

Memories of Dover

A Nostalgic Personal Perambulation.

Part Two - Cannon Street to Seafront

Peter Sherred

Before continuing my perambulation to the Seafront, which I started in the last issue, I would like to thank John Richards for providing additional information on Eddie Crush, whose shop I made reference to in Biggin Street. John informs me that Eddie Crush was a Kent cricketer, well remembered for dismissing Don Bradman in 1948 (which must have been some feat having regard to Bradman's record). Apparently, Eddie bowled swing and off-breaks and John recalls going into his shop to buy not only for himself but also for his Club, Alkham CC.

So, to Cannon Street and I recall among the shops on the LHS Goulden & Wind, another music, piano, television, and wireless store and then a real household name for shoes – Freeman, Hardy and Willis! On the RHS I recall a quality men's and women's clothes shop, the name of which may have been Alston's, as well as a greengrocers' and, right opposite St Mary's Church in what is now Wetherspoon's 'Eight Bells,' was another cinema (which may have been called The Plaza) together with the Metropole Bars and flats.

The Market Square was quite different to today's set up because, of course, traffic flowed through and round it. East Kent buses had a terminus stop near to what is now NatWest Bank. Other features in the Square included Worsfold and Hayward Auctioneers and Estate Agents, Lloyds Bank (where it remains) and on the corner with Church Street was Igglesden and Graves, restaurant, and bakers. Crossing the bottom of Castle Street and on the

corner with Market Square was a furniture Store called Flashmans. Walking from there towards the seafront one came across Elizabeth's Restaurant where the aroma of burnt coffee beans used to drift around the area – beautiful! The Top Hat (or Pelosi's) was another coffee bar (this one seemed to go through a regular name changing, Buttery One possibly? and is currently the Turkish restaurant Aspendos). Just beyond The Top Hat and what was, I believe, a former Post Office building in King Street was Walter and Son shoe shop (immediately opposite Queen Street) which had a reputation for Clark's shoes (quality!). Two other features of the Market Square remain but in modified form – The Elephant & Hind Pub (now renamed) and the listed frontage to what was once Market Hall, the indoor market, but now the façade of the Museum. The Indoor Market was an amazing place with so many diverse types and sizes of stalls and it also had an entrance off Queen Street as well as Market Square.

Of course, York Street dual carriageway did not exist and when that was developed, along its route between Snargate Street and Folkestone Road, much of old Dover disappeared including, among other things, the former St Mary's Junior School and an old pub called 'The Cause is Altered' – well it is now, it was demolished and the site of it is under the York Street carriageway! Moving from the Market Square towards the seafront there was no subway under Townwall Street dual carriageway because there was no Townwall Street dual carriageway! What



Hotel de France

there was in this area of King Street and Bench Street on the RHS was the 'Dover Tavern,' on the corner with Queen Street, and further along the extremely popular 'Shakespeare Bars and The Crypt' restaurant the vacant site of which, following its disastrous and, indeed, fatal fire, still exists. In this stretch of road, also on the RHS between Queen Street and Snargate Street, I recall a John Lukey off licence (there was also one immediately opposite the Town Hall) while on the LHS was a quaint shop of Dover's boot maker – Fred Greenstreet (who eventually moved to Victoria Crescent) and further along was Geerings, stationers and booksellers. There was also a store called Brewingtons as well as the Bench Street Post Office.

Located between Snargate Street and Northampton Street (how many remember

this street and its fate?) was The Hotel de France, Café de Paris, all of which was demolished and obliterated by the Townwall Street dual carriageway when it was created completely transforming this area as one approached the sea front. Dover Borough Council Town Clerk's Office was in



Telford's Change

New Bridge House on the LHS (it became famous for a TV series called 'Telford's Change' where a bank was seemingly located in this building). Whatever happened to Peter Barkworth and Hannah Gordon I wonder?

Townwall Street was not the large expanse of dual carriageway it is today but was a narrow street of small shops including Lawrence fishmongers, Woottons grocery store, Quedsted's butchers, Tersons Auction Mart, Ray Warner's photography shop (formerly Lambert Weston) and The Britannia Pub. At its top, on the corner with Bench Street, was Reillys' 'The Bench Street Newsagent' all now, sadly, consigned to history. And when one reached the seafront? Well, often one could witness an unusual feature – a steam train running along a track on the seaward side of the roadway. This goods train connected the businesses then to be found within the Eastern Docks (including Parker Pens) with the Western side of the harbour. Memory fails me as to where this train went after it reached the clocktower end of the Esplanade, but I suspect it must have crossed over the swing bridge towards Snargate Street and the old Dover Harbour Station. Others will, I am sure, remember.



Seafront Train