralense* on its voyage up the Amazon to Manaos. During his short time away the expedition ship the Discovery had completed her sea trials.

On 2nd March 1901 at Chelsea Registry Office he married a 38 year old Calais woman Marie Louise Butez. Ernest Henry Shackleton, later one of the most famous polar explorers, attended the wedding.

The expedition set off on 5th August 1901 from the East India Dock, London. During the voyage Koettlitz's appointment as 'Chief of Scientific Staff' was confirmed although Scott disregarded this. Only

Koettlitz on the Discovery

© Gus Jones



Armitage and Koettlitz had direct experience of polar survival for any length of time while Bernacchi had a little. Overall this meant that the expedition was very inexperienced.

Some interesting, and unusual, items were listed as 'Medical Comforts'; 27 gallons of brandy and whisky, 60 gallons of port wine, 36 gallons of sherry and 36 gallons of champagne.

After a stop-over in New Zealand the *Discovery* anchored at McMurdo Sound in February 1902, base camp was set up and the stores landed. Koettlitz and Armitage had serious concerns over the lack of any survival training as to their dismay recreational pursuits took preference. This contributed to the death of Seaman Vince.

Scott then led a party to set up a provisions camp, but left his experienced men behind. He took no skis and only a few out of condition dogs, intending mainly to manhandle the sledges. This was the 'British Way' but was against all experienced wisdom. After three days and ten miles of arduous effort he left the stores there and returned to the ship.

Temperatures dropped to -94°F but every Sunday the decks were scrubbed and the men inspected on the open deck.

Koettlitz was not impressed with the 'make do and mend' attitude of the expedition and it was August before any attempt at getting the dogs formed into efficient teams was tried.

That spring on his return to base he found most of the crew had scurvy. They had no fresh meat as Scott refused to

sanction the killing of wildlife. After he reversed this the scurvy soon cleared up. He was advised not to put the small boats on the ice, he ignored this, they became covered in ice and snow and took a lot of extra hard work to cut them free.

During the 'sledging' season 1902-03 Koettlitz discovered a huge glacier, later named 'Koettlitz Glacier'. Even today it is still a huge size. Scott forced Shackleton to leave and stated "if he does not go back sick he will go in disgrace". Shackleton's challenge to his authority on the voyage out had not been forgotten.

In 1902-03 Dr Koettlitz took the first coloured photographs of the continent. He took 53 colour images but all photographs, plates and his expedition journal went missing and have never been found. Scott instructed that no prints were to be made from any of the plates. After being ice-bound for so long the rescue ships reached the Discovery on the 14th February 1904. They sailed for New Zealand and a tremendous reception.

On their return to England selected members of the crew, including Koettlitz,

were awarded the new polar medal. Scott, invited to Balmoral by the King, took Wilson's sketches, Skelton's black and white photographs but ignored Koettlitz's colour ones and most of his work. He had collected and catalogued some 828 items, kept many detailed medical records but received little recognition for his work.

Back in Dover on Wednesday 11th January 1905 at a civic reception in the Town Hall he gave an illustrated lecture entitled, "Furthest South" which lasted two hours. This was the first, and only time, the new three coloured process, perfected by him, was shown to the public.

After declining Shackleton's invitation to join he helped him with preparations for his Antarctic Nimrod Expedition. They turned back only 97 miles from the pole.

When their only child died at birth Dr Koettlitz and his wife moved to South

Africa in 1905. He obtained a general practice in the Somerset East District, based at Grobbelaars Kraal, Darlington, which now lies at the bottom of an artificially enlarged Lake Mentz. He appointed was Justice of the Peace.

In 1915 they moved to Somerset East and on the 5th January they were both taken to Queen's Central Hospital, Craddock. They both died on the 10th January 1916 within two hours of each other, she of heart disease and he of acute dysentery.

When news reached Somerset all the flags in the town were flown at half mast. They were buried in Craddock cemetery and obituaries appeared in the Lancet, national and local newspapers in New York, Australia, Britain and New Zealand.

He is largely forgotten in England apart from in Dover. In 1922 the Rev C W Wallace, Rural Dean of Craddock campaigned for a memorial, now positioned over his grave. There is no memorial to him in this country.

The book Scott's Forgotten Surgeon by Aubrey A. Jones

ISBN: 9781849950381

Obtainable from bookshops or online from www.booksfromscotland.com



Marie Louise Koettlitz





Koettlitz Memorial

C Gus Jones

2nd Talk

TSS Dover

A talk by Richard Moffatt reported by Terry Sutton

Our second speaker at our public meeting in January was Richard Moffatt of the Dover Steamship Company who, in an amusing delivery, told of efforts to restore the former Dover ferry TSS Dover that sailed between Dover and Calais 1965-1980.



TSS Dover

O Don Smith

To me it seemed more a triumph of hope over experience, as Samuel Johnson once said about an unhappy marriage. But there was no doubt about our speaker's enthusiasm for the project.

Richard, a former railwayman, related the sorry 47 year history of the former Sealink ferry Dover, now comfortably nestling in the shallows at her berth at Central Quay, Middlehaven, near the famous Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge.

He told us how the 3,602-ton ship, built by Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson at Wallsend in 1965 (I attended the launching ceremony), came into service at Dover that year. The TSS Dover (with the yard number of 2013) a stern loading, twin screw, turbine steamer had the distinction of being the last steam vessel ordered by British Rail. She then could carry 1,000 passengers and 205 cars.

When Dover entered service in June 1965 she was the first vessel to appear in the new B.R. livery of a 'monastral' blue hull,

white waterline/chocolate brown boot topping: white superstructure, pearl grey masts, ventilators and davits. The funnel was painted red with the new logo that consisted of two railway lines with crossings between them and a pale blue house flag was adopted with this logo.

On the 13th June her first voyage was a press junket to Boulogne to open the newly constructed car terminal.

In1967, Dover was used at for a short period at Folkestone and later that year on the Newhaven to Dieppe route. From 1969 she transferred to Holyhead - Dun Laoghaire, with brief spells between Preston - Boulogne and Heysham-Dun Laoghaire. On the 8th November, 1970 she returned to Dover to resume her cross channel duties. In June 1972, Dover was transferred to the Folkestone - Boulogne route for a passenger's only service.

In 1973 further changes to the vessels paint work were made with the legend Sealink painted on the hull.

From June 1974 to the end of 1975 Dover operated as extra cover on the Holyhead - Dun Laoghaire route.

In 1976, Dover was back on the Dover - Calais route, however on the 14th June Dover collided with the Breakwater on entering Dover East whilst berthing, sustaining heavy damage. On October 17th, Dover returned to Holyhead for to provide cover for the damaged Avalon.

The ferry was then converted in 1977 to take drive-through vehicles and renamed the Earl Siward. In 1979 she resumed operations from Holyhead. When withdrawn on the 2nd November 1980 she was the last railway-owned, steam turbine vessel to operate on the Irish Sea routes. At the end of the year she returned to service from Dover and on the 14th April 1981 made her final run on the Dover - Calais route.

On the 25th November 1981, she was sold to Sol Ferries Ltd, Cyprus who renamed the ship again as the Sol Express. As such the ferry took part in the evacuation of Americans from Beirut. But the Cypriot owners found there was a shortage of parts for repairs for the ship and they sold the vessel in 1986 to a Newcastle nightclub

owner who in, 2008, gave the ferry the "tacky" name Tuxedo Royale for use on the Tyne and then the Tees.

After several years at Newcastle the ship was laid-up at Hartlepool and taken to various northern ports where it partially sank. "Since then no one has claimed ownership of the yesse!" he said.

The original aim, explained Richard, was to restore the ferry and tow it back to Dover where it could become a tourist attraction and a work centre for young maritime apprentices.

"But that idea got a cold shoulder from Uncle Bob," said Richard referring to a decision by Dover Harbour Board and its chief executive Dr Bob Goldfield.

The more immediate need, explained the speaker, was to repair the ship sufficiently so it could be taken to a dry dock on Teesside where the gates needed repairing. The cost of doing this was estimated at £250,000 and so, he said, a professional fund-raiser had been appointed in Folkestone.

Richard commented that with no one claiming ownership of the "rust bucket" vessel it was possible to acquire it for nothing.

But, he said, the estimated overall cost of restoring the ship to make it seaworthy was in the region of £14-£15 million.

If you are interested in joining please contact:

Membership Secretary - Sarah-Jayne Hart On line: membership@tssdover.co.uk



TSS Dover at Middlesbrough

© John Coates

— Channel Dash 11th February 1942— Extraordinary Wartime Bravery and Heroism at Sea off Dover

Lt Cdr RN (Retd) John Owen

On the home front seventy years ago in the darkest days of the Second World War Dover was suffering a bad winter, acute austerity and persistent enemy action.

On Wednesday 11th February 1942, six Swordfish of 825 Squadron RNAS were scrambled from Manston airfield on a hastily planned mission to frustrate the breakout attempt by enemy warships to transit the shorter passage to Germany through the Straits of Dover from Brest where they were under a sea and air blockade.

At 10.45hrs on that day the enemy capital ships Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, both battle cruisers and Prinz Eugen a heavy cruiser, were reported departing Brest roads with substantial destroyer and air support.

Well after 11.00hrs Admiral Bertram Ramsay Flag Officer Dover received this report and initiated a response. Time was very short indeed. 825 Squadron comprised two flights, each of three biplane torpedo bombers with a maximum speed of about 90 knots when fully armed. They had flown into Manston from RN air station Lee-on-Solent under the command of Lt Cdr Eugene Esmonde Royal Navy.

Regardless of the unfavourable odds, an immediate strike was essential if the enemy warships were to be stopped. The strike was set for 12.45hrs the enemy

having already reached the Calais area.

Esmonde's flight led the attack coming under withering fire from the target ships, destroyer screen and Luftwaffe. After a period of relentless gunfire and aerial combat all three aircraft were lost with no survivors. The second flight also failed to reach its target all three aircraft being destroyed.



Swordfish Torpedo Bombers

Painted By John Owen

Five of the gallant aircrew however were rescued by Dover based motor torpedo boats returning from the same operation. All aircrew were decorated for their bravery and devotion to duty. Esmonde was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

A record of the occasion and memorial to their gallantry can be seen locally in the RAF museum at Manston.

Prinz Eugen survived the war, the RAF reduced Gneisenau to a hulk at Kiel and Scharnhorst was sunk by the Home Fleet off North Cape.







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One of a series of articles covering Dover's old buildings

St James's Street Houses

by Joan Liggett

rntil 1939, St James's Street ran from the Market Square to old St James's Church and was a fairly residential prosperous and commercial area. Sadly the street was badly damaged by bombing in the Second World War and has more or less disappeared: now only running from Russell Street Car Park across Woolcomber Street to Castle Hill Road. The surviving houses are situated at the eastern end of the street opposite the ruins of old St James's Church (the Tidy Ruin) and "The White Horse" inn, which was built in 1365 as a dwelling for the Churchwarden of old St James's Church.

The three surviving houses were built early in the 19th century and consist of three storeys and a basement in brown brick with a hipped tiled roof though the middle house has been altered. They are no longer residential properties though number 9 appears to still have a separate flat (9A) on the upper floors whilst number 5 housed both a business and a resident until the 1970's. The ground floor of number 9 still has a left side open pedimented door surround with fluted stylized pilasters, semi-circular fanlight and a 6 panelled door. It also still has a foot scraper, All three houses still have many sash windows with some



St lames's Street

@ Alan Lee



9 St James's Street

O Alan Lee

glazing bars intact and some wooden cills. You could still see the remains of the steps which led from the former back door to the garden and the place where either a door or window once graced the side wall of number 9. Number 5 still has the remains of a wooden structure in a room on the first floor whose use is no longer obvious and a rather attractive staircase from the entrance hall up to the other floors.

Number 9 St James's Street was a residence until about 1911 when a D Mackinnon was shown as running a drapery business from his home until about 1929. The house then appeared to have been converted to flats as a Mr L Smith took over the business but Mrs Mackinnon still lived there until

1939. Today the building houses the Dover Counselling Centre.

Number 7 St James's Street is now the offices of a Freight Forwarding Group, Transclear. I was unable to gain entrance to this house but it seems to have remained mostly residential until after the war though a Mrs Bayley ran a shop from the premises in 1889.

Messrs Spain Brothers & Co now occupies number 5 St James's Street though until the 1970's a Mrs E Beer also resided there. I was told by a member of staff that the portrait hanging in the entrance hall was of Mrs E Beer but it is more likely to be that of Miss C Beer taken in the late 1800's or early 1900's considering the style of clothes and the age of the woman. The Beer family have a long association with this property as Pikes Directory in 1898 lists 5 St James's Street as being the home of Miss C Beer but by 1934 a Mrs E Beer was resident there. She remained the sole resident until 1937 when a firm of solicitors were also listed at the same property. After the war Mrs Emma Beer is again listed as resident there until the early 1970's, when Spain Brothers took over the whole house (Mrs E Beer died in 1972).

Work has at last started on the development of the St James's Street area with the demolition of many properties though the biggest eyesore still remains. One can only hope that what replaces the old will enhance the remaining listed properties.

RIVER DOUR

Jeremy Cope

Comething of a bombshell was Odropped at the October Steering Group meeting. We heard of the excellent work carried out by the Environment Agency in environmental work control. We then heard of the agency's River Basin Planning and Management set up to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, (we have yet to understand what it means for the Dour set against what is already being done). Then we heard of the sterling work of the volunteers who under the direction of the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership clear the river of rubbish (in 2011 more than 350 bags, 17 road cones 5 scooters, 2 bicycles but ONLY one shopping trolley).

Then the bombshell. Due to the CUTS White Cliffs Countryside Partnership has lost funding from the District Council and had been unsuccessful in their application to the Environment Agency, (The Agency has provided funding in the past). Funding is required to cover cost of organising, insurance, tools, transport etc. The result is that the Partnership has no alternative but to withdraw from the operation of the volunteer staffed clean ups and maintenance of the riverside walkway. We have had one meeting so far with the Agency stressing that if the river is litter

strewn then their good work will mean little to locals. It is also difficult to understand how litter cannot ultimately cause obstructions to the flow leading to potential flooding. We are due to hold another meeting with another part of the agency but there seems little chance of help.

In the present financial climate Dover will have to find its own solutions and I am pleased to say that funding has been found for the cleanups from Dover Town Council, River Parish Council, and the Society. It is very disappointing that Temple Ewell Council felt unable to Parish participate. The intention is that White Cliffs Countryside Partnership will now be able to operate the cleanups as in the past. A word of warning - this is funding for 2011/12 only and we shall have to repeatedly seek funding in the years ahead. Not only will we need volunteers to clear the rubbish but volunteers to look for funding.



River Dour, Charlton Green

O Alan Lee

One of a series of articles covering the lives of Dovorians and local events of international renown

Charles Dickens 7 February 1812 - 9 June 1870

By Lorraine Sencicle B.A. (econ) hons

7th February 2012 sees the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Dickens. The great author stayed in Dover on numerous occasions, which provided him with inspiration and therefore, to my mind, the anniversary should be

celebrated.

On the last building in Camden Crescent before the car park is a Dover Society plaque to Dickens. He brought his family to stay at number 10 (destroyed during World War II) for three months in 1852. Dickens friend, the novelist Wilkie Collins came to stay and wrote a vivid account of the regulated way the household was run-breakfast at 08.10hrs, afterwards writing until 14.00hrs then walking. Dinner was at 17.30hrs and bed between 22.00 and 23.00hrs.

Although Dickens was involved in an acting tour during the stay, it is known that he did spend time writing *Bleak House.* He also undertook speaking tours and in Dover, these were usually held at the Apollonian Hall, Snargate Street - which was demolished in 1930 to widen the then Commercial Quay.

The 'talks' mainly consisted of the reading

passages from his works. Following a presentation from *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Pickwick Papers* on 5 November 1861, he wrote: "The effect of the readings at... Dover really seems to have outdone the best

usual impression,... they wouldn't
go.... The people in the stalls
set the example of laughing,
in the most curiously
unreserved way, and they
laughed with such really
cordial enjoyment, when
Squeers read the boys'

extended to me. For one couldn't hear them without laughing too."

letters, that the contagion

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

O Alan Sencicle

In 1856, Dickens stayed at the Ship Hotel, on Custom House Quay, to work on Little Dorritt. However, due to concerns over domestic issues he spent most of his time taking long walks and talking to locals. These were recounted in Out of Season, published in Household Words. Some years ago, I undertook a piece of acclaimed academic research in relation to A Tale of Two Cities, Dickens's twelfth novel, (Dickensian Summer 2002 pp 140-144). He started working on the novel in March 1859 but in my research I successfully showed that it was his 1856 stay that inspired many of the themes he used.

The book is set at the time of the French Revolution and starts with a coach journey to Dover, which he describes, making oblique reference to smuggling: "The little narrow crooked town of Dover is itself away from the beach, and ran its head into the chalk cliffs, like a marine ostrich. The beach was a desert of heaps of sea and stones tumbling wildly about, and the sea did what it liked, and what it liked was destruction. It thundered at the town and thundered at the cliffs, and brought the coast down madly ... A little fishing was done in the port and a quantity of strolling about by night, and looking seaward, particularly at those times when the tide made and was near flood. Small tradesmen who did no business whatever, sometimes unaccountably realised large fortunes, and it was remarkable that nobody in the neighbourhood could endure a lamplighter!"

My research showed that Lucie Manette, the heroine, and Jarvis Lorry, agent for Tellson's Bank, were based on local characters. Further, that the hero of *Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Darnay, was based on one of Dover's leading personalities at the time of the French Revolution, John Minet Fector who built Kearsney Abbey!

While in Dover, Dickens sometimes stayed at the Lord Warden Hotel (now Lord Warden House). In a letter, dated 1863, he referred to John Birmingham, the manager and licensee, and his wife as "my much esteemed friends." John Birmingham was also the Mayor of Dover in 1860, 1861, 1868 and 1869. The nearby streets of what was then the maritime Pier District provided the atmosphere of the Tom-All-Alone's described in, Bleak House.

It was at Dickens Corner, in the Market Square that *David Copperfield* rested before ascending Western Heights in search of his aunt, Betsy Trotwood. John Igglesden opened his bakery there in 1788. When it closed, in 1967, John Wilkins bought the building and adjacent properties on Church Street for redevelopment, but ensured that the façade remained. The shop was subsequently occupied by Dennis Weaver's stationers before becoming a café.

The description of Peggity's brother's 'house' at Yarmouth - an upturned boat - was that of Smith's Folly, that once graced East Cliff. As for Betsy Trotwood's House, this is described as, "A very neat little cottage with cheerful bow windows: in front of it, a square gravelled court or garden full of flowers; carefully tended and smelling deliciously."



Dickens Corner

@ Alan Sencicle

Although Broadstairs have, wrongly in my view, claimed that the inspiration came from the home of one of their local characters, in reality, it was based on a cottage on what was then Pilots Meadow, at the top of what is now Adrian Street. Pilot's Field was a favourite resting place of Dickens when walking the cliffs and there was a double fronted cottage with a small walled in garden, just as he describes.

As for the character of Betsy Trotwood, there is no doubt in my mind, that she was based on Sarah Rice, a formidable lady who was the mother of Dover's MP, (1837 - 1857), Edward Royds Rice. She lived in the area of the present petrol station on Townwall Street.

Nearby a Mr Golder kept a stud of donkeys that visitors to the town would hire for riding on the seashore. Sarah objected vehemently about these donkeys especially as they often went into her beautifully kept garden and ate the plants! Sarah was a business associate of John Minet Fector, on whom the hero of *Tale of Two Cities* was based!

* * * *

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Spring 2012

Subscriptions Are Due

The usual reminder:- Subscriptions remain the same remarkable value at £6 single or £10 for two members living at the same address. Please pay by cash or cheque either at the AGM or by post or through our letterbox. Thankfully cheques are not going to disappear but an alternative method of payment is to set up a standing order and hopefully save yourself from further trouble - forms are always available from me.

It is remarkable that many Dovorians are still unaware of the Society's existence in spite of Terry's regular articles in the local press, Mike's work on our website, our posters publicising our meetings and the placing of Newsletters in the waiting rooms of local surgeries.

Perhaps we have a member willing to explore the possibilities of local radio? Nevertheless personal introduction remains the surest method of recruiting new members and we are very grateful to those who bring friends along. At our meetings there are always spare copies of the recent newsletter available in the lobby at St Mary's Parish Centre for distribution to potential members.

Currently we have 453 members and have recently welcomed:- Mr B & Mrs J Powell, Mrs B Henry, Mr G Wiltshire, Mr D Rhys, Mr B & Mrs N Cameron Ward.

This is also the time of year when we express our sympathy to the families and friends of the members who have recently died:- Mrs Muriel Mellanby, Mr Ken & Mrs Delysia Berry, Mrs Brenda Lee, Mr John Turnpenny, Mr David Pike, Mrs Jeane Steed, Mr Maurice Sayers.

James Gordon Smith B.A.

An Appreciation

By Fr Peter Sherred ■

When James failed to present himself in the Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 23rd February last year it was a most unusual occurrence, for James was a solicitor renowned for his assiduous attention to professional etiquette and the needs of his

clients, and his absence gave rise to concern. It was later discovered he had set out for work as usual from his Walmer home, had called in at his local newsagent en route, then, having returned to his car, he suffered a fatal cardiac arrest. His death was a great shock to his family, his wife Alison and son Edward, as well as to his many professional colleagues, friends and clients.

His memorial service at St Mary's Church, Walmer, on Saturday 2nd April 2011 was a wonderful celebration of his life and the packed church reflected the impact he had had on so many people's lives and demonstrated the love, affection and esteem with which he was held. Judges, barristers, solicitors, cricketers, actors and many friends from his church family discovered the breadth of interest and activity that



James Smith

made up James's life. Many Dovorians, over a period of some three decades. were the beneficiaries of his innate sense of justice and fair play knowledge of the law and practice of litigation and in particular his work in the criminal courts. He was

particularly concerned for the underprivileged or disadvantaged and, as a legal aid practitioner, was determined that their cases should be presented professionally and their rights protected. He was a self-effacing and modest individual who had little to be self-effacing or modest about.

An only child born in Gosport, Hampshire, he was educated, after primary school, at Gosport Grammar School then moved on to the University of Kent at Canterbury where he was to graduate with a degree in History. He studied law in Hereford, qualifying as a solicitor, subsequently practising in Andover and Hastings before moving to a practice in Queen Street, Deal. In later years he moved to Dover where he operated as a sole practitioner, in a firm under his own name, based in premises in the Market Square next to

Lloyds Bank. At the time of his death he was a member of an association of legal aid practitioners operating in Folkestone but covering all the local criminal courts, including Dover's in Pencester Road, as well as the Crown Courts.

James and my paths crossed on a pleasingly regular basis and in different arenas. Being both graduates of the University of Kent - he was a member of the first intake in 1965 and I from the second intake of 1966 - we would, on an annual basis, join together at the University for the Careers Fair to undergraduates with provide benefit of our experiences in the legal profession giving guidance on training and employment opportunities. These were always special full day events for the two of us and James's wry sense of humour always came to the fore.

It also made a pleasant and stark change from the many other venues where we would meet - police stations, courts and prisons! We were both at one time 24 hour Duty Solicitors as well as being Court Duty Solicitors so it was not uncommon in the middle of the night to attend at Dover Police Station or the Customs Custody Suite at St John's Road or premises at the Eastern Docks among others to find James already called out to a client in difficulties. Often after a long night in the cells we would be in court together the next morning doing our best for our respective clients and if that failed James and I could be found in one of local prisons (Canterbury, Maidstone, Sheppey) or a Young

Offenders Institution on the next stage of our clients' journey through the court system. Throughout James was always unfailingly courteous and affable to custody officers, clients and professional colleagues alike and his knowledge of procedures and outcomes was second to none. Another area where we had a common interest was in supporting the work of the Dover CAB where the two of us became the longest serving members of our profession offering free legal aid and advice to CAB clients. This was another area in which James was well respected.

Despite his full commitment to the legal profession James had many other interests he packed into his life. From his early days in Gosport Grammar he had developed a love of acting and at various times was a member of groups like the Guild Players in Deal and the St Nicholas Players at Ringwould. He was delighted when this love of acting was inherited by Edward who also shared with his father a love of the Proms at the Albert Hall in London where they would attend as promenaders. James was also particularly fond of Elgar's music.

Two other aspects of James's life giving him great satisfaction were centred on his passion for cricket and his commitment to the church. In respect of the former while a student at university he joined the cricket team and played his first match in Deal against the Royal Marines. Subsequently he played for Walmer cricket club, enjoyed turning out for the

Court Cavaliers and latterly joined Wootton cricket club as an amateur umpire but James, being James, soon began training in earnest and in April 2009 he was delighted to gain his Umpires' Certificate Level 1 which he put to good use with the Deal Victoria and Barns Close cricket club's spending a very happy 2010 summer with many good friends.

As to his church involvement a formative influence in his life was when he spent his 21st birthday in Belfast helping at the Corrymeela Community which focuses reconciliation. He attended St George's Church in Deal where he became churchwarden and when his parents-inlaw moved into The Shrubbery in Walmer he, with Alison and Edward, joined the worshipping community at St Mary's where he participated fully in the life of the church and joined the Canterbury Cursillo group enjoying the friendship of local members. In 2006 he walked from Rochester to Canterbury on a sponsored walk to raise money for and awareness of Christian Aid. A colleague at St Mary's once preached a sentiment from the pulpit that provided a philosophy he practised in life. She said "When I hear about a disaster in the world first I send up a prayer and then I reach for my cheque book".

It came as no surprise that James had requested that a retiring collection taken following a service after his death should be divided between Christian Aid and The Primary Club, the latter being a cricketers' charity for blind and partially sighted players.

Alison, James's widow, had first met James through mutual friends in the St Nicholas Players and they were married at Ringwould Church and enjoyed a marriage of thirty years, sharing "a silly sense of humour". James lived to see Edward graduate from University College London and go on to gain an M.A. from Leicester University and was rightly proud of his son's achievements.

Death is, invariably untimely, but the nature of James's sudden departure from us robbed all those who knew and loved him of a deeply principled, compassionate and honest individual whose concern for social justice was imbued with and firmly rooted in his sincerely held Christian values. Being a dedicated professional believing in the rightness of the availability of Legal Aid James was not a 'fat cat lawver' of the stereotype often attributed to members of the legal profession but the wealth he enjoyed in his life went beyond monetary gain. It was that based on a loving family background and the knowledge that in all his actions for other people he was at their service and he stood up to be counted by tackling injustice. In truth he left this world a better place for his presence with us and many a Dovorian today will have James to thank for his/her good fortune in life after his involvement with theirs. For those of us privileged to have been associated with him and the profession he served he set standards and examples of behaviour which we can only aspire to emulate.

THE BAILIWICK

by Dr Peter Burville

My earlier article (ref 1) in the Newsletter recorded a one-name study, registered (1537) with the Guild of One-Name Studies, into the surname Burville and its many variants. Following over twenty years of research into the subject the present article reports the findings of that study which are recorded in a book and its associated CD (ref 2).

The objectives of the research was to find out about the lives of people with the surname, where they lived, how the events of history may have affected them, and finally to offer a suggestion for the origin of the name.

The period covered is from the 12th century, i.e. as early as they have been found, up to the beginnings of the 20th century. Being a one-name study, when the distaff side of the family married and took their husband's surname their line was no longer followed.

It was possible to establish quickly that the surname distribution in England was concentrated in East Kent with the to-beexpected groups in London. Study of the name going back in time made it clear that many of the Bailiwick, the term used for those with the surname, were illiterate agricultural workers so that the surname spelling was at the whim of the recording authority who were frequently themselves semi-literate. This led to various spellings being offered. Even in a will the spelling of surnames was not constant - several examples of different spellings on the same line were encountered.

The Bailiwick also includes many examples of highly educated people. James, a Six Preacher of Canterbury Cathedral (ref 3), lived at the beginning of the 17th century when the family was thriving. Although he had Commonwealth period to contend with and fled to Ireland for the latter part of it. the family appeared to be "going places". Like James, his son James was also a graduate of Oueens' College Cambridge and went into the church. James junior's son Henry was also a Cambridge graduate and went into the church. Henry had a coat of arms which combined with that of his wife, features on their impressive heraldic ledger slab in West Peckham church where he was the vicar. Henry's brother Peter was in the Royal Navy and ended his days as Captain of HMS Comet Bomb to be buried at sea in the Caribbean, Peter's grandson John joined the army and rose to the rank of Major. Having been active in the defence of Gibraltar against the siege by the Spanish he also went to the Caribbean, John, a contemporary of Nelson, died of the vellow fever in Hispaniola and was shipped back in a barrel of rum to be buried in Boxlev church where his father George was vicar, When John died in 1796 Nelson, together with his rumfuelled sailors, had yet to achieve their famous victories against the French.

Even James the Six Preacher was the subject of different surname spellings. Both James of Northbourne and his father carpenter William of East Studdal were recorded as "Burvill alias Burfield" in 17th

century property dealings. These alternative forms of the surname were used intermittently down the centuries. In the Eastry/Tilmanstone area the surnames Burfeld and Barfeld can be traced back to at least the 13th century. In the 20th century my son William had a letter addressed to Mr Burfield following a phone call to the letter writer.

Contrasts in educational level reflected in the lives that people led. Rich members of the Bailiwick left wills listing the properties they held and the furniture in their dwellings which give a clear idea of the rooms in the house. For example, Rector George of Boxley, father of Major John, lived in the vicarage with a parlour. sitting room-cum-study, kitchen, a paved cool larder where food and beer could be stored, a buttery for dairy and other products, and a brew-house or washroom with a chimney and associated oven. Upstairs there was a room with closet and inner room, a Great Room with closet and a further room beyond a Great Beam. It seems the Great Room was partitioned, ie new boarded, to provide extra rooms. Only the room with the inner room had a chimney, suggesting that the chimney was added to an external wall rather than being enclosed by the house. Outside there was a stable and a house of Eassmts, i.e. toilet. Attached to the latter was a little house, with a chimney, where the servants may have been accommodated. George, who was seriously rich, owning considerable real estate, had no male heirs so the wealth went to the distaffside, the Burvill-Rashleighs.

Whilst illiterate people could be rich and powerful - early kings of England for example - many were poor. Quite a few families in Folkestone and Dover had to resort to the workhouse for sustenance. This was particularly so during the depressions of the 19th century, conditions that gave considerable motivation to migrate.

Members of the Bailiwick spread from East Kent to other parts of England and Wales, sometimes taking the surname Burwell and being lost to the Bailiwick. Others went further to North America and Australia where they prospered and left their mark with roads being named after them as well as the geographical feature Burvill Point in Northern Australia. Some claimed Huguenot origins but evidence to support that has not been found. Whilst Huguenots, such as the early 17th century merchant and draper David Berville of Dover, was doubtless the genuine article connection with the Bailiwick has been established. Interestingly, a Church of England family from Folkestone worshiped at the Black Prince's Chantry in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral where their children were baptised as Huguenots. Later the family returned to the Church of England.

As recorded in my earlier article (ref 1) the de Aubervilles were a powerful Norman family with extensive holdings in Kent and other counties. Sir William de Auberville laid siege to Dover Priory in 1191 "with his soldiers of the province" as he was not satisfied with the behaviour of the Priory. The following year this baron, with his wife Maude, founded Langdon Abbey. This was considered as a source of the surname as English serfs in the service of the de Aubervilles could have adopted a shortened Berville/Burville

version of the master's name. However, after investigating possible locative and other sources for the surname my conclusion is that the Burvilles from Kent derived their name from a manor less than six miles from where I live at St Margaret's Bay. Barefeld (Berfeld) Manor was in Tilmanstone and was located at what is now Barville Farm. Of course, other groups of Burvilles, such as those from France, will derive their name from another source.

To facilitate access to the information in the book and CD a comprehensive set of indexes are provided. The book also features some basic maps and naïve illustrations. The CD was necessary as the many references plus family tree information meant exceeding its 500 A4 size pages. In addition the use of a CD has enabled the author to include various images relating to the Bailiwick that have been collected over the years.

Those interested in this research can contact Dr Burville on 01304 853267.

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- 1. The Dover Society Newsletter, no. 12, January 1992, pages 50-52
- 2. Burville, Peter, An East Kent Family: The Burvilles, 2011, plus associated CD
- 3. Hill, Derek Ingram, The Six Preachers of Canterbury Cathedral, K. H. McIntosh, 1982

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DOVER TATTOO 2012 TICKETS



Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd June 7.30pm to 10pm

FAMILY FUN DAY Saturday 2nd June 11am to 5pm

Tickets are available from the Dover Tattoo website (24hr) and the events office, 23 Worthington St, Dover from 11am - 12.30pm & 2pm - 3pm, Monday to Friday.

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The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Report by PATRICK SHERRATT

In the last Newsletter I outlined the use of Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and if adopted by our Local Authority (Dover District Council) how it would benefit Dover

I am pleased to say that Dover Town Council (DTC) is working with The Dover Society in taking this forward with DDC. At DTC a small budget was agreed at the December Council meeting which will be used on Land Registry searches and the issue of warning letters to owners of properties that are eyesores to the town. We have supplied a list of properties together with back-up photographs and I hope that by the time this newsletter is with you the first warning letters will have been issued.

For this to succeed requires a will from both Councils (Officers and elected Councillors) as has been shown in Hastings where since 2000 over 500 properties have been improved by using Section 215. At least a start in Dover, if a small number can be improved each year will benefit the town in due course.

On the subject of "ailing properties" we have sought to see that Dover District Council brings empty homes into use in Dover. There is an Empty Homes Strategy policy at DDC, however, very limited action. In Thanet a major

programme of bringing empty properties into use has been undertaken and is championed by Laura Sandys their Member of Parliament.

We have contacted our MP (Charlie Elphicke) who drew the Housing Ministers attention of the plight of empty homes in Dover at a recent Ministers Ouestion time in the House of Commons. Central Government has made available additional funding and we hope that DDC will take the opportunity of seeking this as the latest figures published by DDC in June 2011show that between 2005 and 2009 empty homes within the District has increased by 41% from 674 to 951. Whilst the District continues to concentrate on "new build" it is so wasteful to ignore perfectly good buildings that could be brought back into use.

Dover is a wonderful historic and architectural town and must with the use of Section 215 and Empty Homes policy maximise on these assets.

On the "Planning Application" front the most important applications have been in respect to the Dover Town Investment Zone (DTIZ) development. This is the derelict site in Townwall Street (including Burlington House) and has now re-submitted plans since the Asda scheme failed.

The development consists of three applications, for a hotel, a Tower with LED Screen and the main retail/residential. The Dover Society welcomes the development but has opposed the design of the hotel that fails to respect the historical aspects of the surrounding area. indeed description in our objection compares the design (which is an oblong box) as akin to a prison ship (see illustration). We suggest that the Local Authority look at hotel design in such historic Cities as York. We recognise that the tower is essential in order tο remove communication equipment from Burlington House so it can be demolished. We are however concerned that the LED screen (11m x 2.7m) to be placed on the tower is not ideal and

New Hotel



question its safety aspect at the junction of Townwall Street and Woolcomber Street. Of concern it seems this screen was added to the original "Asda Scheme" and agreed, but, without any apparent public consultation.

With regard to the retail/residential plans we have remained "neutral" as we must recognise the value of developing this eyesore site. We have made detailed comments in particular with regard to the need to improve on the quality of materials being proposed, increased landscaping, more sensitive rooflines using traditional materials rather than the proposed "Warehouse style" metal roofs.

We also draw attention to taking the opportunity of improving adjacent areas

as well as DDC adopting a strategy in respect of possible vacated shops in the town "brand names" may relocate to the new retail site that offers larger premises. The residential building is within the Castle Street Conservation Area and we approve the design of the proposed building that compliments the area and adjacent buildings.

If any member wishes to see our full comments in respect to the above please contact me.

In addition to the above we have made comments to six other applications since the December Magazine so there has been plenty to keep the Planning Committee busy.

Reserveresion

* * * by Jeremy Cope * * *

Tshould change the name of this I report to Refurbishment - the name we give our sub-Committee. Our aim is to encourage and work for making the best of what Dover already has. Regeneration is a word highiacked by planners and our political leaders to mean large scale redevelopments something which does not directly concern us. However if Dover had only made the best of existing buildings and structures and of its history the Town would be a much better place to live and probably, with substantial tourism, would lead to real regeneration.

Good for Pat Sherratt, Chair of our Planners, leading the fight on implementation of section 215 of 1990 Planning Act (see December 2011 report). The Society is working with Dover Town Council and Dover District Council with our sub-Committee helping with the Society's contribution. I feel this has the potential to make a great difference to upgrading Dover.

I report some good news on litter. Following a report from Alan Sencicle I wrote to congratulate the manager of Morrisons for the much improved state of the area around their store. Alan along with a few other public spirited souls can be seen walking around Dover collecting litter.

One of our aims has been to see what may be done to get a decent pathway from Langdon Cliffs to the Castle via the Bleriot memorial. Our letters to KCC produced a result. The pathway across the A2 with KCC had been carefully signposted for walkers and it was suddenly discovered that it had been removed when the A2 was built back in the 70's. However this is surprisingly a safer way to walk than alongside the St Margaret's Road with its bridge across the A2. It's back to the drawing board!

Unsurprisingly with the subject street trees I am unable to report any progress with Kent Highways - they appear to have the funds to cut down but not to replant. Alan Lee our editor is now involved with the Society's efforts. Alan has become incensed by the way the trees in Cherry Tree Avenue have been ruined.

Terry Sutton and I attended the Heritage Consultative Meeting organised by DDC with considerable input from KCC. The aim is to have a strategy for how we safeguard our heritage and make it known to locals and to tourists. The richness of our heritage was emphasised and KCC are considering using the strategy for Dover as a model for other local authorities. My real concern is whether action will follow upon adoption of such a strategy.



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Dover's 21st Century L Three Times Mayor L

By Fr Peter Sherred

Whoever takes on the position of Mayor of Dover usually does about 250-300 engagements in a year, so it's a busy time and I think you know when you are going to be Mayor that it is going to be a full time job... vou have to work hard." So said Diane Smallwood upon taking office as the town's leading citizen for the third time in the seven year period between 2001-2008. Working hard in the interests of the town has been a feature of life for this 'triple decker' mayor who has carried out just under 1000 engagements as Mayor alone in her three years of office. She has carried out her civic duties with confidence, dignity and flair but also with considerable fortitude particularly in her third term discharging all her duties despite challenging health issues and refusing to abdicate any of her responsibilities. So who is this lady who continues to serve her town at both Town Council and District Council levels?

Born in Elvington in 1940, a daughter of Alan and Edna Sayer, Diane moved with her parents and sister Angela to Whitfield when she was four years old. She was educated at Waldershare, then Castlemount then at the Ursuline Convent School that used to be located in Salisbury Road and Park Avenue with sports fields in Castle Avenue. After school, aged 18, she attended South Kent College in Folkestone for two years to acquire her secretarial skills which enabled her to start her first

job at the National Coal Board where she worked in the typing pool. Married to her first husband in 1962 she left her job with the NCB when she became pregnant with her first child. Dominic, born in 1964, who lives in Calais currently and works on the Shuttle. Two more children were to follow. Jeanine in 1965 now married to Paul (King) and working as a financial consultant for Standard Life in Nottingham and Melissa in 1971 now married to Stephen (Shillito) also living Nottingham where she is a nurse practitioner in Accident and Emergency at Queens Medical. Diane is a grandmother to Ava and Oscar Melissa's children

Diane met her present husband Brian at Madisons Holiday Camp in St Margaret's in 1978 where she was then employed as a receptionist and where he was playing in the resident band. Brian has been a musician for nearly fifty years and was formerly part of the Rock and Roll Band 'The Blue Jean Boppers', Previously employed on the ferries Brian was made redundant and at the time of Diane's first Mayoral appointment in 2001 was working in the docks in Dover and acted as her escort when she undertook Mayoral duties. By the time of Diane's third Mayoral year in 2008 Brian had had a heart triple by-pass and suffered from lymphedema in his legs giving him difficulty in standing for long periods of time so he was unable to be her civic

escort at that stage but gave Diane 100% support at home. In more recent times he has given her much love and support particularly over the last two to three years as Diane has battled with ill health herself. They have been together for some 30 years.

Diane worked at Avos for some 15 years as secretary to the Works and Finance Directors but was made redundant in 1999 and then worked as a secretary for the Castle Street firm of solicitors Bradleys and for six years, and at the time of her first election as Mayor in 2001, for the well-known local solicitor and criminal practitioner, Hugh Roberts, based in Folkestone.

It was not until after her children had grown up and left home that Diane entered local politics, an event which was not entirely unexpected as her father, who had been a radio officer on British Rail ferries, had been keenly involved in the Union movement and had stood for the Labour Party himself. All her family are supporters of the Labour Party and Diane says "I walked into the Labour headquarters in Coombe Valley Road because I wanted to find out how things were going in Dover". Well, she certainly found herself thrown into local politics for within two months she was a candidate for the traditionally safe Conservative Castle Ward confronting, among others, the wellknown local character John Ullman, She promptly elected as Councillor and within six years she had reached the top of the town's civic ladder becoming Dover's leading citizen as Mayor for the first time in 2001-2002. Not only did Diane become involved with Town Council politics but she became an elected member of Dover District Council in 1997 as one representative of Town and Pier Ward following the death of former District Councillor Jackie Hood the wife of veteran Town and Pier Councillor Jim Hood. Boundary changes brought a different seat for Diane as she moved to Tower Hamlets Ward for the District Council but in 2011 she found herself as a successful candidate in St Radigund's Ward for the Town Council and in Priory and Elms Vale Ward for the District Council.

When interviewed by the local press upon her election as Mayor for the first time it was disclosed that while at school she was an enthusiastic athlete and, indeed, was the senior high jump champion of Kent aged 16. She was clearing only a matter of nine inches below the then world champion. At the time her grandfather was the licensee of the Royal Oak at Whitfield where he served for some 30 years and where soldiers from the Old Park Barracks used to drink. They planned to teach her specialist high jump skills of the Western Roll and the Straddle to improve further her high jump techniques. Alas it was not to be as the Suez Crisis of 1956 intervened and denied her the opportunity to train with the military in their gym and she was left wondering what may have been.

One of her first tasks as Mayor, within days of her appointment, was to unveil a portrait of one of her predecessors as Mayor - Michael Russell who was Mayor of Dover in 1755 and Agent Victualler of the Naval Victualling Yard at the Maison Dieu. He lived in Maison Dieu House, now the Town Council's offices, from where Diane

Mayors of the Cinque Ports



and all Dover's current Mayors operate. The portrait had been donated to Dover Museum by a descendant of the 18 century Mayor and is now to be found hanging in Maison Dieu House.

Her second year as Mayor 2002-2003 followed on from a successful first year in the post and in this she held the prestigious post of Speaker of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports and Two Antient Towns and Members Corporate discharging both roles with dignity and confidence. Diane was handed the role of Speaker by the Mayor of Hythe in a ceremony in the Stone Hall of Dover Town Hall after a service at St Mary's Church to give thanks for the life of the late Lord Warden. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Oueen Mother, at which the outgoing Chaplain to the Lord Warden, the Right Reverend 'Dick' Third, preached. Diane's second Mayoral term coincided with Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee and Diane led the procession of Cinque Port Mayors through the town in a September of 2002 ceremony in commemorating Speaker's Day. The procession was led by the band of The Duke of York's Royal Military School and the occasion was one of ceremony, pomp and pageantry. It was one of the proudest days of Diane's life – "it is such a privilege to be Speaker... there are only two in the country. The other is the Speaker of the House of Commons. I think it is very important we observe and honour our

traditions" she said at the time. Diane, in fact, paid a visit to the House of Commons and met the then Speaker, Michael Martin, who gave her a tour of his quarters in the Palace of Westminster and entertained her to tea.

Her third year as Mayor was a triumph for her personally for in addition to carrying out her Mayoral duties she found herself battling ill health which commenced in February 2008 just three months before she took over the Mayor's position once again. In the lead-up to her appointment she experienced acute fatigue, being hardly able to walk and the weekend before Mayor making she was taken to A & E in Canterbury where she underwent numerous tests and had to receive four blood transfusions only being discharged from hospital on the Monday before the Tuesday Mayor making. Despite increasing fatigue necessitating her retirement to bed on occasions she carried out all her Mayoral duties during her term of office. Later examinations revealed a cancerous tumour. In the spirit of the quote she made at the beginning of her year, reported earlier in this article, Diane worked very hard as Dover's leading representative despite her health

challenge. She fulfilled all her many engagements including some quite special or unusual ones. October for instance saw her in Calais as part of the 160th anniversary celebrations for the Calais lighthouse at the French port and leading a foot parade with participants carrying torches representing both the work of the lighthouse and the London Olympics in 2012 after which, in her desire to cement co-operation between the two ports, she attended talks in respect of the Bleriot centenary in 2009 and hosted a return visit by the Calais Mayor the following month the annual Remembrance Day commemorations in Dover. "In my inauguration speech at mayor making I stressed my desire for co-operative working... our co-operation is advancing well with Calais and not just on a social or twinning level". In March 2009 she was present in Margate for the Blessing of the Water Service with the Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateria and the Bishop of Dover and in the same month welcomed parties of Brownies, Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to the Town Council Offices to explain the workings of the Town Council. April saw her presiding at the memorial event in Dover for the Zeebrugge Raid in 1918 including the ringing of the Zeebrugge Bell at noon at the Maison Dieu which ceremony was attended by Belgian dignitaries. Diane returned the compliment by attending the Belgian memorial for the event in Zeebrugge itself. Mayday sunrise saw Diane on the seafront with Kent Invicta Morris dancers not merely as a spectator but participating complete with Mayoral chain!

Following her third year her health

deteriorated rapidly and by the end of September 2009 she was informed she was carrying a big aggressive tumour and her weight loss had taken her to 10 stone. She underwent a very long operation for the removal of the tumour followed by chemotherapy which brought with it potent side effects but Diane made great strides in recovery only to be advised following an in depth scan that the cancer had gone to her liver on both lobes with four spots. She was required to be hospitalised in London for a resection of her liver and in another significant operation four sections of her liver and her gall bladder were removed in November 2010. By early 2011 her blood count had risen and she was feeling very much better enabling her to enter the elections in May in which she was doubly successful.

Needless to record Diane carries with her many memories of her three terms as Mayor. Among the more memorable highlights were meeting the Queen Mother at Walmer Castle at Her Majesty's annual social for the Confederation of the Cinque Ports and subsequently attending Her Majesty's funeral in London. Among politicians she met were Margaret Thatcher and Edwina Currie at an event at Leeds Castle but most important were all the ordinary members of the public she encountered in the performance of her Mayoral duties whether it was at senior citizens' clubs, schools, societies or when opening shops. The 100th anniversary of the Duke of York's Royal Military School and being in charge of the Town Council were particular highlights as was meeting 87 year old M. Roger Gallant from Belgium when he paid one of his frequent visits to

Dover that he has undertaken over 75 years and who she showed round the Town Council offices and showed him the Civic regalia. Speakership of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports was a signal honour for Diane who enjoyed the

Confederation events during each of the three years she was Mayor, on one occasion sitting with eleven other Mayors on a floating pontoon as it made its way along the Royal Military Canal in Hythe on the occasion of the Hythe Venetian Fete.

When first elected a press report under the heading 'We meet the glamorous new Mayor observations -

Diane Smallwood - First Term as Mayor

of Dover' commented "Diane Smallwood is unusually glamorous for a mayor, she is tall blonde and sports shiny pink lip gloss... it makes a refreshing change". Looking back in addition to the press observations it can be recorded that she

> was a hard working dignified and immensely courageous first citizen easily recognised by one other prominent distinguishing feature her colourful glasses!

In a world where perhaps the 'ayes' often have it in Diane's case it was a question of the specs and the person behind them have had it - three times and didn't she do well?!

COWGATE CEMETERY

Jeremy Cope

 \mathbf{I} think we are close to the stage when an annual report is all that is required. We are on top of the maintenance, mowing and care work in a way that we have never been before - thanks to our volunteers and to those who have donated funds that enabled us to acquire the professional standard of equipment that is required.

However one snag - the District Council, ultimately responsible for the cemetery and whose work we do without charge, withdrew the free parking permits allowing us that facility on our working days. It's the CUTS, you understand, although they cost the Council nothing. My latest information is that we shall be receiving permits, much to my relief. Our volunteers should be valued by the community and parking permits are one such expression of this.

We are organising a bean feast for volunteers and their partners/pals. This promises to be a jolly occasion much in line with our working parties. By the way newcomers are always welcome. Would anyone interested please phone me on 01304 211348.

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DOVER TATTOO 2012

ALASDAIR HUTTON OBE TD ...the narrator of the Dover Tattoo

Alasdair Hutton is known as The Voice of the Tattoo to the millions of people who have heard him narrate some 600 individual tattoos from Edinburgh to Las Vegas and Brisbane.

He has written and narrated the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo since 1992 and many other tattoos around the United Kingdom and abroad in Australia, New Zealand, the United

States and even in the Netherlands.

He is also the voice of the Household Division's annual Beating Retreat ceremony on Horse Guards Parade in London as well as countless concerts and other events all over the United Kingdom.

He is looking forward to returning to Dover which he has visited as a soldier, a tourist and, he recalls with amusement, a driver's mate loading 20 tons of onions on a truck at Dover Docks

Alasdair served with the 15th (Scottish) Battalion The Parachute Regiment (TA), (later renamed the 15th (Scottish Volunteer) Battalion The Parachute Regiment), from 1964 to 1986 becoming Second in Command. Then he served with the Watchkeepers and Liaison Officers



Pool attached to the (UK) Div for another ten years. He wrote the short history of his Parachute Battalion in 1997. He was Honorary Colonel of the Lothian and Borders Battalion of the Army Cadet Force and has been a Member of the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland - the Royal Company of Archers - since 1988.

He has also written and narrated videos and

DVDs of major visitor attractions including Edinburgh, Stirling, Urquhart and Blair Castles, Iona and Melrose Abbeys and Abbotsbury in Dorset and narrated audio guides for Edinburgh Castle, Melrose and Jedburgh Abbeys, the new Museum of Scotland the European Parliament.

His early career was in broadcasting and journalism in Australia and the United Kingdom until he was elected as the first Member of the European Parliament for the South of Scotland in 1979 in which he served for ten years. He returned to politics as Councillor for his local town of Kelso in the Scottish Borders ten years ago and was Convener (Mayor) of the Council for nine years until he hung up his chain in May this year.



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FRONTLINE TOWN... FOREFRONT REMEMBRANCE...

... New Names for our Memorial?

Marilyn Stephenson-Knight

Since we began The Dover War Memorial Project on Remembrance Sunday 2005, it has been our great pleasure to visit and talk to many of the relatives and friends of our Fallen. One question that so many asked was why their loved one was not commemorated on the Town Memorial. There are a number of reasons for this; however as it was a source of grief and concern for the families, we asked the Town Council if the memorial could be updated with new names. New plaques had been added previously in 1934 and in 2000.

With great understanding the Town Council resolved in 2006 that they would consider updates every three years. The first of those updates occurred on Armistice Day 2009, and the new plaque is at the base of the memorial, at the back.

We have never seen published any criteria for inclusion on the Memorial, but from much research in archives, reports, and into our Fallen themselves, it is possible to discover guidelines.

One common misconception is that casualties may be commemorated only on one memorial. This has arisen owing to confusion between the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) records and other

types of memorials, such as the civic and the community. The CWGC, made up of six member countries, commemorate casualties only once, as its remit is to record and maintain their last resting places. Where there is no grave, the casualty will be commemorated on a cenotaph for the missing.

However, even the CWGC occasionally commemorates more than once. John Joseph Brimble, a pilot in the RAFVR, has two. Owing to the tragic circumstances of his death and the delays in recovery of his body, he is



Margate Memorial

© Simon Chambers

buried in two graves, at Sittingbourne and at Brookwood.

The Town Memorial is a civic memorial. such memorials are erected and maintained by local authorities. A third type of memorial are the community commemorations; these are created by such as schools, local groups. workplaces, clubs. and church congregations. A magnificent example of a community commemoration is the South Eastern and Chatham Railway memorial, at the former Marine Station. Several of the Fallen on our Town Memorial are commemorated there. including the oldest and youngest -Daniel Wyborn, 65, and Bertie Gilham, aged 15.

Others of our Fallen are commemorated on civic memorials elsewhere. Charles Laing, killed in action in 1915, is on the city memorial at Canterbury, while Walter Corteen, a bell-ringer at St Mary's, Dover, is remembered in his home county, Norfolk, at King's Lynn. Frank Balding is on the civic memorial at Louth in Lincolnshire - but the furthest we've yet found are Thomas Claringbould and Edward King, both commemorated on the Brant County Memorial in Ontario, Canada. They are rather pipped though by Charles Daynes, commemorated at River, whose name is inscribed on the Seddon District memorial in New Zealand.

Some of our casualties appear on several different memorials; Tommy Eaves, a much-loved master at St Martin's school, is on the school memorial. He's also commemorated as a former pupil at his

old schools of the Boys' Grammar and Deal Parochial, and at his teacher-training college, now in Plymouth. At the Deal and Walmer Memorial - the Victoria War Memorial Hospital - Tommy's name appears on the large Roll of Honour boards just inside the entrance.

More recent memorials commemorate some of our Fallen. Keith Gillman was a Battle of Britain pilot, renowned as the Face of the Few. He was lost over the channel at the age of just 19. His name was added to our Town Memorial in 2000. He was also commemorated for the millennium on the River parish memorial, near his home, and in 2005, the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, on the memorials at Capel-le-Ferne and the Thames Embankment. London. Keith is one of the many casualties to have roads named after them. Walter Tull is another; his Walter Tull Way is in Northampton, where he once played professional football.

Not all the casualties on our Town Memorial lost their lives in action or from wounds in the battlefield. Some died from illnesses attributable to their war service, such as Edward Gatehouse who contracted tuberculosis while in the Royal Navy. Others fell to the influenza pandemic, like Charles Wood, buried at Buckland.

Some were indeed unfortunate. Percy Maxted was killed by a lathe falling onto his head. He had hitched his hammock to it, hoping to get a good night's sleep in a warm workshop at Sheerness docks. John Darwall, was unpacking his cases

in a London hotel, having just come home on leave. The chambermaid found him clinging to the bedpost after he rang for help. His last words were, "I've shot myself accidentally. I forgot my pistol was loaded. Go and fetch a doctor."

Our casualties fell across the world, and are connected in various ways to our town. Not all of them had homes in Dover when they died. The names on our Town Memorial were collected in 1924 through advertising for nominations from individuals and by canvassing groups such as workplaces, schools, and churches. A pupil of Dover College between 1895 and 1900 was Arthur Levland Harrison, VC, who lost his life in the Zeebrugge Raid. Edward King, meanwhile, had emigrated to Canada with his family and was serving as a Corporal in the Central Ontario Regiment when he was killed in 1917. Iris, his widow, returned to Dover in 1920 with their children. She asked for Edward to be commemorated on the Town Memorial, as did Walter Tull's sisters, then living at River, request their brother, though Walter himself had never lived in Dover.

Also commemorated are people who died after the wars. Nelson Cork was killed while on service in Palestine in 1938; William Dixon lost his life serving in Ireland in 1920. Charles Vigor was said to have met his death in 1921 through gas poisoning. This was attributable to service, but Arthur Davis' illness was not. He had been discharged from service in 1915 as unfit. Called up in 1917 he was again rejected. This weighed heavily upon him, and before

he died in 1921 he requested a badge to show his fourteen months service in the Artillery.

The commemorations on civic and community memorials do not always correspond with people recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. For the Great War the CWGC collects only the information between 4th August 1914 and 31st August 1921. Walter Mills died in 1922, and is on our Town Memorial.

However, our Town Memorial does not record women, which the CWGC does. Equally, we have men on our Memorial who were not recorded by the CWGC. One, added to the CWGC records in 2009, is Cecil Sambrook, who died in 1917 from "gas poisoning" (his death was in fact from a service-caused illness). The Town Memorial itself is not infallible though. Remembered there is H R Anstrews: his surname was actually Andrews, Meanwhile, John Baker Saunders has the distinction of being the only casualty commemorated twice on the Memorial: under J Baker and J B Saunders.

Women and civilians are two significant groups that have not yet been commemorated on the Town Memorial. We have found so far two women who died while serving in military units; Margaret Care, in the WRNS, and Florence Johncock in QMAAC. Both succumbed to illness in 1918.

Several Dovorian Great War civilians died on war service; Sidney Holbourn was one of the three killed in the Great Faversham Munitions Explosion in 1916.

His mother asked for him to be commemorated but he was turned down as a civilian, even though Kitchener had said in 1914 that "they, in carrying out the great work of supplying munitions of war, are doing their duty for their King and Country, equally with those who have joined the Army for active service in the field".

The then Town Clerk had gathered the names of Great War civilian casualties in his memorial files, but the Town Memorial was erected in some haste and financial uncertainty and many names were omitted. Other civic memorials, such as Margate, do commemorate their Great War civilian casualties; they have ten victims of the Faversham explosion, and recorded too are eighteen people killed in raids, amongst them Baby Jack Dodman, just nine months old.

The only Great War civilian casualty remembered in Dover is little Francis Hall, aged 9 when he was killed in a raid while he was on his way to Sunday school. He is commemorated on a

plaque in the Dover Baptist church. The Charter of the CWGC does not permit them to record Great War civilian casualties; if they are not commemorated on civic or community memorials, our Great War civilians are completely forgotten.

Yet civilians were the fifth service, vital to war work on the home front and keeping "the Home Fires Burning". Underlining this, it is a very sad coincidence that Lena Gilbert Ford, who wrote the words to that popular patriotic song, should have become a Great War civilian casualty herself. She and her son Walter were killed by a raid on London in March 1918.

The next update to our Town Memorial is due this year; The Dover War Memorial Project has submitted two lists of names to the Town Council for their consideration. The names were requested by the family and friends of the Fallen since the last update in 2009, many of them relatives of the closest degree - a mother, sons, daughters, sisters. A number of them are now

elderly and infirm; poignantly, for one it was a dying wish.

"Gone but not Forgotten" are words we often see on headstones. Dover loses its children, but Dover never forgets. With its scheduled updates to our Memorial, we're proud to say that Dover, our Frontline Town, is at the Forefront of Remembrance.



Margate Great War Memorial

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PROGRAMME 2012

Guests are welcome at all meetings except the Annual General Meeting which is for members only.

You may pay on the night before the AGM and attend the meeting.

2012

APRIL 16

AGM

Monday 7.30

Speaker: Bob Hollingsbee: "Slides/Photographs of old Dover"

MAY 18

Sissinghurst and Scotney Castle

Friday £15.00

During the morning we will visit Sissinghurst world famous garden in the ruin of an Elizabethan house set in the middle of its own wood. I would recommend having lunch here in a quality restaurant. The seasonal food served will be from their own garden. After lunch on to Scotney where you can see the Old Castle and Moat. Take a spring walk; see the Chinese Bridge and Henry Moore Sculpture amongst many other items of interest. A visit to the wonderful Mansion House at the top of the hill is a must. A total entrance fee of £21.50 for non National Trust members payable on the day. NT members must bring their membership cards for free admission to both venues.

Pick-up points: Railway Bell 08.45; Hollis Motors 08.55; Frith Rd 09.00;

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Dover CT16 1SG. Tel: 01304 228129

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Pick-up points: Railway Bell 07.45; Hollis Motors 07.55; Frith Rd 08.00;

Brook House CP 08.10

To book contact: Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Castle Lea, Taswell Street,

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OCTOBER 22 Monday 7.30 Speakers: To be advised

NOVEMBER 19

Speakers: To be advised

Monday 7.30

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