

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 105
November 2022



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THE DOVER SOCIETY

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THE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Jenny Olpin, 19 Redlands Court, London Road, River, Dover, CT17 0TW
Tel: 01304 825011 Email: jennyolpin@gmail.com

VICE-CHAIR

Derek Leach OBE, 24 Riverdale, River, Dover CT17 0GX
Tel: 01304 823926 Email: derekriverdale@btinternet.com

HON. SECRETARY

Lesley Easton, 26 Victoria Street, Dover. CT17 0EL
Tel: 07823 556410 Email: ljel@cant.ac.uk

HON. TREASURER

Jane Jones, 58 Charlton Green, Dover. CT16 2PS
Tel: 07508 465237 Email: janejonespaperwork@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Ann Burke, 20 Victoria Street, Dover, CT17 0EL
Tel: 07454 128512 Email: annandjeff02@gmail.com

SUMMER SOCIAL SECRETARY

Rodney Stone, [ex officio] Bahia, 10 Lighthouse Road, St Margaret's Bay, Dover CT15 6EJ
Tel: 01304 852838 Email: randdstone29@gmail.com

WINTER SOCIAL SECRETARY

Lyn Smith, 2 Redlands Court, London Road, River, Dover, CT17 0TW
Tel: 01304 822815 Email: steve.lyn@uwclub.net

EDITOR

Alan Lee, 8 Cherry Tree Avenue, Dover CT16 2NL
Tel: 01304 213668 Email: Alan.lee1947@ntlworld.com

PRESS SECRETARY

Terry Sutton MBE, 17 Bewsbury Cross Lane, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3HB
Tel: 01304 820122 Email: terry.sutton@route56.co.uk

PLANNING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Acting Chairman Graham Margery, "Greenhead", 1A Byllan Road, River, Dover. CT17 0QL
Email: grahammargery@btinternet.com
Committee Tony Bones, Ann Burke, Charles Lynch, Tony Tugnutt, Mike Weston

ENVIRONMENT

Chair Janet Dagsys
Contact through Membership Secretary Committee James Benjafield, Pam Brivio, Jeremy Cope, Carol Duffield, Lesley Easton, Ben Elsey, Deborah Gasking, Derek Leach, Mike McFarnell, Alan Sencicle, Mary Simpson

ARCHIVIST

Vacant at present

ECOLOGICAL & OTHER PROJECTS

Deborah Gasking

PLAQUES

Martyn Webster Email: martyn.webster1@btopenworld.com

MINUTE SECRETARY

Yvonne Miller

WEB PAGE

William Parker-Gorman Email: William@thedoversociety.co.uk

ADVERTISING SECRETARY

Jean Marsh, 31 Millais Road, Dover CT16 2LW
Tel: 01304 206123 Email: jean.marsh7@outlook.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alan Sencicle, Email: alan.sencicle@btinternet.com
Pat Sherratt, Email: ttt.castle-lea@tiscali.co.uk

WEB SITE

<http://thedoversociety.co.uk>

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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, archaeology, 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 Dover Town Council, Guston Parish Council, Hougham Without Parish Council, Langdon Parish Council, Lydden Parish Council, River Parish Council, St Margarets at Cliffe Parish Council, Temple Ewell Parish Council and Whitfield Parish Council.

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

I will start by reminding all of the Christmas Festive Lunch on Sunday 4th December, booking forms are in the centre pages plus details are included in the programme inside the back cover. If anyone would like to donate a prize for the raffle, to be held at the lunch, could you please give to any member of the committee or pass on to Denise at the Society meeting in November.

Other events of interest:

Saturday 19th November and 17th December -The Dover Market - held at the Market Square from 10am to 3pm.

Wednesday 30th November - Dover Repair Café – held at the Biggin Hall from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Get your broken items repaired for free. Items that can be fixed include electricals, ceramics, clothing, bags, bikes and more. No need to book. Enjoy a hot drink and a slice of cake while you wait.

Saturday 3rd December - 'Dover's Winter Light Up' - Christmas lights switch on, plus much more from 1pm. Watch local press for more details

Monday 20th February 2023 - 'Quiz Night' - details inside the back cover. It will be run like an American supper, the same format as last year.

Through lack of numbers the Society had to cancel the last two outings. If you have any suggestions for future outings, contact Rodney Stone or any member of the executive committee. Details are inside the front cover.

Restoration works on the Maison Dieu, started 3rd October, and are due for completion in the summer of 2024. The Maison Dieu is the only civic commission by William Burges, and the only intact building in England still containing his decorative scheme, furniture, and fittings.

If any member has articles of local interest, either of a personal story or of a general nature then please contact the editor.

Alan Lee, Editor

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Tel: 01304 213668 Email: Alan.lee1947@ntlworld.com

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 106 will be Wednesday 1st February 2023. 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. Copy on computer disc or by e-mail is acceptable. Pictures via e-mail to be submitted in JPEG and not imbedded in the text of the article and must be in as high resolution as possible. Please ring 01304 213668 to discuss details.

Publication in the Newsletter does not imply the Society's agreement with any views expressed, nor does the Society accept responsibility for any statements made.

EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION TEAM

Editor:	Mr Alan Lee
Proof Readers:	Mr Terry Sutton, Ann B. Tomalak and John Morgan
Advertising Secretary:	Mrs J. Marsh
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* * * * *

DOVER GREETERS

Dover Greeters are volunteers greeting visitors to Dover. We love doing it and invite you to come and try it once!

Tel: 01304 206458

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 Dovorian to be awarded the VC. He was also an Honorary Freeman of Dover.

Trees

Deborah Gasking

Trees have provided us with our main sources of fuel and materials over millennia. Prior to the pyramids, they were the tallest free-standing structures on this planet. Trees are not just individual plants, they are complete eco systems – an island of biodiversity in its own right – the scaffold upon which nature's stage is built.

Trees are amazing works of nature that influence our everyday lives in every aspect, sometimes without our realising it. They create a living, changing backdrop that softens and greens our landscapes; making, cleaning and cooling the air that we breathe.

For example, a young oak – about 100 years old – can convert around nine kilograms of carbon dioxide into seven kilograms of oxygen per day, enough for about five people to breathe for that one day, whilst filtering out bacteria, fungal spores, dust and other harmful substances.

A mature tree can take up 200 to 400 litres (45–90 gallons) of water a day, reducing storm water run-off.

Today, we talk about hugging trees – a modern term, but this practice has been going on since ancient times. In many parts of the world it also became the custom to tie wreaths or ribbons to sacred trees, perhaps seeking mediation of a saint, or simply making a wish. And in some areas, people left money under a tree as an offering.

Woodlands have been the backdrop to many folk tales, legends and mysteries. Since medieval times, witches, fairies,



Yew Tree at St Andrews Churchyard, Buckland, Dover

sorcerers, gnomes, trolls, centaurs and unicorns were said to be discovered in their depths.



Cowgate Cemetery

If you venture into our Victorian sanctuary you will note there are a number of **yew trees** – many seeded from others: a multi-generational family.

Latin name: *Taxus Baccata*

Meaning: sorrow, immortality, an omen of doom

The yew is the most ancient tree species in Europe, living longer than any other tree. A yew spearhead was found in 1911 in Essex, thought to be about 450,000 years old – by far the oldest wooden implement ever found in the British Isles.

The yew can grow 10–20 metres (33–66 feet) tall, with thin, flaky, purple-tinged bark. Its cone contains a single seed which

develops into a red, sweet, juicy berry-like aril, often consumed (and thus dispersed) by birds. Their digestion of the aril weakens the seed's coat, encouraging it to sprout.

Squirrels and dormice also munch the aril, while Satin Beauty moth caterpillars feast on its leaves.

However, all yew parts, especially the leaves, are highly toxic to humans and can impact on heart, nerves and muscles.

According to a label on a yew tree at Kew Gardens in 1993, the Druids regarded yews as sacred and planted them close to their temples. As early Christians often built their churches on these consecrated sites, the association of yew trees with churchyards was perpetuated. Despite this, there is little, and probably no evidence to support this reason for planting them in churchyards, which has never been satisfactorily explained.

Intriguing Information:

- Used for turning, tool handles and longbows
- Popular hedging and topiary plant
- Sometimes grown near privies because its scent keeps insects away
- Once a prime choice for lutes
- Yew was said to enhance magical and psychic visions
- Has been associated with death, reincarnation and immortality
- Was linked to Norse runes
- Taxol (a chemical found in yew) has anti-cancer effects

Editor's note: Yews were needed for longbows in medieval times, but were known to be toxic. Traditionally, they were grown in graveyards, which had to be enclosed, to keep small children and farm animals away from them.



River Dour

Bordering our splendid river next to Bridge Street, a **weeping willow**, much loved for its graceful foliage, stands magnificently draping its curvaceous branches with its leaves brushing the water where it feeds and shelters native wildlife.

Latin name: *Salix*

Meaning: mourning, grief, sadness

Weeping willows originated in China, reaching Europe by 1730. There are about 400 species of willow: broad-leaved ones, sometimes called sallows, and narrow-leaved ones called osiers.

Willows thrive along bodies of water, as a mature tree can take up to 120 gallons of water per day during the hot summer months.

Growing along a bank of water is difficult, so the willow tree has developed massive, strong, spreading roots that are tough and large. This root system vigorously seeks out water, and also helps fix the sides of the water course, preventing bank erosion. Tiny yellow spring flowers produce male and female catkins on separate trees.



Mourning Cloak Butterfly

The Mourning Cloak butterfly and wasps are regular visitors, while wood ants march up and down willow trunks to collect aphid honeydew.

Willow branches are flexible:

- Used in wicker baskets.
- Some Welsh coracles had willow frameworks.
- The oldest known fishing net, found in Finland, dating to 8300BCE, was made from willow.

Intriguing Information:

- It is associated with fertility, mysticism and witchcraft
- Witches' brooms were said to be made from willow twigs
- Ancient healers made leaf and bark preparations as remedies for fever, pain and rheumatism

- The willow was associated with moon magic
- Celtic priests and priestesses sat in willow groves to gain inspiration or to prophesy, and ordinary folk made wishes by tying loose knots in the bendy willow shoots
- Native Americans used to eat its bark to cure headaches, and its flowers in a tea to cure toothache
- Claude Monet painted a series of Weeping Willow tree scenes to honour French soldiers who fell during WWI
- Willow is used for baseball and cricket bats; baskets; fish traps; fences; wattle and daub; three-dimensional sculptures; flutes; whistles; double base parts; paper; rope and wands
- Salicylic acid is extracted from the tree to make aspirin, an anti-inflammatory drug.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS **Ann Burke**

What a lovely summer we have had, lots of sun, too much at times! And good weather for most of the events in Dover at which we had stalls and a great recruitment team too. Even at the very wet Urban Fete, one person signed up before the team were completely washed away by the monsoon type rain. Our Newsletter is a great advert too, one couple read a copy they were given by a current member and liked it so much they joined and sent money for postage as they live quite a distance away. We have had quite a few join through the website too!

Well, quite a list of new members this time: Susan Brown, Dover. Mrs Veronica & Mr Nicholas Ward, Dover. Mr Ian & Mrs Mary

Herbert, Walton on Thames. Mr Adrian & Mrs Jacqui Evans, Dover. Mrs Williams, Dover. Mrs Judith Roberts, Market Harborough. Mrs Patricia Allan, Dover. Mr Michael Callow & Mrs Barbara Rickman-Callow, Guston. Mr Martyn Watson & Mrs Lynne-Marie Taylor, Martin Mill. Mrs Debbie Philpott, Temple Ewell. Mrs Jacqueline Axford, Whitfield. Mr Stuart McGowan & Ms Carol Cook, Dover. Mr Stephen & Mrs Suzie Evans, Dover and Mr Andrew Peal, Dover.

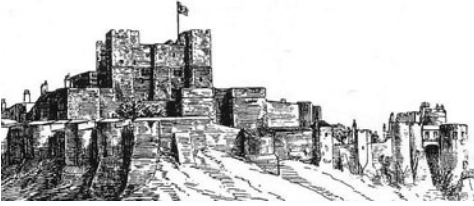
Sadly, we have heard of the passing away of Mr Barry Sheppard & Mrs V I Wratten, we send our condolences to their families and friends

We now number 503!



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‘Rotary Service’ A Former Dover Lifeboat Recalled

Peter Sherred

In the Rotary Year 1979 -1980, the Rotary Club of Dover hosted a lunch at the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club for many visiting Rotarians on the naming of a new Dover Lifeboat. On October 30, 1979, in her capacity as a patron of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and as the newly appointed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Two Antient Towns, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited Dover to name officially the town's recently arrived new lifeboat. In the ceremony at the Wellington Dock, following a service of dedication led by the Bishop of Dover, the Queen Mother was invited to name the lifeboat which she duly did – ‘Rotary Service.’

Based at Dover for nearly twenty years the provision of the boat was made possible by Rotarians throughout Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RGI) contributing £100,000 towards its cost. The Dover club undertook to co-ordinate the collection of the money from all Rotary Districts in the southeast. The Lifeboat Committee was headed by Captain Mike Bodiam then of Guston (President of the club 1985-1986) who arranged for the charter of the ‘MS Caesarea’, the last

passenger only vessel on the cross-Channel routes, on her last journey before being sold – this memorable event included some 900 Rotarians and their ladies and friends on the ship when she sailed from Folkestone. The final cheque (to complete Rotary's contribution to the total cost of the Lifeboat ‘Rotary Service’) was eventually handed over by the President of RGI in the Dover club's Diamond Jubilee year (1982-1983).

The new lifeboat was a prototype Thames Class craft built in 1973 by Brooke Marine, Lowestoft and operated by the RNLI. In attendance at the naming ceremony in Dover was the President of Rotary International Great Britain and Ireland, Mr D. Imrie Brown, together with members of Rotary Clubs out in force to witness the crowning ceremony of a project to which Rotary had provided a substantial part of the cost of the 50ft lifeboat given the RNLI Official Number (ON) 1031 and Operational Number 50-001. ‘Rotary Service,’ known as the Rotary lifeboat, had started trials at Falmouth in 1974 as a prototype and, following an evaluation of the trials, enhancements were made to the lifeboat, which was self-righting, by means of a watertight super-structure. While serving in Falmouth she was called out on service forty-five times and saved seventeen lives. For one of these occasions the coxswain was awarded a RNLI Bronze Medal for outstanding bravery and seamanship. She was relocated to Dover in 1978 and was involved in two further medal occasions including one in 1987 when acting coxswain Roy Couzens was awarded the RNLI Silver medal and six of the crew received bronze medals. By the



Dover Lifeboat ‘Rotary Service’

end of her service life 'Rotary Service' had launched four hundred and eleven times and saved one hundred and seventy-seven lives.

The Thames Class was one of two designs for a fast lifeboat produced in the early 1970's (the Arun Class was the other) six of which were ordered. In the event only two were completed and put into service as four were cancelled and replaced by Arun Class lifeboats which were slightly larger and faster lifeboats. 'Rotary Service's sister lifeboat was sold to New Zealand and 'Rotary Service' was on station at Dover for many years. In 1997 she was replaced by a brand-new Severn Class craft, 'City of London II' and was placed in the relief fleet. After a few months in the relief fleet, 'Rotary Service' was withdrawn from service, and she was sold with her last known service being as a pilot boat in Cornwall and then at a location in Ireland. The present whereabouts of 'Rotary Service' was explained by a Past President of Dover Rotary Club, David Hannent (now a member of Deal Club), at a meeting on August 11th when he explained the former lifeboat was currently owned by a local charity in Lowestoft which had intended preserving the craft and using her as a youth training vessel. He indicated the trust could not continue and the future of the craft was uncertain and could be sold for scrap. He felt it would be entirely appropriate if the boat was returned to Dover and preserved. Inquiries were ongoing with the current owners and the cost of transportation of the craft to Dover was being investigated. The boat was in an unfinished condition having been stripped out and was on the dockside in Lowestoft but had to be removed by November. The positive news was that the trust would like to see the vessel live again and, provided a good home could be found for it, it could return to Dover. Issues

relating to funding and storage needed to be addressed and refurbishment was possible.

When the Queen Mother named 'Rotary Service' in Dover she first thanked Rotary International for providing the lifeboat which would maintain the traditions of the RNLI, a service admired worldwide. She also thanked the Dover crew for their splendid record paying especial tribute to wives and families of the crews. The Duke of Atholl, Chairman of the RNLI was presented with the craft, on behalf of the 58,000 Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland (RBGI), by the President of RBGI who noted how well the Rotary motto 'Service above Self' applied to the lifeboat service. The Duke of Atholl then handed over the lifeboat to Captain Peter White, honorary secretary of Dover station, who expressed the honour and pride the station felt in receiving 'Rotary Service.' After the usual champagne christening of a new boat the Queen Mother boarded 'Rotary Service' at the invitation of Captain Peter White and clearly enjoyed herself as she spent a long time in the wheelhouse chatting to the crew. She was presented with a painting of the new lifeboat.

The Boulogne lifeboat and crew were present at the ceremony in Wellington Dock and a commemorative gold medal was presented by the President of the Boulogne lifeboat station Michel Boitard. A larger gold medal from the Societe Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer was presented by Admiral Picard-Destelan, Vice President of the French lifeboat service and a friend of the RNLI. Also on the day former celebrated Coxswain Arthur Liddon was presented with a service vellum. A Post Office commemorative cover illustrating the official naming of the lifeboat by H M the Queen Mother was issued bearing the date

of 30th October 1979 with a 10p stamp and bearing a Dover, Kent postmark.

October 30 1979 was a great day for Dover, for the RNLI and for all those who had



'Rotary Service' in Lowestoft facing an uncertain future

worked so hard to raise funds for the acquisition of the new lifeboat for Dover. It was an especial day for Rotary. It surely would be a fitting tribute to all the efforts to acquire the boat if it found its way back to Dover preserved as an interesting tourist attraction and as a memory of the way in which Rotary played such an important role in providing Dover with a new craft to help police the very busy Dover Strait. Society members should welcome and support David Hannett's efforts to achieve this result. It would be a worthy tangible permanent reminder of the work Rotary does in so many aspects of life locally. We should follow with interest developments regarding this special lifeboat in Dover's history and hope sponsors can be found to secure this piece of Dover's illustrious maritime history.

Environment Committee

Janet Dagys

The Environment Committee continues to meet at the Dover smART premises, next to the Yacht Club, on the second Monday of each month. We focus on the appearance of the town, cleanliness, litter, rights of way and tourism, acting when and where we can be effective and can make a positive difference. The Dover Society includes many rural areas around the town, and we would welcome new members from these areas to have their voice heard on these topics.

Ongoing areas of interest have been the Underpass & Cannon Street, the campaign to save the Discovery Centre theatre, signage in the town centre, conservation & the state of uninhabited buildings and the Dover Priory Station green corridor.

The Priory Station green corridor has been led by member Deborah Gasking with help

from the Dover Wombles. To date, a wildflower garden has been established close to the bicycle racks (a partnership of Dover District Council, Dover Wombles and the students at Dover Technical College) wooden planters for station platforms have been built by the students at Dover Technical College and placed and filled with flowers by the Dover Wombles and hanging baskets have been added to the platforms.

We continue to liaise with our colleagues and Dover Town Council 'Walkers are Welcome' promoter Pam Brivio on walks in the town, Chris Townend (Growth & Development, DDC), Diederik Smet (Destination Dover Manager) local Kent Police and other local town, district and KCC councillors. Sarah Bradley of DDC is to attend the next meeting of the Committee and will describe DDC's Litter Strategy.

Memories of Dover

A Nostalgic Personal Perambulation.

Part Five - Port and Town Miscellany

Peter Sherred

I am very grateful to those who have responded to my perambulation articles in such a positive way and for this edition I would particularly like to acknowledge some comments from Linda Livingstone regarding the last edition's article on transport and in particular the reference to the no 86 bus service between Tower Hamlets and Eastern Docks. As a resident of Douglas Road, Linda confirms the No. 86 bus service did go as far as Chamberlain Road. The bus travelled along South Road and along Noah's Ark Road and then to Chamberlain Road and the playing field, where she believes it turned in a half circle, reversing to a bus stop near No. 2 Chamberlain Road. On the journey to East Cliff the first bus from Tower Hamlets was at 6.00 am, scheduled to arrive at the East Cliff bus stop about 6.15 am, Linda remembers this as she worked at the Merry Dolphin restaurant during school holidays on the early shift and was given dispensation to start the shift 15 minutes late, as this was the first bus to arrive at East Cliff. Thank you, Linda, for this clarification and information. Regarding movements in the port in the 1950's and onwards referred to in the last edition of the Newsletter (No 104), two things came to mind subsequently. Firstly, where the 'Invicta' used to berth was alongside the Admiralty Pier and, more significantly, the Dover Marine Station, a terminus where continental travellers arrived on such trains as the 'Golden Arrow'. The station had four tracks and platforms and the picture shows the area of the central two platforms with electric trains stationed at the platforms. All the rail tracks have been infilled and this area now forms part of the Cruise Terminal. The Winter Festival, organised by Dover Harbour

Board and partners, is held on the area identified in the picture. The Marine Station also was the starting point of a sleeper train that travelled through the night to Stirling in Scotland. That was an important motorail service which linked up with another train from the West Country to provide a connected train service to Scotland.

Another memory was triggered by a photo of the Eastern Docks showing the two ro-ro berths which reminded me that until the 1960;s only the eastern entrance to the port was in use. The reason for this was the western entrance had been blocked by sunken ships firstly during World War One and then in World War Two. The remnants of three former vessels sunk in the harbour mouth (one in 1914 the other two in 1940 & 41 respectively) were not finally removed until 1963 when the western entrance was opened for the first time since 1940 and the 'Invicta' was the first, I believe, to sail through the entrance since the war's conclusion in 1945.

Dover has seen many notable buildings demolished since the 1950's. Saturday morning treat for children was to go to the cinema and Dover was well provided with cinemas after the war since television had not yet made an impact and people enjoyed visiting 'the flicks'. The Odeon was a large cinema on the left-hand side of London Road just before Cherry Tree Avenue on the right-hand side. I attended this cinema on many Saturday mornings but, eventually, it was sold and demolished, and the Territorial Army facilities were built on its site and are currently in use by cadet organisations.

While mentioning this cinema in Dover others included the Granada in Castle Street which became a night club and has since been demolished leaving a vacant site. The Essoldo cinema was in Cannon Street opposite St Mary's Church and the Gaumont cinema was in Biggin Street opposite Marks and Spencer, in the King's Hall, latterly the Bingo Hall.



Odeon Cinema

St Bartholomew's church was situated in a commanding position at the junction of London Road and Templar Street. This was closed, then demolished, and the site used for the construction of flats which currently exist. The lifespan of St Bartholomew's was relatively short in church terms – just about one hundred years following its consecration in 1879. It was a “high” church of the Anglo Catholic tradition and merged with Charlton parish in the 1970s. Many well-known priests were associated with St Bartholomew's including Bill Shergold, its last priest, who was known as the motor bike priest who had formed the 59 and the 69 motor bike clubs in London and Dover, respectively. Another church that was demolished post war was Christ Church on Folkestone Road nearly opposite Dover College. It too was replaced by flats.

Arguably the most infamous demolition of a substantial property occurred in 1988 when Brook House, formerly used as offices by

Dover Borough Council and Dover District Council, was demolished rapidly over a weekend with more than an element of subterfuge involved. The day before its demolition it had been listed apparently as a building of architectural and historic interest but by the time notification of this arrived at the District Council Offices they were closed and, conveniently, work of demolition began the next day over a weekend. It had been a grand looking building with a significant history, and I remember in the 1950s one approached it from Maison Dieu Road by a roadway that was bordered by tennis courts on either side. It was a significant feature and building in Dover and while it may possibly have been costly to repair and refurbish the manner of its demolition was a matter of concern. Its site now forms the location of the surface car and coach park by the Riverside Centre located to the left and behind Dover Health Centre on Maison Dieu Road. Its demise was a dramatic case of ‘now you see it, now you don't’. Who, precisely, was responsible for such officially sanctioned vandalism? Reflecting on the demolition of Brook House directed my attention to other Dover buildings that have been lost through demolition or had their nature radically changed. One such building was Webb's Hotel at Folkestone Road in Dover owned, if memory serves me right, by Terry and Jean Eleftheriades. The property was demolished in or about 2006 to be replaced by residential development.

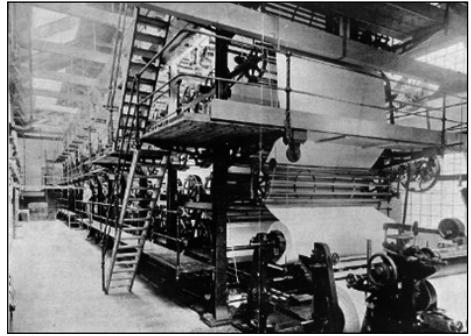
On the other side of Folkestone Road coming back towards the railway station was a very impressive building set in its own grounds, called Westmount. It had a chequered career being once a Junior School for Dover College and latterly owned by Kent County Council as an Adult Education Centre. It suffered a devastating fire in 2007 and thereafter deteriorated until it was eventually demolished. At one time it was thought it would be redeveloped for residential use

along with the former ambulance station adjoining. This large site would no doubt provide a good number of residential units.

In recent times residents of The Gateway had a grandstand view of the demolition of the disused Leisure Centre on the corner of Woolcomber Street and there is speculation as to the future use of the site which remains open and empty. But what connection has that site with Coombe Valley Road in the St Radigunds area of the town? Well, this area of land (on which the leisure centre and the adjoining car park had been situated) was once a thriving residential area with a roadway called Trevanion Street running through it and with another feature of the area – a gas works!

An original gas works for Dover was established in the early part of the 19th century to help light up the town. Gas was derived from burning coal handily brought ashore from the harbour to this nearby site. Decades later a gas works was established in Union Road, now Coombe Valley Road, and Trevanion Street works closed. I recall the large gas holders on the left-hand side of Coombe Valley Road, a hundred yards or so up from the railway bridge over the road. The enterprise covered a much larger area and involved buildings and facilities up to and including St Radigunds Road much of which site is now occupied by a builders' merchants and a heavy lorry parking area. The death knell for these facilities was the exploitation of natural gas from the North Sea. The plant, which following nationalisation in 1949 became part of the South Eastern Gas Board, was closed and demolished. Another feature of old Dover gone!

At the top end of town, by Buckland Bridge and running up Crabble Hill, was a large enterprise of international repute and a major employer of the town – the Wiggins



Wiggins Teape Paper Mill Courtesy Lorraine Sencicle

Teape paper mill, usefully located beside the River Dour. Celebrated for its quality paper watermarked 'Conqueror' as well as for paper for maps and charts the time came when it was decided production on this site would cease resulting in unemployment for some and raising the question as to what would happen to the site. Fortunately, the building fronting Crabble Hill avoided demolition and was gradually converted into flats with parking, a leisure facility and a Co-op store. A new block of flats was built beside the former Manager's house and the large area to the rear of the retained building, bordered by the footpath that runs from Buckland Bridge to Crabble Lane, is to be developed for mixed uses. The iconic clock tower has been preserved in the retained building. So a structure that once provided employment for people now provides much needed residential accommodation.

And to think I have not mentioned the fate of the pissoir shown on the Trevanion Street map and referred to as a urinal – handily placed outside both The White Horse pub and St James the Apostle church - a relief, no doubt, to those who frequented either. Why was it not listed and preserved I wonder? – not such a public convenience perhaps?

Rock for Rog 2

— Peter Sherred —

On Saturday 30th July this year a second commemoration in memory of former Dover Rotarian, Roger Marsden, took place on the King George V playing field in Temple Ewell, the village where Roger and his family lived. The event was organised by his widow and daughters plus some of his good friends, among them Alyson Grayson, Neil Beverton, Nick Charlesworth and Kit Keen. Unlike last year's weather this year the weather could not have been kinder for while much of the day was overcast it did not rain and it was not too hot. Consequently, many of the hundreds of people attending the event to pay tribute to Roger came equipped with chairs and picnic supplies and gazebos enabling them to pitch themselves for the duration of the event for which the gates opened at 12 noon.

There were several stalls providing food, drink, ice creams and the essential beer tent did a roaring trade throughout the event. Six bands participated, playing from 1.30pm for varying lengths of time until the event concluded as dusk descended about 9pm. Mobile toilet facilities were provided and first aid facilities were also included. Once again many of the villagers attended, which was a testament to the high regard in which Roger was held. One lucky person went away with a wheelbarrow full of drinks, which was the top prize in a raffle promoted through the day.



Sammie, Carrie, Carole, Jessie Marsden

A few members of the Rotary Club of Dover, together with several past members, attended the event and helped in the organisation of it to ensure public safety and security. Steve and Alyson Grayson of The Fox, the village pub, were instrumental in running the beer tent. Admission to the event was free but attendees were invited to donate whatever they wished as the intention of the event, apart from providing entertainment within the village, was to raise funds once again for Cancer Research UK in memory of Roger.

Roger's widow Carole and his daughters Carrie, Sammie and Jessie were present throughout the event, greeting all attendees and the many friends of Roger who supported the event. Carole and the family members were extremely grateful to all who attended and who had devoted time and sponsorship to help them produce the event. Many attending wore stylised T-shirts referring to the event and Roger by name. The family members were delighted once again at the success of the event which raised £5,671.15 for Cancer Research, exceeding last year's total.

The first commemoration was referred to in Society Newsletter 102 of November 2021. This second commemoration event was a wonderful tribute to former and much respected Rotarian Roger, who died of cancer in August 2020. It provided another opportunity to say thank you in practical terms to the prime mover and organiser of the Dover Music Festival which ran successfully between 2014 and 2017. Roger had not only been a valued member of the Rotary Club of Dover, but he had also taken a particular interest in Rotaract, a form of Rotary for younger people. A full report on Roger Marsden and what he did for the Dover community was included in Society Newsletter 100 of March 2021.

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Dover New Jersey, 300th Anniversary

Alan Lee

Dover, Morris County, New Jersey U.S.A., is situated on the Rockaway River and lies some 31 miles west of New York City. The 2020 census gives the population of Dover as 18,520 with nearly 70% identifying as Hispanic.

The Town is run by a board of eight Aldermen, elected from the four wards, and the present Mayor, Carolyn Blackman, elected from the voters of the town of Dover. The mayor is the Chief Executive and is known as the Alderman-at-Large and is elected every four years.

The town has been celebrating its tricentenary throughout 2022, with the townspeople being involved in the many planned events.

Today, Dover, New Jersey, is a vibrant community with a rich and wonderful history and an even more exciting future. Dover has an active community with monthly events and an ever-growing gathering of fantastic restaurants. The town is marketed as a hidden gem that's been polished to a sheen. There is easy train access directly to and from New York, only 31 miles away.



Dover New Jersey 84th Dover Days Festival 2022

Until 2006 there also existed the Township of Dover, established 1767. Its name was then changed to the Township of Toms River, Ocean County, New Jersey.

Important Dates in Toms River Township:

June 24th, 1767: Chartered by Act of the Colonial Legislature

March 24th, 1782: Village of Toms River attacked and burned by the British
1782 -1783: Revolutionary War peace talks in Paris delayed due to British attack on Toms River

1850: Ocean County established; Dover Township chosen as County seat

1954: Garden State Parkway opened; Dover Township divided into eastern and western parts as a result

1990: Dover Township census population reaches 76,371

2000: Dover Township census population reaches 89,706

2006: Dover Township name changed to Toms River Township

Originally Henry Hudson, in his ship *The Half Moon*, explored the Hudson River, Manhattan Island and the Jersey shore. The Dutch then claimed the territory that he had explored. In 1613 they founded a trading post on Manhattan Island and named it New Amsterdam and called the surrounding area New Netherland.

In 1620 the *Mayflower* landed about 100 people ashore. Many of them were members of the English Separatist Church, later to be referred as the Pilgrims. They named their settlement Plymouth. In 1614 Captain John Smith had named the surrounding countryside New England. This now consists of six states, with Plymouth being part of Massachusetts.

By 1643 the Dutch were having trouble with the Native Indian tribes and on 25th February of that year Dutch soldiers tortured and murdered Lenape men, women and children at Pavonia. Then on 1st October a force of United Native Indian Tribes retaliated by attacking Pavonia and burnt most of the homesteads to the ground. By 1655 the Dutch had brought New Sweden under their control. but the Peach Tree War erupted and on the 15th September 1655 about 500 Susquehannocks, New Sweden's allies, attacked Pavonia (now part of Philadelphia) killing over 100 settlers, Hoboken (across the river from Manhattan) and Staten Island (now a borough of New York).

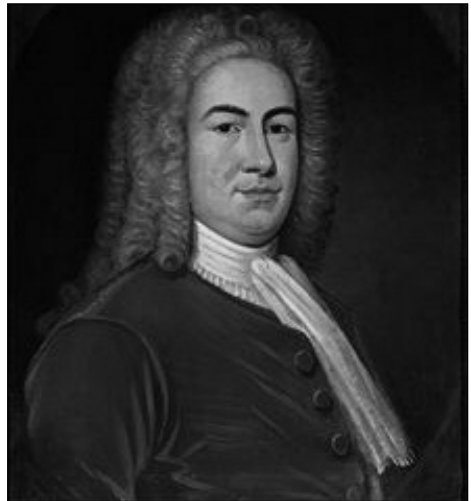
The Dutch retained control of New Netherland and New Jersey until 1664. King Charles II's brother James, Duke of York, then took over the area. He was president of The Royal African Company – slave traders – when it had been chartered in 1660.

The original inhabitants of New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic region were the totemic tribes of Lenni Lenape Indians. The Lenape had three clans (or phratries) the Turtle, Turkey and the Wolf. Eventually subjugated by the Iroquois Indians of New York State, their warriors were downgraded to the status of “women.” During the Indian Wars, 1755, Sir William Johnson restored them to their fighting status of “men”. Many iron arrowheads have been found in the Dover area. Iron was known by the Indians as the black stone or heavy stone.

In 1702 East and West New Jersey were reunited as one royal colony by Queen Anne (1665-1714), run by a governor and a twelve-member council appointed by the crown. The first Royal Governor she

appointed was her cousin Edward Hyde, Viscount Cornbury, Until 1738 the provinces of New Jersey and New York shared a governor.

The founding of Dover can be traced back to 1713 when land, which includes the present-day Dover, was purchased from the Native Americans by Joseph Latham and his wife Jane. On 31st May 1722 they sold 522 acres to John Jackson who settled on the east side of the property at Granny's Brook and built himself a log cabin, becoming the first settler and founder of Dover. Jackson built the second forge in New Jersey at Jacksons Brook, where Singleton's silk mill stands today. There he established Jackson's Forge to process iron ore which was plentiful in the area. At the time, the Governor was William Burnett, a godson of William of Orange and King George I and a British civil servant and colonial administrator.



Colonial Administrator Governor William Burnett

Until 1739 Dover was in Hunterdon County, but it then become part of Morris County, named after the new governor.

In 1750 an Act of the English Parliament forbade the colonists to set up rolling mills to produce iron goods. They had to ship the iron to England where the goods were processed and then sent back to America to be sold at high prices. The colonists did however continue to produce iron goods in secret.

In 1753 John Jackson was forced to sell his land and property at a "Sheriffs Sale" and he moved to West Virginia, where the town of Jackson was named after him.

It is unclear how Dover, New Jersey gained its name, but it is thought that it may have come from Moses Hurd, the first associate of John Jackson who, it is said, came from Dover, New Hampshire.

The exact date of when the town was known as Dover is uncertain, but the name "Dover" has been found in an old account book from 1794-99 with a reference to the "Dover Store" in an entry dated January 13th 1798. The book also lists 173 persons with an account living in Dover or the close vicinity. It was also noted that business had to be conducted in English money, pounds, shillings and pence.

Sometime prior to this the town was also known as "Old Tye", why it is not known. The following has however been put forward, in 1776, Gen. Winds (then Lieutenant-Colonel) and many men from this part of New Jersey were at Ticonderoga, New York. Among them was one Joseph Tuttle, who kept a diary, in which he constantly refers to Ticonderoga as "Tie." On October 11th 1776, he writes, "Col. Winds made application to go home, but no success by reason of the senior officers devilish lies told to the General; the old Col. is shamefully abused and belied." On November 5th and 6th, he

notes that Col. Winds got an order to "be off" and left Ticonderoga with 105 men of our Battalion, some say with scandal, but Col. Winds says with honour. On the basis of such memoranda, we may venture a guess. Some old soldier, returning from this expedition, may have referred to his experiences so frequently or in such a way as to gain the nickname "Old Tye" and if he lived here, as Gen. Winds did, the name may have passed over to this locality. Perhaps both names, Old Tye and Dover were synchronous for a while, and Dover "won out."

At this time Dover continued to grow. Canfield and Losey purchased the iron works and added mills, a nail factory and a dwelling house for Mr Losey, who lived in Dover. The house also served as the "Dover Store" and the towns first known post office. Mr Losey, the postmaster, was the first person to successfully cultivate the tomato in the town.

At the end of the eighteenth century, it is said that Dover was full of infidelity and wickedness. Standards were low after the American Revolutionary War 1775-83 (American War of Independence), but that applied to much of the country.

By 1810 the town itself had 10 to 15 dwellings. A fourth of July celebration was held on Morris Street in 1823, a sort of picnic in the woods with speeches and singing.

Two years later The Morris Canal and Banking Company started digging out the Dover Canal. This reached Newark in 1831 and was fully completed in 1836. The first canal boat *The Dover of Dover*, made its maiden trip commanded by Captain Byram Pruden, setting off from the Freight House on the canal basin.

In 1816 the first Sunday School was organised by the Rev. Barnabas King of Rockaway.

1826 - Blackwell & McFarlan had the village of Dover incorporated.

1827 - Dover and the vicinity now had the National Union Bank and a number of new stores.

1829 - Complaints about the educational shortcomings of the time led to an Act of Legislature to establish schools and introduce much-needed reforms. Too many of the haphazard teachers of the country schools were addicted to intoxicating beverages, with sad results in the schoolroom. "A drunken teacher has been known to 'wale' a boy until the iron ferrule of his cane was embedded in the flesh of the boy's back, as I have heard from one who saw it." (The first law providing for public schools was in 1693).

By the mid 1830's the population had risen to just under 400 with many more stores, the bank, two academies, 30 dwellings, an iron works, Sunday school with 150 scholars and 28 teachers. There were The First Presbyterian Church of Dover, the first Methodist Episcopal Church and a Methodist church. The stagecoach arrived from Newark three times a week and a stagecoach ran to Morristown. The Sons of Temperance was founded by Mr Sugar and their library became Dover's first public library. Dover also became the banner town for temperance in New Jersey.

Dover was incorporated as a town in 1831 and formed as part of Randolph township. In 1869 it increased in size to 1,100 acres and in 1871 the town limits enlarged and on 5th March 1896 it became fully independent. On 7th May 1896 Dover was

reincorporated as a city. It regained its status as a town on 21st March 1899, after the referendum that approved the change to a city was invalidated by a court ruling.

On Monday 31st July 1848 the Morris and Essex Railway opened in Dover with the first train to Morristown offering a free ride.

By 1850 the population was 700 and a railway station had been established.

1861 and the American Civil War saw the boys and girls of Halls School make and raise a school flag. The Memorial Day services were held every year under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic and bear witness to the part that Dover played in the struggle to preserve the Union and the Abolition of Slavery.

In 1873 the Dover Fire Department was organised.

The nineteenth century Dover is seen as an industrial town with its prosperity dependent on the mines and the manufacturing of iron.

Local inventors included Joshua H Butterworth, a Scotsman, who made patent locks and invented a rivet machine. He had a little shop where he made and repaired clocks and watches. He invented a shuttle for a sewing machine. He is also said to be the father of modern bank combination locks. Two of his specimens still in existence today require five or six keys to operate them.

In 1922 at the bi-centenary there appeared "1722 - The Dover Primer - 1922." *Of Blessed Memory is he who knows his Dover A, B, C.* This lists some 50 names and facts connected with the town over 200 years.

From Via to Dover

Maxine Formaggi (Mrs Cheese!)

(London-Ripi e la Via del Petrolio, Italy-Widred Road)

Well! here I am. In 2016, after twelve years away from England, I moved back. But not to my native London; to Dover, in Tower Hamlets. I can walk to the sea in fifteen minutes, instead of an hour and a half in the car across mountains. I walk everywhere, actually, instead of having to drive to buy even a loaf of bread. I used to live in Italy, so there's a big difference to my life – and yet a lot of similarities, because of course Dover had visitors from that peninsular two thousand years ago, welcomed or not; the Romans.

They got everywhere, didn't they? Dover has a pub called the *Roman Quay*, from when the river was wide and powerful. There's *The Roman Painted House*, where the remains of a very posh hotel for officers and VIPs to reside in luxury (with much plainer T&Cs for the squaddies in their barracks) can still be seen. What was the Roman baths quietly under York Street; what a shame it too isn't revealed and appreciated. London Road would have taken the Roman army straight to the city and even greater dominion over Albion.

History is all around you in Dover, from successful invaders like Julius Caesar to failed ones like Napoleon and Hitler. The old maritime station, where the famous left the boat train to embark for France in all those years before the port and its ferries and the Chunnel, saw Agatha Christie, Bogart and Bacall, amongst many. I can imagine those three on the same journey, with Agatha having a great idea for another crime novel about a Hollywood star being bumped off between Dover and Calais. Then there's Matthew Arnold on

his honeymoon, looking out at the sea and composing poetry – Matthew, stop, your bride awaits!

Another similarity is the friendliness of most people in Dover. People in our village in Italy were very friendly too; many knew each other on a daily basis. Names often recur through the generations in all communities – I don't know which ones in Dover are like that, but I bet there are some. Italian surnames can be foods (as is mine, see translation below). We knew of a Signora Meloni; Mrs Melons. A solicitor in our nearest town was called Carlo Lasagne. Some were oddly famous; an Italian politician was called Roberto Speranza – literally Bob Hope. Others were really weird: a book I read credited some research to a Dottorressa Feces (I'm not translating that one).

Dover is all hills behind the renowned cliffs, like gigantic waves from the Channel that became petrified millions of years ago. Our Italian village was just as up and down, with a very steep walk to the centre and a swoopy descent home.

And food? I'm sorry, but I can't draw any comparisons there. Of course, you can get a decent Chinese meal in Dover, or an Indian one, a Turkish or Spanish one – and great fish and chips. But some delicious antipasti (appetizers), big bowls of tasty homemade pasta, homemade bread, salad, a litre of local wine and coffee for less than £18.00 for two? I don't think so. Not Dover's fault of course, it's the weather and the duty levied on alcohol here.



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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The Dover Society Festive Lunch and Entertainment Sunday 4th December 2022

At The Marina Hotel, Dover Waterfront, CT17 9BP

Price £27.95 to include arrival drink, three course meal, tea, or coffee and entertainment. Wine or other drinks may be ordered and purchased at the table. The lunchtime entertainment will be clarified in the November newsletter. Arrival drinks will be available from 12.30 pm Lunch will begin promptly at 1 pm

Please select from the following menu

Arrival

**Drink: Bucks Fizz
Fruit Juice**

Starter: Broccoli & Stilton Soup with sourdough croutons

Prawn Cocktail with sauce Marie rose, brown bread and butter, fresh lemon

Roast Beetroot & Goats Cheese Salad with candied walnuts, merlot vinegar, seasonal leaves

Main: Traditional Roasted Turkey with all the trimmings, seasonal vegetables and cranberry sauce

Roasted Beef Sirloin with Rosemary with roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables, Yorkshire pudding

Pan Fried Trout À La Forestière served with new potatoes, spinach and grilled mushrooms

Gnocchi Pomodoro (V/VE) served with tomatoes & grilled mushrooms

Dessert: Traditional Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce

Dark Chocolate Mousse with Crème Chantilly and hazelnut nougatine

Apple & Almond Crumble with vanilla ice cream

To book your place(s), please complete the form below and return it together with your cheque made payable to THE DOVER SOCIETY to the Social Secretary, Mrs. Lyn Smith, 2 Redlands Court, London Road, River, Dover CT17 0TW together with payment cheque. If paying by BACS the details are: The Dover Society, account no. 80864803, Barclays Bank Dover, sort code 20-02-62, giving your name and FL as reference. If you require a table for more than eight people, then please contact Lyn Smith The form can also be returned by email to steve.lyn@uwclub.net

Dover Society Festive Lunch – Sunday 4th December 2022 £27.95 per person

Name:

Address:

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Please select for each person, your arrival drink and choice of menu

Name(s)	Arrival Drink	Starter	Main	Dessert
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The Changing Face of Dover's Market Square

Terry Sutton

The shape and design of Dover's Market Square has changed once again, as it has so many times over the centuries. I wonder what those who were merry-making in the Square 800 years ago, around the St Martin's cross, would think of today's water-spray additions.

The Square, or the Market Place as it was once called, has always been the hub of the Dover community in good times and bad times. When Dover celebrated national victories it was to the Square the people headed. When times were bad it was in the Square where the unemployed demonstrated their anger.

But the history of the Square goes back much further, to the time when (it is believed) the river Dour flowed through the Square to the sea. To the era when Roman shallow-bottomed ships berthed in and around the Square on the banks of which they built their villas, bath houses and fortifications.

It was here where in 1066 the conquering Norman troops burnt down the town and its ancient churches, only to be ordered by their leader William to build the magnificent replacement of St Martin-le-Grand, the ruins of which remain.

The years on rolled until, at one stage, parts of the Market Place became St Martin's churchyard and it was around, or near, the tombs that the annual St Martin's Fair was held. It was at this annual gathering when labourers from the town and surrounding countryside arrived to hire their labour to an employer for the months ahead. The Market Square became Dover's early Labour Exchange!

This annual St Martin's Day of celebration for local people was legally established by royal grant around 1160 by Henry II. Originally it was a religious festival but as time went by general merry-making took over with people dancing around the central cross provided in honour of St Martin (Dover's patron saint). The condition of the cross gradually deteriorated and documents indicate it was destroyed during the War of the Roses.

When in 1540, during Henry VIII's dissolution of monasteries, the huge church of St Martin-le Grand was dismantled, Dover Corporation, not slow to act, moved in and without any real authority claimed possession of the whole area which then grew into the Market Place and now the Market Square. Around 1605 Dover councillors decided to build a new Guildhall in the Square, replacing their existing meeting place then situated in King Street (just off the Market Square).

A few yards from the new Guildhall was Dover's place of punishment for those who broke the law. For many years here were the stocks, pillory, cage and whipping posts. The site of these instruments of punishment is now marked by a blue plaque provided by The Dover Society.

Old documents tell of the punishment handed out to the wrong doers. Cut purse Richard Shoveler was nailed to the pillory by his ear, given a knife and told he could go free once he had cut off his own ear. A poor old lady was in the stocks for cooking meat on a religious abstinence day. A younger woman was tied to the back of a cart and whipped out of town for alleged sexual activities!

Monastic Life in Dover Ends

— Tim Boyton-Adams —

My final dip into G.H. Cook's wonderful collection of letters to Thomas Cromwell, entitled simply *Letters to Cromwell* (John Baker Ltd, London, 1965), includes one from a highly respected cleric and royal servant, Thomas Bedyll (d.1537). The date of his birth is not recorded, but on 5 November 1508 he took the degree Bachelor of Civil Law (or as Bedyll would have known it *Baccalaureus Civilis Legis*) at New College, Oxford. In 1518 he was a canon of Lincoln Cathedral, then rector of Bocking, Essex in 1522, Archdeacon of London in 1533-34, Archdeacon of Cornwall in 1536, as well as a canon of St. Paul's, York Minster, Wells and Chichester Cathedrals. His royal service saw him carry out the duties of chaplain to Henry VIII and clerk of the Privy Council – the latter consequently saw him working on the king's separation from the authority of Rome in 1534.

As if this were not enough, Bedyll was also secretary to William Warham, Archbishop of



Archbishop of Canterbury 1503 to 1532
William Warham, by Hans Holbein the Younger

Canterbury from 1520 until the latter's death in 1532, at which point Henry VIII commissioned him to seek the advice of learned doctors at both Oxford and Cambridge over the validity of the king's marriage to Catherine of Aragon – for which a Papal dispensation had been given by Pope Julius II in 1509. When Archbishop Thomas Cranmer pronounced the marriage null and void at Dunstable Priory in 1534, Bedyll was at his side. His final years saw him travelling in the service of Thomas Cromwell, securing oaths from the monks and nuns of religious houses over the king's Supremacy of the English Church. His legal background also saw him involved in the trials for treason of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More in 1535, following their refusal to take the oath. Bedyll's death is noted in a letter from Richard Cromwell to his uncle Thomas on the 5 September, 1537.

Despite the high profile that Bedyll enjoyed, his approach to monastic visitations appears to have been quite sensitive and supportive when the need arose – unlike some of his fellow commissioners, such as Dr Richard Layton. Bedyll can be found praising the inmates of some of the religious houses that he visited, including the priory of the Blessed Virgin and St. Martin of the New Work, Dover, for example. Despite holding views on ecclesiastical policy and religious reform similar to Thomas Cromwell and Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, Bedyll could be quite conservative at times.

In October, 1535, Bedyll could be found in East Kent taking the surrender of monastic houses in Folkestone, Dover and Langdon. The following letter to Cromwell is of some interest in this respect, which I include here in full – though the spelling has been modernised:

'Right worshipful sir, it may [please] you to understand, that we received your letter this present Tuesday night, about 7 of the clock, by the hands of John Antony your servant, advertising you that before the receipt thereof we have been at the monasteries of Langdon, Dover, and Folkestone, and have taken a clear surrender of every of the said monasteries under their convent seals, being also recognised in their chapter houses, according to your will and commandment, whereupon divers tenants belonging to the said monasteries openly attorned unto the king's grace.

'We have received into your custody the convent seals of the said monasteries, and have in like manner received all the evidence belonging to the monasteries of Langdon and Folkestone, and have likewise received part of the evidence of Dover, such as we thought most expedient, and the residue we have put into a sure chest under a lock, whereof we have the key in our custody.'

'We have also left the canons and monks still in their houses, without any clear discharge of them, but have put them at their liberty and choice whether they will abide there until the king's grace's pleasure be further known, or else to go from thence to their friends, whereof the most part desire to have capacities, and some assigned over to other places of religion. Which monks and canons at the time of the receipt of your letter, as we trust and think, are remaining still in their houses.'

'Advertising your mastership further of the estate of the said monasteries, wherein as yet we take no inventories, because the inventories were taken already, as your mastership knows.'

'First, the house of Langdon is sore in decay, and in no manner of grain or other victuals for the relief of the house. The abbot thereof,

as he is reported, a very unthrifty evil husband and of ill rule, and his convent very ignorant and poor.'

'The house of Dover is a goodly house and well repaired in all places, as far as we could perceive; and that the prior, as it was reported unto us, found the house at his first coming thither indented in £920, and hath reduced and brought that to £100, as it is said, of whose now case divers of the honest inhabitants of Dover show themselves very sorry.'

'The house of Folkestone is a little house, well repaired, and the prior a very honest person, and a very good husband, and no less beloved amongst his neighbours.'

'We have consulted upon your letter that Henry Polsted, John Antony, and Antony Ager shall accomplish the same in all things with all convenient speed. And thus the Holy Ghost continue you in good health [and] welfare. Written at Canterbury, the 16th day of November.

Your own, Thomas Bedyll
Your servant, Henry Polsted
Your servant, John Antony.'

An interesting account, I think you'll agree. The revenue of the priory at Dover at the time of Bedyll's visit was £170 clear and that of Folkestone, where there were but two monks, was a mere £41. On the very day that Bedyll wrote his letter to Cromwell, Dover Priory was surrendered by Prior John Lambert of Folkestone, who received a pension of £20 per annum, and eight monks. The monks were dispersed after the surrender, two of them making their way to Canterbury Cathedral Priory to join the community there. In January 1536, the master of the Maison Dieu went to the dissolved priory to see what order it was in and found that it had been ransacked. Thus ended monastic life in Dover.

Why Planning?

Ann Burke

This is a most important voice for Dover, how many times have we heard the term 'another HMO (House of Multiple Occupation) dumped on Dover'? You can make a difference to this, we are listened to by DDC, as we are a non-political organisation with a real care for our town. The Committee meets once a month and meetings are not long at all. If you want a

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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B.O.O.K R.E.V.I.E.W

Dover's Hidden Fortress

By John Peverley

Reviewed by Alan Lee

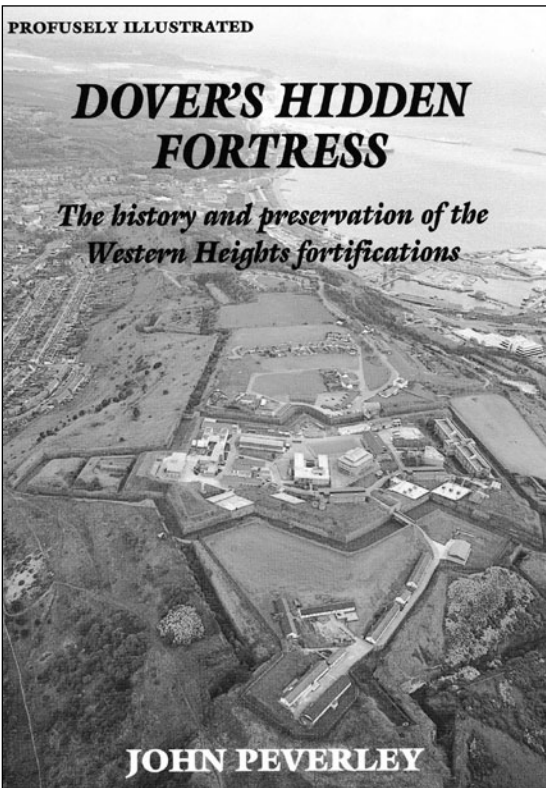
First published by the Dover Society in 1996 this publication has stood the test of time. The idea for this booklet arose from a talk given by John Peverley at the Dover Society Annual General Meeting on 8th April 1991. John had informed the audience of his deep interest and involvement in the Western Heights

Napoleonic fortifications and their preservation.

The heights, first fortified in 1779, mainly in the form of simple earthworks along with cannons and were considered essential for this country's defence against Napoleon Bonaparte. In the end the Western Heights were to become the largest and strongest fortifications in the country.

Professionally researched, all aspects of the fortifications are covered in some detail including the Grand Shaft, Drop Redoubt, Citadel, the Bastions and the 'bomb proof' South Front Barracks. The numerous facts covered are illustrated throughout the booklet and include photographs of many parts that have since been demolished.

This publication will be on sale at any of the regular Dover Society winter meetings, price £3.95. It is also available by post £5.00 including p&p. By cheque made payable to 'The Dover Society' and sent to The Dover Society Treasurer, 58 Charlton Green, Dover, CT16 2PS or if you prefer to pay by bank transfer the details are The Dover Society, account number 80864803, Barclays bank sort code: 20-02-62





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The Drop Redoubt - Dover's Forgotten Fort

By Phil Eyden

Reviewed by Alan Lee

This is the authors latest offering in his well-researched books of local interest. Phil, as is usual, includes over 100 interesting photographs throughout this 189-page publication.

He recounts in depth the history of the *Drop Redoubt* from when, in 1779, 33 acres of land was purchased, for £6,300, from David Papillon, a local landowner, to the present day. But it was not until 1825 when the local press referred to this area as *The Drop Redoubt*. Prior to that it was known as *Grand Redoubt*, *Redoubt Barracks* or just *The Fortification*.

Many facts and technical details are mentioned but Phil has concentrated bringing the human element to life, telling the personal stories of gunners and soldiers stationed on the heights over the last 243 years.

There have been a number of instances over the years of soldiers dying or being seriously injured when falling into a moat. One, during the night of 23rd November 1854, was of Sergeant Widdup of the Staffordshire Militia. Sent on duty he failed to notice the swing bridge had been retracted, he stepped into thin air, fell 30 feet, and was seriously injured.

Many regiments were stationed on *the Heights* during WWI and WWII and some of

THE DROP REDOUBT DOVER'S FORGOTTEN FORT



Phil Eyden

the graffiti that adorns the walls has been researched, discovering some moving and tragic tales of the soldiers and regiments mentioned.

A copy of this publication, can be obtained from the author, by email, at phil.precambrian@btopenworld.com The price is £15.00 with postage to UK addresses £3.50 extra.

A King Eagerly Awaits the Arrival of His Queen

—Tim Boyton-Adams—

As a volunteer at Dover Castle, I often find myself upon the now flat roof of Henry II's Great Tower, with its panoramic views of the Channel, the town and port of Dover and the Kent countryside beyond. The roof today, however, is very different to its 12th century appearance, having been redesigned in the late 18th century, but that does not stop me from picturing a young king eagerly await the arrival of his queen from that very height; the king was Charles I (1600 -1649) and his queen was Henrietta Maria (1609-1669).

Henrietta Maria was the youngest daughter of Henry IV of France and his second wife, Marie de' Medici. As a Roman Catholic, she was brought up under the influence of the Carmelite Order at the French Court – an influence she retained for the rest of her life. By 1622, Henrietta Maria was living in Paris with a household of around two hundred staff, and marriage plans were being discussed. In England, James I (1603-1625) was eager for his youngest and only surviving son Charles, by then Prince of Wales, to marry; Charles initially believed that a marriage to the Infanta of Spain, Maria Anna, would be a good union for both England and Spain. However, when the king of Spain demanded that Charles should first convert to Catholicism, the plan soured. Charles then turned to France for a possible bride.



Henrietta Maria, King Charles I with Charles, Prince of Wales, and Princess Mary by Anthony van Dyck, 1633

Charles first saw Henrietta Maria when in Paris in 1623, in the company of the Duke of Buckingham; the following year saw English envoys negotiating the terms of the marriage – John Chamberlain wrote to Sir Dudley Carleton on 24th March 1625: 'The Duke of Buckingham prepares for Fraunce with all speed, for Wat Montague hath brought word that all is there in great forwardness, and assurance geven that the young Lady shold be redy to be delivered at the end of thirty days from his parting!' Four days later the old king, James I, died and Charles was proclaimed his successor. On 5th April, it was reported by Sir William le Neve to Sir Thomas Holland that the new king '...kept privately his bed or chamber, at St James's until Sunday last, & then dined abroad, in his privy Chamber, being in plain black cloth Cloke to the ancle.' On the 1st May 1625, he and Henrietta Maria were married by proxy at the cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris – Charles was represented by a distant kinsman, the Duc de Chevreuse, at the ceremony.

A date of the 13th May was set for the king to begin his journey to Dover to meet his queen – however he was forced to delay his departure for Rochester due to an outbreak of the plague – a letter to the mayor of that city reads '...this daie altered his tyme of cominge into Kent... will be at Rochester on Friday the XXth of May, and not before!' The day was finally fixed for Tuesday, 31st May and the king was to travel light – his personal baggage being sent ahead by sea. The king left London on the appointed day '...by water to Gravesend, thence by Post and Coach to Canterbury...' via Rochester, crossing the medieval eleven-arched bridge over the Medway by mid-day. While at Rochester, Phineas Pett later wrote in his Autobiography 'All April and May I attended at Chatham, to

prepare the Fleet that was then bound to fetch over the Queen. In the latter end of May his Majesty came to Rochester, where I presented myself unto him in the Dean's Yard and kissed his hand and had speech with him, till he came into the house, where he dined, and I attended him all the dinner while.' The king's journey would have elicited great interest – for example, the church bells of Boughton-under-Blean, near Canterbury, were rung as he passed through the village; the churchwarden's accounts record that the ringers were paid for their peals '...when the King went by.' At Canterbury the king was '...lodg'd at the Lord Wootons House, parcell of the demolisht Abby of St. Augustine,' where he stayed two nights, feted by both nobility and gentry. On Thursday, 2nd June, the King went via Watling Street to Dover and it was on the evening of Friday, 3rd June, that the king climbed the stairs inside Henry II's Great Tower to reach the roof, perhaps to look out over the Channel and hoping to catch a sight of his queen's approach – but it was late in the day that the king surveyed the scene before him - '...9 of the cloke last night found his maiesty on the leads where he spent 2 verey cold owers,' according to a letter written to the Duke of Buckingham.

Phineas Pett again records that on 'Saturday the 4th of June, his Majesty came on board the Prince riding then in the Dover Road, where he dined and was safely landed again. Yet this evening we let slip and went room for the Downs with very foul weather.' The following day saw the king travel Eastwards - '...on munday he rode into the Downes & viewed the castles (Deal and Walmer) & Sandwich.' In the meantime, most of the court that had travelled with the king remained at Canterbury, awaiting news of the queen's arrival in Dover – their undoubted boredom being made worse by the unexpected death of Orlando Gibbons, the famous composer: '...Orlando Gibbon, the organist of the chapel (that had the best hand in England) died the

last week at Caunterburie, not without suspicion of the siknes.' But what of the queen all this time? Having set out from Paris with a large retinue, including her mother, Marie de' Medici, the queen eventually arrived at Amiens where she was delayed by her mother being taken ill – upon hearing this Charles left Dover and returned to Canterbury, much to the delight of the court. Again, Phineas Pett later records: 'Thursday the 9th June, we got over to Bullen (Boulogne) and anchored in Bullen Road. The 10th day we had a great storm, the wind north-west, where all our ships drove, and we brake our best bower and were forced to let fall our sheet anchor...' However, Pett then recorded 'Sunday morning, being the 12th day, all things prepared fit and the great storm allayed, about 11 of the clock we received our young Queen on board, and having a fair leading gale, fitting the entertainment of a Queen, we set sail out of Bullen Road about one (of the) clock, and before 8 had safely landed her and her train at Dover'

The queen disembarked from her ship the Prince by: '...passing out of her boat on shore by an artificiall moveable Bridge framed for that use only.' No expense had been spared in making Dover Castle comfortable for the queen – the king had ordered repairs to 'the King's Lodging in the square tower within the inner keep and the most useful buildings and offices thereto adjoining' at the huge cost of £2,600, which also included a suite of nine rooms for Charles' favourite, the Duke of Buckingham. Early on Monday 13th June, the king once again set out from Canterbury for Dover – taking the route down Lydden Hill and reaching the castle at around 10 o'clock. According to one source 'their Majesties dining that day together, the King after dinner gave Audience to the Duke de Chevereux, the Duke of Buckingham with my service introducing him to the Presence Chamber of the Queen, whence the King honoured him

(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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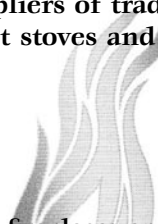
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Dover Big Local

Peter Sherred

Over the past 10 years or so Dover Big Local has had a high profile in many local activities, events and organisations. But what and who comprises Dover Big Local?

To understand this, it is first important to realise that this is part of a national project, the like of which had never existed before. Central to the philosophy of the Big Local is the concept of communities being able to make their own decisions for the betterment of their area and this approach is designed to enable local residents to spend time, energy and money on matters that make for a permanent difference to people and communities.

A significant feature of the Big Local concept is that it is funded by The National Lottery Community Fund which provides at least £1m to each of 150 communities in England but the management of the financing is undertaken by Local Trusts. This significant ethos of the Big Local project is subject to appropriate checks and auditing to account for funding.

Each Big Local area has funding allocated to it on the basis that it is spent over a 10-15 year period at the local community's own speed and for its own priorities. This provision of long-term funding has the double benefit of certainty and, importantly, continuity. The Big Local project is significantly different to any previous community-funded projects. The national project ends in 2026 and all funding provided by National Lottery must be spent by then, but Big Local projects are encouraged to have a legacy plan for what happens after the funding from Lottery ends.

Other than funding, another key feature of the Big Local project is that it is community led, i.e. by residents of particular areas in which the Big Local project operates. This is designed to support local communities and the people in them in making a difference to local areas and communities. The essence of the project rests on the ability of local people to identify projects most important for their area and enabling the carrying out of projects in time determined by the local Big Local and as they would wish such projects to be carried out.

The overall concept has much to commend it in terms of being centred on the very people who live and work in the communities where projects and funding are provided.

In an age when local government or other authority structures have become more distant and detached the refreshing aspect of Big Local is that local communities are empowered to identify local requirements and can take action in addressing those requirements. Hopefully, the outcome of this decentralised initiative will enable communities to set their own priorities and enable local residents to feel their area is a good place in which to live. In 2019 Big Local areas reached a milestone in the initiative by reaching the halfway point in the spending plans over 10 - 15 years and no doubt an evaluation of the success or otherwise of the Big Local programme will be carried out to judge its efficacy and, importantly, to determine the future direction of the programme.

So how does Dover Big Local square up to the goal of the overall scheme? To understand this, I am indebted to Linda

Aldred, a community development worker appointed to lead Dover Big Local in terms of projects, funding and partnerships. In or about 2013 Dover District Council and a number of voluntary organisations came together to initiate Dover Big Local following £1m of Lottery funding being given to Dover District Council for community groups. With the District Council and input from Kent County Council, together with representatives of local community groups, Big Local was created. Society member and Newsletter Editor, Alan Lee, was one of those involved at the outset, along with John Angell, who this year was accorded the status of Honorary Freeman of the Town. Simon Crowley of Tersons was another representative and these, together with others, met in the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club to initiate the local Big Local.

Linda Aldred has a background in community development of over 30 years and takes a lead in the fortunes of Dover Big Local but the controlling force is a committee comprising ten local residents. The committee, after local consultation, established several areas of activity or benefit, such as green spaces, local economy, arts and culture, health and well-being and communications. Of the money available to give away major grant funding was made available as well as smaller community chest awards for projects that helped to deliver the objectives that community consultation had identified.

Areas where funding has been provided include the establishment and support of the Dover Pantry in the Charlton Shopping Centre and River Dour support through the White Cliffs Partnership. Seed funding for Dover Music Festival was provided as well as the set-up costs for the Co-Innovation Project that allowed many small businesses to try out their ideas at the former Co-op in

Stembrook, but now re-established in Biggin Street. A significant contribution has been made to Destination Dover which has contributed to increased cruise ship visits and a much-improved understanding of Dover as an attractive place to visit amongst tour operators and the general public. A big cost was the establishment of the Big Local Hub in the Charlton Shopping Centre. This provides an important facility signposting areas of interest and activity for local residents including elements for health and well-being in terms of knitting, singing and cooking, for example, where various groups come into the Hub and benefit from its funding. The hub until recently hosted Dover Big Local's job club, currently operating from The Beacon. The hub is also a centre for training with a wide range of courses offered. A second Hub is being developed in partnership with Mind. This space is intended to provide a wellbeing and mental health hub. All of Dover Big Local's decisions are made by its elected committee, currently chaired by Anita Lockett. It meets on the third Wednesday of each month, consulting widely with residents through the hub and pantry, various special interest groups, and community partners such as Dover District Council and Dover Town Council. Membership of Dover Big Local's partnership is open to all residents and organisations in the town of Dover, and it is a requirement of the national Big Local programme that the majority of decisionmakers are local residents, workers or business people, or students. A team of three hub staff, with Linda Aldred as hub manager, deliver events and courses, network with other Dover organisations and offer support to Dover people. Both the hub and Pantry welcome volunteers.

Dover Big Local's annual Urban Fete in Pencester Gardens provides not only family fun and a chance for local

organisations to showcase what they offer, but also is a great opportunity for Dover residents to share their ideas for the town and future projects. 24 September was the identified date for the Urban Fete 2022. Sadly, it rained.

The Dover Pantry has proved to be a remarkable success and helps many local people from deprived areas of the town and others who have fallen on hard times in the present economic context by providing a whole range of food. Both the Dover Big Local and the Pantry have proved to be trusted organisations and the Pantry operates as an independent service. It has 380 members with a waiting list and has strong connections with the Food Bank and with the Sunrise Café. Under the guidance of Cara Harvey, the employed Pantry Manager, Pantry volunteers undertake their tasks, from food pickups to service in the Pantry itself, as a matter of social responsibility and love rather than for money, making it possible for families to receive high quality food for just a £5 per week membership. In essence, Dover Big Local works in partnership with other local societies, charities, voluntary groups and statutory bodies such as Together4Dover, Transitions Dover, the NHS, the SmArt Project, Destination Dover, Dover Town Council and Dover District Council to offer opportunities and services to local people designed to improve the quality for life for all Dover people.

The national Big Local programme was a bold leap of faith to allow financially and socially challenged communities to self-determine how to invest significant funds to improve their lot. Across the country responses to this challenge have varied widely.

As the years pass by an assessment of the Big Local project will be required,

particularly as all local entities approach the end of the 10 – 15 year allocated period and Dover Big Local, along with others across the country, could soon be faced with a cliff-edge situation regarding funding but it is hoped that the legacy of Big Local will enable more community-led infrastructure projects to be initiated so that local communities are in a continuing situation of making local power a reality. The financial future beyond Big Local funding is not secure and we are all aware of the current challenges to the economy with rising living costs and an expected inflation crisis, the impact of which would probably be most keenly felt by deprived and poor neighbourhoods, so it will be important that communities are able to respond and adapt to changing needs with appropriate resources financially ensuring local residents and communities are able to influence policies affecting communities in their local area.

In Dover's case, it is to be hoped there will be an ability to keep the Hubs going enabling the Board and local volunteers to continue offering a community partnership for the benefit of the town. To that end, the committee of Dover Big Local formed a Community Interest Company, Dover Big Local CIC, which became one of the first in the country to administer the lottery funding itself. When the lottery funding ends this will become the legacy organisation. It has already received funding in a way that was not possible before, so that family holiday clubs, cooking classes and several other initiatives have been able to be delivered. Like all other Big Locals, Dover must continually account to the Lottery for what it has achieved and what it would like to continue to achieve, with the funds awarded by the Lottery mapped to formally agreed broad aims and objectives which the Lottery must approve before

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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The Koettlitz Family

Martyn Webster

By the publication of a book in 2011, reprinted in 2013 and 2014, entitled "Scott's Forgotten Surgeon – Dr. Reginald Koettlitz, polar explorer" by Dover Society member Aubrey A. (Gus) Jones (whose wife Ann is youngest of the three daughters of the third Maurice Koettlitz (1903 -1960), who was Dr. Reginald Koettlitz' nephew), and with the unveiling in 2016 of a plaque (reported in the Dover Society newsletter no.88) at Dover College to Reginald Koettlitz himself (1860-1916), attention has been focused upon the extraordinary story of the Koettlitz family itself and its connexions with Dover.

There exist two publicly available websites devoted to the Koettlitz family genealogy which record their astonishing European background and diaspora. In his book Gus Jones also recounts the family history, so it is with great respect that I would like to enhance his account and perhaps suggest a few additions and amendments based on my own research together with most welcome additions and corrections made by Colin Dowdeswell, a direct descendant, who is the fount of the family archive. To older generations of Dover folk, however, awareness on a more personal level of the Koettlitz family arises from the two family doctors Koettlitz, both forenamed Maurice, practising firstly from no.20 London Road and later on the other side of the road at Charlton House, 305 -306 London Road, reported upon by Derek Leach in the August 2002 Dover Society newsletter no.44. That report featured the former YHA building which had been the Koettlitz family home and surgery up until 1960 when the second Dr Maurice Koettlitz died. The fine imposing period house and annexe, a grade II listed building, have now

been converted into flats. Both doctors Koettlitz were held in high regard, the elder being remembered as the doctor with the beard. Their surgery was noted all the more by the large stuffed polar bear which stood within it, and which is now in the Dover Museum. This fine animal had been brought to Dover by Dr. Reginald Koettlitz (who apparently had shot it himself) after his expedition to the arctic (1894-1897).

Koettlitz is a Germanic surname which occasionally appears at Kottlitz with an umlaut sign over the "o" and pronounced "curtlitz" but sometimes cheekily rendered to English ears as "cutlets." It also appeared as Kettlitz or Kittlitz. It is very unusual in the United Kingdom, almost all references to it being to interrelated people but it has now all but disappeared from our shores. I believe it takes its name from the village of Koettlitz in the upper palatinate region (*Oberpfalz*) of Germany, southeast of Leipzig, towards the present border with the Czech Republic. One branch of the Koettlitz family claim noble heritage and take the name von Koettlitz with the title *Freiherr* (baron).

Maurice was the first name of three successive generations of the Koettlitz family between 1815 and 1960. As with these forenames, many of the early family names were of French type and spelling. The French language was dominant in Europe during the 1700's and 1800's. It was common for educated families to speak both French and German and have names with both a French and German heritage.

Progenitor of this clan was Jean Frederic (or Johann Friedrich) Koettlitz. He was baptised at Schoeneck in West Prussia (now

Skarszewy, Poland) near Danzig on 19th February 1781, the son of Jean Christophe Koettlitz, a police inspector, (*Polizeiburgermeister*) and Florentine Concorde (née Nehring). He married on 26th May 1811 at the French Protestant Church in Koenigsberg, East Prussia one Ulrica Huber, from Brunswick-Wolfenbuettel.

Danzig and nearby Koenigsberg were ancient German free trading cities of great magnificence and learning situated as ice free ports on the Baltic Sea at the eastern extremity of the German empire. Both cities were almost totally destroyed in the Second World War. Koenigsberg is now the Soviet rebuilt and immigrant Russian populated city of Kaliningrad in the isolated enclave of the same name. These family connexions with Prussia are interesting as Gus Jones in his book on Reginald Koettlitz states that the original family estates were in Tilsit, now Sovetsk, on the Nemen river border with Lithuania. Whichever way one looks at it however, the mobility across the continent of Europe of this family through and after the time of Napoleon and before the advent of railways is astonishing to say the least.

Maurice Koettlitz (1) (1815-1892) was the third child and second son of Johann Friedrich Koettlitz and Ulrica Huber and was baptised in Koenigsberg at the French Protestant Church (the baptismal record and names written in French) on 28th September 1815.

The family legend claims their family's noble title (*Freiherr* or baron) was lost in the 1700's when a family member killed a rival landowner during a duel (which was forbidden during those times).

Johann Friedrich completed his foreign service exams and entered Prussian

government service as a "*Staatsbeamte*" or civil servant. His graduation coincided with the height of the Prussian empire, and he was posted to Trier (Treves) when the Congress of Vienna awarded new European territories to Prussia as a reward for their military support to the defeat of Napoleon. Johann Friedrich's career began in Trier and later in the Prussian regional capital of Koblenz, where he was responsible for supervision of the government's customs and tax collections. He died around 1865 at Ehrenbreitenstein across the Rhine from Koblenz, to where he had retired.

Maurice (1) next appeared on record in Brussels, Belgium in 1839 as a tobacco merchant. Belgium gained its independence in 1830 and was for a time the leading industrial and colonial power in Europe. He was subsequently listed in 1844 as an engraver in Brussels, then a resident of Louvain before becoming a theological student in 1854-1855 at Lausanne, Switzerland. In 1855 as Lutheran pastor he founded the German Mission Church in Ostend, Belgium (on the Wittenonnenstraat/Rue des Soeurs Blanches, later demolished to become the onetime main post office) and thereafter the English Church, built in 1868, on the Langestraat, which still stands today under renovation. Also, in 1868 with his English second wife and their six Ostend born children, he moved to Dover just as the English industrial revolution was taking off. The family set up under his wife's (Rosetta Dowdeswell) governance, a school for young ladies at 75 Folkestone Road in the parish of Hougham Without. This building is now the Norman Guest House overlooking the Dover Priory Station and bridge, whose internal rooms still give hint in layout to their use as a school. In 1871 he was described in the census of that year as a "pastor without the care of souls", against

which an unknown hand has added in the margin the word "spy"! Maurice (1) died at this house on 19th February 1892 and was buried in the churchyard of St Lawrence, Hougham. His legible headstone still stands there today as testament to a kaleidoscopic life's journey from East Prussia to a small east Kent village.

Maurice Koettlitz (1) was first married on 16th February 1839 in Brussels to Sibille Amelie Ottenthal (born 14th May 1804 in Castel, northern France) by whom he fathered several children, of whom only two apparently survived, namely Hortense (1839-1928) and Jenny (1840-1926). These ladies went on to become joint governesses at a school known as Grove House at Koblenz on the Rhine in Germany. They both remained single, Hortense dying at Trier, Germany on 27th February 1928 and Jenny, who had settled later in life in England, at Dover on 1st December 1926, having lived at the house still known as Waldeck on Green Lane at Temple Ewell. (Waldeck was the ancestral German home of the Koettlitzes). Her will notes that she desired to be buried in the churchyard at Temple Ewell in a grave surrounded by an iron railing with a granite curb and memorial in the shape of an obelisk engraved with the inscription "In memory of Jenny, daughter of the Reverend Baron Maurice Koettlitz, late of Dover." No trace of this memorial, if it was ever erected, can now be found.

It seems that Maurice Koettlitz (1) was widowed sometime after 1849 but no record of the death of his first wife has yet been found. Precisely who looked after the then orphaned young children is also not known. However, some nine years later, while Hortense and Jenny, as very young women, were running their girls' school, Grove House at Koblenz, there was also working there as English governess one

Rosetta Ann Jane Dowdeswell (1833-1929). It was thus that their father's second marriage came about. Rosetta had followed her local church's (St Georges Hanover Square) priest Reverend Tucker who had been sent as part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's initiative to establish an English church in Koblenz, Germany.

Maurice Koettlitz (1), by then based in Ostend, was married to Rosetta Dowdeswell by the said Rev Tucker on 10th December 1858 at the said English Church (destroyed in the Second World War) in the Palace of H.R.H. Prince Regent of Prussia (later Kaiser Wilhelm 1, husband of Queen Victoria's eldest child Vicky). Maurice and Rosetta must have moved to Ostend directly, as their family of six children began there a year later thus:

1. Maurice (2), born Ostend 28th November 1859. Highly esteemed local doctor. Married. Moved to Dover *en famille* 1868. Naturalised British subject 1892. Died 6th February 1935 at Dover. Buried at Hougham with or near his father. No headstone. Family detailed below.

2. Reginald, born Ostend 23rd December 1860, Distinguished doctor, entomologist, pioneer colour photographer, explorer in various world regions, surgeon to Scott in the Antarctic 1901-1904. Old Boy of both the Dover County School (Ladywell) and Dover College. Naturalised British subject. He was married on 2nd March 1901 to Marie Louis Butez of Calais. They had no children. Subject of Gus Jones' biography as above. Died Cradock, South Africa 10th January 1916, where a memorial to him and his wife who died almost at the same time stands to this day.

3. Rosetta, born Ostend 6th March 1862. Teacher, unmarried. Lived as a companion to her mother. After the first war for reasons unknown moved with her mother and also unmarried sister Elise, to the west country, latterly at South View House (which still stands), Shepton Montague

near Wincanton where she died 17th February 1936. Buried at Bratton Seymour, Somerset, without headstone.

4. Elise, born Ostend 17th October 1863. Governess, companion to her mother and sister, unmarried. Died 24th February 1940 at Shepton Montague. Buried at Pitcombe, Somerset, without headstone.

5. Arthur, born Ostend 15th April 1865. Naturalised British subject 1892. Ship's master British India Lines. Burmese river pilot at Moulmein, later settled alone in Australia. Married in Rangoon on 5th March 1895 to Virginie Florence Lecun, but later separated. Three children, two sons and one daughter who moved to Canada at a young age accompanied by their mother, their male descendants adopting, after their mother's remarriage, the surname Blackadder, and female descendant the surname Hansen, now dispersed in Canada and the U.S.A. Died on 18th October 1939 at Gympie, Queensland, Australia. A memorial exists.

6. Robert, born Ostend 25th November 1867. Tea planter, British India. Married 4th January 1897 at Calcutta to Cicely Harriet Goulden (from Dover). He died on 7th December 1929 at Darjeeling, India. No headstone yet traced. There was one son Roland Melville who took his grandmother's surname Dowdeswell and who, after graduating from Cambridge and St Thomas', joined the colonial medical service. He was posted to Kenya and established the medical research centre in Nairobi. He moved to Southern Rhodesia and died there in 1956. His wife Sheila Marguerite Paterson, played at Wimbledon and was Kenya tennis champion. Most descendants are now in the U.S.A. where grandson Dr Ian Dowdeswell is a pulmonologist in Indianapolis. Another grandson, Colin Dowdeswell is family archivist.

The mother of these six children Rosetta Jane Ann Koettlitz (nee

Dowdeswell), widow of Maurice (1) herself lived to the redoubtable age of 95 years. In the care of her two unmarried daughters she died at Shepton Montague on 23rd January 1929 and is buried at Bratton Seymour without headstone.

Maurice Koettlitz (2) (1859-1935) was the older of the two Dover doctors (the doctor with the beard) and had begun the family practice in the London Road as noted in the Dover census of 1901. He had come to Dover from Ostend with his family as boy of 10. He was subsequently a pupil at Dover College and then went on to train as a doctor at Charing Cross Hospital. He worked for some years first as a practitioner in County Durham, where he met and married on 18th August 1896, at Lynesack, Mabel Hannah Hodgson (1873-1953), the daughter of a commercial clerk from West Auckland. By the time of the birth of their first child in 1898 in Dover the couple were established in Dover for good. There were three children, all born in Dover: Rose Florence Garthorne Koettlitz (1898-1964) later Hartman, settled in the U.S.A. with descendants there; Maurice (1903-1960), of whom below, and Mabel Elise Ulrica Mary (1913-1987), unmarried, who lived latterly at "Shepton" (so named after her mother's last living place), Chilton Avenue, Temple Ewell, and is buried in Temple Ewell churchyard (no memorial). She was the main source of Koettlitz family history. Maurice Koettlitz (2) died on 6th February 1935 in Dover and was buried, according to his obituary in the *"Dover Express"* probably in or near the grave of his father at Hougham. (His wife Mabel Hannah was however buried in Temple Ewell churchyard (no memorial) upon her death on 6th July 1953).

Maurice Koettlitz (3) was the second Dover doctor and third and last of the Koettlitz menfolk named Maurice in Dover. He was

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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Fort Burgoyne – A Different Role

Donald Soppitt BSc (Geog) Dip LH (Oxon)

It is a while now since Fort Burgoyne fulfilled its original role of defence against attack from France, but its strategically well-designed location has afforded 'The State' opportunities in times of stress. One of these occurred in the summer of 1972, in the second year of the Heath Conservative government, when members of the Dockers' trade union declared their intention to mount a national dock strike just as 'The travelling public' were planning to take their holidays away from the UK.

The background to this was the unexpected defeat of the Wilson government in 1970 and the expressed continued frustration of the largely Labour-affiliated trades unions. Militants, including Jack Dash of the London Dockers and Arthur Scargill of the National Union of Mineworkers, had openly declared their intention to 'bring down' the relatively unprepared Heath regime and many will remember the 1970-71 3-day weeks and enforced power 'outages' which this action delivered. There were some silly scenarios, of course, including the amusing (for some) spectacle of HM Customs officers trimming

the tops off imported candles to render them 'non-decorative' for tax reasons! (This was, of course, before European Economic Community membership, achieved in 1973).

Our story begins, on the Thursday in July 1972, as English and Welsh schools were about to break for the summer holiday and parents were packing their cars for a quick get-away to the Continent. Dover was the principal departure port at the time, but Folkestone, Sheerness and the Sussex ports also contributed to a general exodus through the Southeast counties.

On the Thursday evening, the BBC announced that there would be a national dock strike starting on the following Monday and so if anyone wished to go to 'The Continent' for any reason they should do so by that Monday. They did (or they tried to)!

The result was a complete gridlock on the roads in Kent and a collapse of the ferry booking system because booked passengers were unable to make their booked 'slot'.

The Kent Police, as always, were very cooperative and quickly arranged for a liaison between themselves and the ports, represented principally by Dover staff, led by General Manager Ken Davis. My boss, Terminal Manager Brigadier Pat Leeper (himself a Royal Engineer) delegated me to handle operations outside the port estate.

On the roads, it was immediately apparent that there three principal problems:

- 1 Perishable goods were being held in conditions prejudicial to their needs.
- 2 'Unaccompanied' freight vehicles were unable to be separated from their 'prime mover' towing units, delaying their turnaround.

Troops ready to move into the docks

With the docks dispute in deadlock, the Government is expected today to declare a state of emergency, allowing troops to be used to move essential goods.

The Government, however, may postpone for a day or two action on any emergency order to give Mr Robert Carr, Secretary for Employment and Productivity, another chance today to get talks going again.

As he left the Department of Employment and Productivity last night, Mr Carr said he would "almost certainly" be calling a new round of talks today. He described the situation as grave and very serious, adding: "They have now reached a position of deadlock". It is thought that Mr Carr may attempt to find a formula

By JOHN TORODE

Newspaper Headlines

3 Passenger vehicles containing children and (sometimes) vulnerable adults, as well as the bulk of freight vehicle drivers, were being held in queues without adequate food or toilet facilities.

Accordingly, three sorting/decision points were set up, manned by Dover Harbour Board staff with police liaison:

- 1 At Lydden Hill for A2 traffic.
- 2 At Farthingloe for A20 traffic.
- 3 At the Fort Burgoyne barracks parade ground for interchange of 'unaccompanied' freight vehicles.

At each point, telephone communications were established by HM Post Office staff and catering was provided by volunteers from the Salvation Army. 'Portaloo' toilets were provided and marshalling of traffic was arranged by freight specialist and traffic management staff from the Dover Harbour Board, accompanied by police staff for any public order issues which might arise. This enabled passenger and driver-accompanied traffic to be passed swiftly to the port(s) for handling by shipping operator personnel, perishable goods to be afforded precedence and unaccompanied freight to be sent to the Fort Burgoyne parade ground, where the tractor units could be released for their next cycle and port operator tractor units could pick up the parked freight as required.

The area in front of Fort Burgoyne itself could not be used for heavy freight, as the bridge over the moat was insufficiently strong. Back-up facilities and communications were sited there instead.

These arrangements allowed traffic flows to return to normal quickly despite picketing by London dockers, who had alleged 'stealing' of London traffic by freight hauliers. London Dockers' leader, Jack Dash, was taken around Dover's Eastern Docks by taxi, accompanied by General Manager Ken Davis and myself so

that he could identify any 'stolen' traffic. None was seen and the pickets returned home.

At the entrances to the port, Kent County Constabulary worked with Dover Harbour Board Police to ensure public safety. Pickets and demonstrators were told that if they stepped on to the road (past the barriers) or threw any missile they would be arrested immediately and taken before a specially convened magistrates' court. This was very effective and defused what might easily have become a very disruptive mob.

Of course, we were very fortunate in that the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' had not yet imposed restrictions on the use of Army property but the exercise proved to be vital to the development of 'Operation Stack' (the forerunner to 'Operation Brock') which was developed by a group headed by myself and Assistant Chief Constable Coe of Kent County Constabulary and which served the port community well until after the construction of Junction 11a on the M20. The rest is recorded elsewhere.

What did the Army get out of it? Well, they gained a lot of positive PR from their rapid response to the call for help by the port community and the parade ground was resurfaced by the Dover Harbour Board at a cost of £20,000.

Subsequently, after security issues had been seen off by the departure of the Army from Dover, the parade ground was used for the 2012 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Tattoo, largely financed by the Army but organized by a staunch group of loyal volunteers.



2012 Dover Military Tattoo - Courtesy Mike McFarnell



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PROGRAMME 2022/23

Non-members are welcome at all meetings except that only members may vote at the Annual General Meeting. You may join, pay on the night and vote at the meeting.

Dover Society Summer Trips 2022

September 13 **Denbies Winery, Dorking and NT Polesden Lacey**
October 5 **Brooklands Museum at Weybridge**

With great regret we had to cancel both these trips as there were insufficient numbers.

If you have any suggestions for future outings, contact Rodney Stone on email randdstone29@gmail.com or tel. 01304 852838 or any member of the executive committee.

November 21 **Speaker: Rob Baldwin**
Monday 7.30 "Diary of a Dig"

December 4 **Dover Society Festive Lunch**
12.30 for 1pm Includes welcome drink, three course meal, tea or coffee and entertainment
£27.95 pp (to be advised). Wine and drinks can be ordered at the table. Full details and booking form are on the centre pages of this newsletter Please book as soon as possible

2023

January 16 **Speaker: Jon Barker, National Trust**
Monday 7.30 "Wanstone Rediscovered"

February 20 **Dover Society "American Supper" Quiz Night**
Monday **(Bring your own food and drink, whatever suits you)**
7.00 for 7.30pm Our ever-popular light-hearted quiz evening held in StMary's Church Hall with Clive Taylor and his team. Make up your own table of six, if you are unable to, we will fit you in on an appropriate table. Prizes for winning team (if scores are tied: in the event of a tie, there will be a play-off).
£5pp To book please contact Jenny Olpin, 19 Redlands Court, London Road, River, Dover CT17 0TW Tel; 01304 825011 Email: jennyolpin@gmail.com

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March 20 **Speaker: Phil Eyden**
Monday 7.30 **"Baptisms at the Western Heights"**

April 17 **Dover Society AGM**
Monday 7.30 **Speaker: To Be Confirmed**

*All indoor meetings are held at St. Mary's Parish Centre
Non-members are welcome on all society outings.
For all outings and events please book as early as possible.*



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