

during hostilities, accounting for 295 fatalities.

The first returning British prisoners of war passed through Dover on November 17th, 1918, when a party of eight hundred were met at the Admiralty pier by the Prince of Wales prior to moving on to a repatriation camp which had been formed at Northfall Meadow. During the months after the war various dignitaries passed through Dover, many occasioning much celebration

including, at different times, Marshal Foch, and Sir Douglas Haig, while on December 12th Vice Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, Naval Commander-in-Chief, Dover, and Commander of the Dover Patrol, was awarded the Honorary Freedom of the Borough as the town itself became one of three dispersal stations of the Eastern Command.

Compiled with sincere thanks to Kathleen Hollingsbee and Phil Eyden

Dover Wombles and the National Open Garden Scheme

Deborah Gasking

I created this group in about January or February this year after walking down to Shakespeare Beach with a couple of rubbish sacks and set to litter picking. Repeat the next week. Repeat the second week? Yes, but with a friend – it did not take long to realise that the task was greater than a single picker...

So, I took a friend, then another and so on. We needed a single point of contact, thus our Dover Wombles WhatsApp group. And one has now multiplied to about eighteen.

To date, we have picked up sixty-two sack loads of rubbish plus many bulk items

Not only do we litter pick but also get stuck into planting as well. Last year we got permission from Morrisons to plant alongside the full length of their store alongside Bridge Street. However, with the double whammy of Covid19 restrictions and almost drought-like conditions, the saplings (from The Woodland Trust) that we planted before lockdown, mostly withered, and died.

Fast pedalling forward to February this year, following the end of lockdown, we

began planting shrubs, plants, and bulbs, and scattering tough seeds – calendula, poppy forget-me-nots, and many others. Weeding takes a bit of a back step, but it does get done, and there are plenty of them as we have stirred up the soil a few times releasing those weed seeds into the light.

Mostly, all contributions come from our gardens plus donations from Morrisons and Transition Dover and are of the tough variety for the tough environment this area is for growing.

We have now seen many bees and other pollinating insects here. And I get a thrill each time I walk past (pulling out the occasional weed, as I go). This month could see the end of planting in this area. So, onto the next. We have identified a couple of other areas which would benefit from our TLC.

As a member of Transition Dover, I have recruited volunteers from their team, and we are all active in making Dover a fabulous place to live. We will be erecting a banner, part sponsored by Morrisons, soon to highlight our efforts.