

Latest Dover Society Plaque Castle Hill House

Alan Lee

At 4pm on Sunday 11th September 2022 at Castle Hill House a short ceremony took place to unveil our latest blue plaque, in recognition of the role, over the years, that the building has played in the history of Dover.

The wording on the plaque reads:

"CASTLE HILL HOUSE, GRADE II LISTED. BUILT 1760. RESIDENCE OF 3 GENERATIONS OF DOVER'S TOWN CLERKS (1868-1911): EDWARD KNOCKER, SIR EDWARD WOLLASTON KNOCKER, REGINALD KNOCKER, ALSO LORD JOHN JACOB ASTOR OF HEVER, MP FOR DOVER 1922-1945



Our Chairman Jenny Olpin and Martyn Webster, responsible for planning and organising the production of the plaque, gave short speeches before the plaque was unveiled by the Town Clerk, Alison Burton. Many of the 25 people present are Dover Society members.

The Dover Society would like to thank David Penn for his work on installing the plaque in its present position, for which he refused to accept any remuneration for his services. We are truly grateful.

Who deserves a Blue Plaque

Terry Sutton

Our Dover Society is considering a list of famous men and women whose lives deserve to be marked with a blue plaque. A number of plaques are already in place but the cost of making the plaques is increasing.

One of the characters under consideration recalls that Charles Lightoller, the liner Titanic's most senior officer to survive the 1912 disaster, lived at East Cliff, Dover.

A few years later Lightoller and his wife Sylvia were living at 8 East Cliff, Dover while he served in the Dover Patrol and played a part in the sinking of the Black Prince as a blockship at one of the entrances to Dover harbour.

Lightoller was a major witness in official

UK and American enquiries into the disaster in which more than 1,500 died as a consequence of the Titanic crashing into an iceberg. There are suggestions he might have held back some evidence in an effort to save other seafarers' jobs and the reputation of the White Star Line, the ship's owners.

Your executive committee is, of course, considering a number of people and places that could be honoured with a society plaque. My vote, without a great deal of backing, is a plaque to commemorate the birthplace, in the Woolcomber Street area, of Petty Officer Thomas Gould (the Royal Navy submariner) who, I believe, is the only Dover-born Dovorlian to be awarded the VC. He was also an Honorary Freeman of Dover.