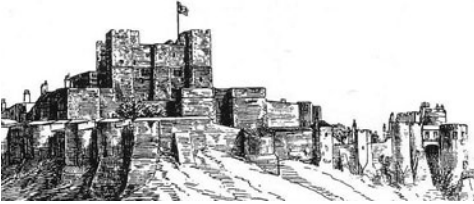




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L'antica Porta San Angelo - Foto di Emilia Trovini

We used to see films at a small local cinema in Italy, very like the delightful

one in Goal Lane. Paper tickets punched out of a machine and not spewed from a computer, coffee available further along the counter, old-fashioned seating. We all once had to exit halfway through the film, though; an earthquake hinted but then withdrew - I don't think that would happen in Dover town centre.

Something that is common to Dover and our village is a sad one; empty shops dot the passeggiata just like they do in Biggin Street. Locals in Italy told me that when they were young there was a greengrocer, a fresh fish shop, a cobbler, a newsagent's kiosk... all gone.

So, similar in some ways, in others not so much. I'm off to walk a dog now; I'm teaching her Italian.

Maxine Formaggi (Mrs Cheese!)

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say in who builds what in our lovely town, please let us know, we live here so should stand up and say something. It is not all about objection, we often support applications which are a good addition to the town of Dover. Come and talk to us at the next Dover Society, or contact Ann Burke or Jenny Olpin, our details are inside the front cover of this edition.

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(after his Audience) with his company to his Majesties own Presence Chamber for a sight and welcome of the faire Dutches de Chevereux.' After dinner, during which the king carved for his wife, the coaches were summoned for the bridal party to proceed to Canterbury – a slow and probably not very comfortable journey out of Dover along the London Road and up Lydden Hill – the cumbersome and heavy coaches slung on leather straps that made them sway and pitch alarmingly along the poorly maintained roads of the day; at Barham Downs, some five miles from Canterbury, the royal party made a stop – once again Phineas Pett records 'being come from the Towne of Dover, they came upon Barrome Downe, a spatious and goodly place, where were assembled all the English Nobilitie, and many Ladies of Honour and high place, which being ranckt according to the dignitie of their great places, and the knight Marshall with a careful respect keeping the vulgar from intruding or doing

them offence.' Pett continues 'From Barrome Downe the King and Queen came the night to the Citie of Canterburie, all the ways whereupon they rode being strewed with greene rushes, Roses, and the choicest flowers that could be gotten, and the trees loaden with people of all sorts, who with shouts and acclamations gave them continuall welcome.'

What a picture such an account paints for us, 395 years later! However, dark clouds were already looming on the horizon for King Charles and Queen Henrietta Maria – despite the shouts of praise and joyous acclamation on that memorable day; less than a generation later, English Society would be torn apart by horrendous civil war, pitching King against Parliament, father against son, family against family - culminating, ultimately, on a cold, penultimate January day in 1649, outside the Banqueting House in the palace of Whitehall ...

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the next instalment of funding is released. By and large, Dover Big Local has caught the spirit of the Big Local project and has demonstrated the generosity of local people to give their time and energies for the betterment of their communities. A good example of co-ordinated activity and achievement was brought about by the recent Covid pandemic when Together4Dover emerged and successfully provided support for many people who were challenged by the circumstances brought about by Covid, and Dover Big Local worked in partnership with Together4Dover to produce the positive outcomes that were seen during the last couple of difficult years.

In essence, the relevance of Dover Big Local is that it has acted as an enabling

organisation co-operating with partners for the benefit of the local community.

Dover Big Local Chair, Anita Lockett, said "Throughout its existence, Dover Big Local has been incredibly fortunate to be gifted the time and talents of its committee, partners and volunteers, without whom Dover would neither have received its funding, nor been able to award grants and directly deliver projects that have made a real difference to our town. We are developing plans so we can continue past the end of the Lottery funding and grow the membership of Dover Big Local so even more people can learn new skills, gain confidence, and enjoy living in our town. We hope everyone will support fundraising events, but most importantly keep telling us how we can help Dover be the place you love to live."

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educated at Dover College between 1915-1921 where he was a prefect and head of his house. From there he went on to St. John's College, Cambridge and received training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He then began work in a sanatorium but on his father's death in 1935 he returned to Dover to take over his father's practice. Many could remember with gratitude his care and attention to them in the 25 years which followed until illness at the age of fifty-seven forced him into early retirement six weeks before his death on 15th July 1960. His great loves were said to be his work and the Free Church. He was a member of the Salem Baptist Church (in Biggin Street) and in 1957 was president of the Free Church Council. This clearly had come down to him from his Lutheran Protestant grandfather. He was cremated at Barham on 17th July 1960. His widow was Joyce Fuller (later Percy), a member of the

Fuller family, whose business was plumber's and wallpaper merchants at 58 London Road (a stone's throw from the Koettlitz surgery), whom he married at the Salem Baptist Church on 27th April 1940.

And thus we come into the modern age. All detail in this account has been taken from publicly available sources, in particular the archives of the *Dover Express* and the two genealogical sites referred to at the outset. Any resulting errors from a very complex story therefore are unwitting and entirely my own for which I stand ready for apology and correction. I particularly wish to thank Ann and Gus Jones and Colin Dowdeswell for their help and support with this essay which I offer as a tribute to a remarkable family, in particular to the two Dover doctors who as it happens were my mother and her family's own practitioners, always spoken of in the highest esteem and merit.

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