

The
Dover
Society

Newsletter

No. 106
March 2023



HMS Verdun Leaving Boulogne with the Body of the Unknown Warrior

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THE DOVER SOCIETY

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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

The council has temporarily closed the car park in Ladywell as it is required for contractors' equipment whilst the refurbishment of the Maison Dieu/Town Hall is in progress. On completion of the project, it will reopen once again for car parking.

Members are reminded that any resolution or nominations for the committee for the April AGM must be received by the Acting Secretary Jeremy Cope no later than 31st March 2023, 14 clear days before the meeting on 17th April 2023.

Membership is also due in April. Once again there has been no increase in the membership fees. The last subscription increase was in 1996. Very few, if any, organisation has held their fees at the same level for so long. This is excellent value for money so try to get your friends, relations or acquaintances to join.

The annual service to commemorate the fallen during the Zeebrugge Raid, in 1918, will take place on Sunday 23rd April 2023, St George's Day. The main service, including wreath laying from 11.00am, will be at St. James' Cemetery. This will be followed by the short Remembrance service at the People of Dover War Memorial, in the town, from Midday (following the Mayor ringing the Zeebrugge Bell).

The Dover Film Festival will take place at the Silver Screen Community Cinema which the council will open especially for the event. For details, please see ad in this newsletter.

Do you have a little time to spare each month? We always need volunteers to take a more active role in helping The Society grow. Help is required on sub-committees, projects, events, meetings and submitting articles and reports for the newsletter. If you are interested, please contact the Editor or any member of the committee.

Alan Lee, Editor

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DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 107 will be Wednesday 7th June 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.

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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

OCTOBER MEETING

Policing Dover

A talk by Dover District Commander Chief Inspector Paul Barrell

Reported by Alan Lee

With a change of speaker from the original advertised the Society welcomed the newly appointed Chief Inspector, Paul Barrell, to present the view of the police on how they aim to combat crime and improve their efficiency and clear up rates within the Dover and District area.

Paul commenced with detailing his career to date and his vision and aims for policing in Dover District.

He then ran through the figures for the last twelve months. There were 9509 victim-based crimes recorded a drop of 5.6% or 563 fewer crimes. However, recorded violent crime showed an increase of 7% or 461 additional crimes. Key areas that showed an increase were domestic abuse with harassment, stalking and non-injury assault. There were just 64 recorded robberies a drop of 49% or 61 fewer crimes. Paul stated that this was the lowest recorded robbery rate in any East Kent District. He rounded off the figures by stating that 9.5% of all victim based crime had been solved. Dover District was consistently one of the highest performing districts within the Kent Police area for solving crimes.

Owing to technical problems Paul was unable to show the audience the graphs he had prepared but he managed to describe them verbally. Of the different types of recorded crime over 2021 the lowest recorded were Arson, Burglary, Robbery and Weapon Offences.

Dover Police carried out 269 Stop and Search actions with 70, or 26.3%, proving to have a justified and positive outcome. The majority, or 207, of the persons stopped were white with 54 having a positive result. Over 60% of those stopped were 24 years or younger. By gender of those stopped 86.6% were male, 13.2% female with 0.2% being of an unspecified gender.

Paul stated that his focus would be to encourage the reporting of all crimes and to increase support for the victims of crime. Three areas in particular he would be concentrating on are violence against women and girls, youth violence especially within the town centre and anti-social behaviour in residential areas including the use of motor vehicles.

The latest figures indicate Kent Police finances are made up by; £244m government grant, £148.6m council tax, £0.8m council tax deficit 2020/21, £34.8m locally generated income and £6.8m predicted savings. This gives a total financing figure of £435m. Of this sum approximately £10m is held in reserve.

Kent Police are committed to engaging with local communities so have set up "My Community Voice", a messaging service to allow the general public to keep in touch with their local policing teams. You can receive and reply to police alerts that you are sent and share information.

Paul concluded his talk by answering a number of questions from the audience.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Diary of a Dig A talk by Rob Baldwin Reported by Terry Sutton

How today's archaeologists, using carbon-dating and other modern aids, are correcting some of the accepted findings of yesteryear, were described at The Dover Society's open meeting in November.

Rob Baldwin, with a degree in archaeology, spoke of the digs by Canon Robert Jenkins who was on the search for the remains of a seventh century Anglo-Saxon masonry-built church in the village of Lyminge where he was the parish priest. He came to some accepted conclusions now believed to be incorrect by Mr Baldwin and his team who have recently completed more detailed excavations.

"We believe that Canon Jenkins made up quite a lot. Some of his work was a huge exercise in imagination," he told his audience.

His talk, using screened maps and plans, described the archaeological excavations

carried out over the years for the foundations of the seventh century brick-built church (circa 644 AD), discovered next to the existing Norman-built church in Lyminge. The archaeologists had been fortunate that the historic findings had not been too much disturbed by modern day housing development.

The talk covered much information about the early day importance of Lyminge with its "feasting hall" monastery, and links with Aethebert, the sixth century king of Kent.

Mr Baldwin recalled the departure of the Romans from England, with the end of Christianity in Britain, resulting in Aethebert in 597AD inviting the Pope in Rome to send missionaries to England to revive Christianity with the founding of churches and monasteries including one at Lyminge which became an important religious centre

AGM

A reminder to all members

The Annual General Meeting this year will be held in St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover at 7.30pm on Monday 17th April 2023

All resolutions for discussion and nominations for officers and committee members must be received by Friday 31st March 2023. They should be supported by a proposer and seconder and nominations must include the written consent of the potential candidate, then submitted in writing to,

Acting Secretary: Jeremy Cope. 53 Park Avenue, Dover. CT16 1HD

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As this is the last of the winter meetings until October and the most important meeting of the year all members are urged to attend.

JANUARY MEETING

Wanston Rediscovered

A talk by **Jon Barker**

Reported by **Terry Sutton**

More than 300 volunteers are working with the National Trust to investigate the wartime history of the huge guns that once fired shells into and across the Dover Strait.

This was one of the interesting details related to the Dover Society's public meeting in January by Jon Barker project manager of the National Trust's archaeological investigation to discover how the gunners lived and died at Wanston (near St Margaret's) and Fan Bay during the 1939-45 war.

Jon's presentation also covered the anti-aircraft gun battery at Wanston provided, at first, to protect the cross-channel guns and later used against pilotless buzz bombs.

He explained how the National Trust inherited the military history of the once-secret gun batteries when the Trust purchased the farm at Wanston, off the old Dover-St Margaret's road, adding to its

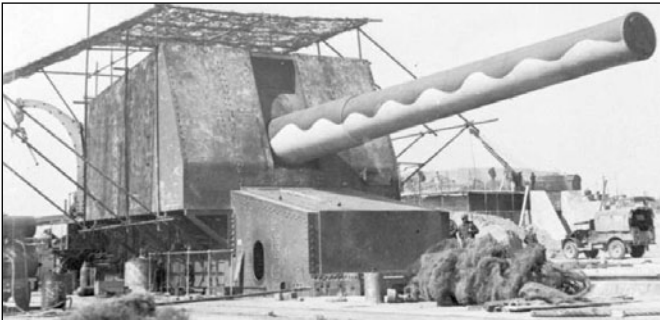
ownership of the cliff-top land of the White Cliffs of Dover.

Details were given about the huge task of removing tons of debris from the cliff-face Fan Bay installation including the discovery of the shipping plotting room.

Jon also told the meeting how the huge guns, originally for Royal Navy battleships, were of a different caliber initially installed to defend against invasion but later, super-charged, capable of firing one ton shells to hit enemy fortifications on the French coast. It was possible to fire two rounds a minute.

He explained there was still a lot of excavations to be carried out and mentioned the remains of the Clem battery (the two BL 15-inch Mk 1 guns were known as Clem and Jane) but he doubted if that would be achieved because it could involve the removal of 3,000 tons of debris and soil.

Anyone interested in joining the volunteer team working at Wanston should contact Jon Barker at The National Trust's HQ at Upper Road, Dover CT16 IHJ or phone 01304 200004.



15 inch Gun Jane Wanston Farm Battery WWII

More Big Guns

—Terry Sutton—

There was a range of big guns based near the cliffs, the first installed for defence and later as offensive weapons.

The first were the 14-inch guns, Winnie and Pooh. The first was named after Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the second came from the story of Winnie the Pooh.

At Wanston other big guns were named Clem (after Churchill's wife Clementine) and Jane after the Daily Mirror's pin-up girl Jane (who kept on losing parts of her skimpy clothing!)

There were also other, slightly smaller, guns including at Lydden Spout the so-named Gladiator, Scene Shifter and Peace-Maker.

The enemy had a number of larger cross-channel guns, originally manufactured for their battleships, fired from France at Allied shipping and the Dover area.



Winnie 14 inch Coastal Gun west of St. Margaret's at Cliffe

Dover Society Christmas Lunch 2022

Denise Lee – Raffle Co-ordinator

In early December over eighty society members and their guests met at The Marina Hotel on Dover's waterfront for their annual Christmas lunch. Here, in a friendly and light-hearted atmosphere, and after their welcome drinks they enjoyed an excellent meal.

We then held the raffle, with many thanks to all who donated a prize towards the draw. This turned out to be our best Christmas raffle yet with £267,50 raised. For the first time The Society decided to donate the entire takings to a local charitable organisation, this year we chose Dover Food Bank.

Following on from the raffle we were then entertained, with a selection of songs, by the vocalist Peter Whibley accompanied on the keyboard by Aileen Dickinson. Instead

of receiving their entertainment fee Peter asked for the Society to make a donation to the Snowdown Colliery Band to this end we sent them £75.

Donating the raffle takings to a local good cause looks set to become the normal thing in future years. I am already looking forward to next year's lunch and trying to beat this year's record total. As the refurbishment of the Maison Dieu is unlikely to be available for our 2023 Christmas Lunch it will probably be held at the Marina Hotel again.

The event went off without a hitch thanks to all who helped with the planning and organisation. I would also like to thank the staff for their friendly hospitality and high level of professionalism.

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Memories of Dover

A Nostalgic Personal Perambulation.

Part Six - Yet More Memories of Dover...

Peter Sherred

Towards the end of the reminiscence in the last edition of the Society's Newsletter (105: November 2022), I finished with an almost throwaway line referring to the fate of the pissoir (which was marked as 'urinal' on a plan showing Trevanion Street). This was just one feature of the old Dover (exceedingly small in comparative terms) I remember as I was growing up.



Pissoir

The photograph shows this structure in front of The White Horse and St James's Church. Maybe the man with the bicycle shown was a cleaner of this facility? I cannot recall when this structure was taken down, with all evidence of its existence removed, but such facilities were quite commonplace in France in the 1950s and 1960s. Gradually removed, they have been replaced in the French street scene by the modern Dr Who 'Tardis' unisex facilities that automatically wash out after each use. That could be challenging if one is not quick! Memories of this Dover feature reminded me of a television series called *Clochemerle* which some may remember.

Clochemerle was a star-studded British take on a book written in France many years ago and which we would probably call a satire. Peter

Ustinov was the narrator and the likes of Roy Dotrice, Bernard Bresslaw and Nigel Green (remember them?) took starring roles. I think it was probably shown in the 1970s but it is no doubt available as a series on DVD. It is a send up of French society and culture and especially the Church and the Republic.

It centres on the desire of the mayor (maire) of a small sleepy village in the Beaujolais region of France to erect a suitable monument in the village square and yes, you may have guessed it, the structure was to be a pissoir and it would be sited near Clochemerle's church! A leading lady of the village and all the women, as well as the Church, are against the idea and turmoil results into which the army is sent. It is a contest between the Church and the secular Republic. All very chaotic and quite amusing, especially remembering Dover once had such a facility which was adjacent to a church!

In my memories of the High Street, I focussed on the stretch from Bridge Street going towards the seafront. At the bottom of Tower Hamlets Road is *The Eagle* public house. It is a prominent building and has undergone numerous changes, but it is still operating as a pub. But what about that other bird of prey, the falcon? Well, across the road from *The Eagle* standing proudly and substantially on the corner of Bridge Street with London Road, stood *The Falcon* hotel and pub. Oh yes it did and here is the proof! What a substantial building it was and very impressive on its corner site, but in the 1970s it fell victim to the demolition culture with the widening of Bridge Street to accommodate a broader pavement and a tree at this junction. But cast



Falcon Pub

your eyes to the left of the picture and you will see one of the old-fashioned shop blinds that were a feature of retail units in the 1950s and 1960s. They were good for protecting pedestrians from rain and in summer

acted as a parasol to protect people and especially food, in the windows of shops, from the sun and the heat.

The reason I draw attention to the blind is because just beyond *The Falcon* (and taking in about four or five shop units) was *Turnpenny Brothers'* furnishing store. Believe it or not Dover, in those days had other such stores and the names of *Flashman's* and *Henry Hart* ring a bell as well as *Hedgecocks*. *Turnpenny Brothers'* store included, at the rear, properties in Matthews Place and on Bridge Street, where workshops existed. When *The Falcon* was demolished the workshops were exposed and today we can see where they once were located. The *Turnpenny* business was a well-established feature of the town and the last in the line of the family-run business was John *Turnpenny*, who many will remember as being active in town circles. His father was Sydney *Turnpenny*, who had married an academically gifted young lady called Lillian. She went on to become the oldest resident of Dover by the time she died, aged just short of 110. She was a real character and I remember her as being very sociable and witty, with a liking for gin – indeed John put his mother's longevity down to gin at lunchtime and whisky in the evening. Now, that's the spirit!

John took the decision to close the shop on London Road in the early 1980s; the picture shows the extent of the enterprise. John had



Turnpenny London Road

a profoundly serious demeanour (possibly to counteract the jollity of his mother), but if one knew him one found an immensely helpful, friendly and amusing individual. His serious persona was best on display in his role of magistrate, where he became Chairman of the Bench. He was extremely helpful to me when I was President of the Chamber of Commerce and was active in the annual Calais Foire as well as being a trustee of the Dubris Trust and a keen golfer. A former Head Boy of Dover College, he died in 2011 in Kearsney Manor nursing home but not before I, together with Society member John Morgan, nominated him to Dover Town Council as an Honorary Freeman of the Town, to which he was admitted in 2010. The honour was richly deserved. There is something deeply satisfying about putting a person forward for recognition and it being accepted.

By the by, in issue 103 of the Newsletter (March 2022) when describing the area of the High Street where the *Drum Holding* shops are now (on the right-hand side going towards the sea between the High Street terrace and *Blackman's*) I mentioned the shops adjoining *Cunningtons* as being *Turnpenny* units.

Here is a picture to prove it and note *Cunningtons* also had a retail shop blind, which brings us back to the feature at the beginning of this reminiscence. The picture



Turnpenny High Street

shows another substantial slice of old Dover now gone, but the nice picture of John Turnpenny shows him having received his honour from Dover Town Council.

If you are becoming bored with these ramblings do tell the Editor!

Editor's Note: With the restoration work on the Town Hall continuing, the name of Flashman is becoming familiar once more, as they made much of the furniture for the Council Chamber and Mayor's Parlour. After conservation, chairs and other items will go on display.



*John Turnpenny
Freeman of Dover*

Remembering the Unknown Warrior

Alan Lee

On the 9th November 2023 our new chairman, Jenny Olpin, attended her first wreath laying ceremony representing the Dover Society at the remembrance service, Marine Station.

After the service, held at the Railway Monument, within Dover Marine Station, the attendees moved through to the Cruise Terminal to witness the Dover Society Chairman lay a wreath at the plaque that commemorates the anniversary of the arrival at Dover of the Unknown Warrior.

The Dover Society lay a wreath here each year. A Gurkha lone piper, LCpl Simson Rai, played the most amazing lament and the chairman read out an appropriate passage. Jenny read Flanders Field which is very 'on message' as it speaks of handing over to future generations to ensure that the carnage and devastation of war do not happen again.

The Society would also like to thank Matt Bristow, Duke of York's Royal Military School,

for the photograph of the Chairman and Rob Bayliff for the photograph of the piper.

A wreath was also laid on behalf of the Society, by the Chairman, at the main Remembrance service held at the Town's War Memorial on Sunday 13th November.



*Ghurka Piper
L Cpl Simson Rai
D (Imphal) Coy
2 Royal Gurkha Rifles
© Rob Bayliff*



*Jenny Olpin
Nov 2022
Cruise
Terminal ©
Matt Bristow*

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Dover Society 2022/23

Jenny Olpin

The Dover Society has seen a significant period of change in its officers and membership of its Executive, Planning and Environment (Refurbishment) teams during the past year. Whether it was the impact of Covid, or purely the pace of time, a few of our key officers sought the opportunity to 'step down' from their roles after many decades of service to The Society. Their advice, expertise and wisdom, however, remains as their support continues and I, for one, would not be able to hold the role of its chairman without being able to 'knock' at their door seeking their much-valued guidance, and for that I am extremely grateful. Those past officers you will recognise as Derek Leach (past Chairman and currently Vice-Chairman), Capt. Mike Weston (Hon. Treasurer), Jeremy Cope (Hon. Secretary) and Sheila Cope (Membership Secretary). The Society is indebted to you all.

With those changes will, of course, come new thinking, perspectives and priorities whilst committed to ensuring that The Society's objectives remain core and fundamental in all its activities and functions. We currently have a strong focus on our website development and social media platforms. The website is being redesigned and both our Facebook (Meta) and Instagram pages are being reviewed. We are looking to make the website an information 'go to' alongside other Dover sites with easy to navigate 'links', to a wealth of interesting and informative pages that include a membership application.

As we emerged from our 'lockdown' slumbers and returned to the more socially accepted face to face meetings, we were pleased to discuss a proposal from our member Peter

Sherrerd to support, in principle, an application to apply for Dover to be granted City status. Subsequently, Derek Leach and I attended a Dover Town Council meeting to present our rationale for supporting the bid and we were heartened by the council's enthusiasm for the initiative. We were very pleased to confirm The Society's support to Peter with this venture, but as he is quick to add, it will only progress if given support by our members whom it is hoped will contact him with a paragraph detailing what we consider is 'the best' about Dover. (I urge you to do this if you have not already done so sherred@invictaawiz.co.uk)

Much of our executive and team's energy has been to comment on the draft Dover District Council Local Plan. This document guides decisions on future development proposals and opportunities for the Dover District, that include housing, employment, and the environment. This new Plan will influence thinking up to 2040 and has recently concluded its consultation stage. The Society contributed significantly to the consultation and I urge you look at the Draft Local Plan document on the Dover District Council website <http://www.dover.gov.uk>

I am committed to working in partnership with Dover District and Dover Town Councils and Kent Police, for the greater good of Dover and its surrounding Parishes. To this end, Derek Leach, Graham Margery and myself have regular meetings with these agencies, not hesitating to raise issues and to have 'difficult' conversations, but with diplomacy and understanding. We very much enjoy these meetings and are sincerely grateful to

these agencies for their encouragement and support of The Society.

Having led on the Town Hall guided tours we maintain a strong interest in its refurbishment. It is indeed an exciting project which will hopefully result in an increase in the tourist footprint in Dover. Derek regularly feeds back on the progress of its transformation into a tourist hub and many of our members eagerly support by volunteering for a range of activities. The Maison Dieu is by default the Town of Dover's Village Hall!

The Society does, of course, lead on local Projects. Currently these are -

Cowgate Cemetery - The Society has a small but dedicated group of volunteers who maintain the cemetery keeping it a pleasant, respectful and peaceful environment for visitors and wild-life, and, on occasions, those seeking a place to shelter. As with most groups there comes a time when age intervenes to prevent those volunteers doing the job to the best of their ability. Therefore, I must take this opportunity to appeal to our membership (and beyond if you know of any willing souls) who would love to support this work in such a unique area of the town. (It's cheaper than the Gym!!)

Blue Plaques - This has been an interesting time for planning and discussing our blue plaques. On 11th September we were pleased to unveil our most recent installation on Castle Hill House, a Grade II listed building. The plaque commemorated the home of the Knocker family and that of Lord Astor of Hever. At the executive we have many heated (or should I say 'warm') debates as to whom and where our plaques should commemorate and be installed. I am pleased that our next two plaques will include that of a woman, Lorna Bomford, 1883 – 1962, who was the first female councillor in Dover, 1919 – 1921, a Suffragist, a Justice of the Peace from 1927 to 1945 and was an accomplished artist exhibiting in the Paris Salon. We are

looking to forward to installing this during the spring at Milestone House, Temple Ewell where she lived for many years. Following this our next plaque will commemorate Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Lewin, who went on to be Chief of Defence Staff during the Falklands War. He was born in Dover in 1920 and we look forward to confirming the siting of this plaque.

Our Planning Team continues to closely monitor all planning applications placed before Dover District Council. This is a dedicated task that requires focus and appreciation of the detail. During this year the team has established a communication pathway with the planning team at DDC who are respectful and welcoming of our planning comments. Our team is now located at The Beacon Church for their meetings and have re-structured with Ann Burke and Graham Margery as Co-Chairs.

The Refurbishment Committee has evolved to be the Environment Team. They too have a new lead, Janet Dagsys, is supported by an energetic group who focus on the quality, aesthetics, safety, events, and general environmental issues that impact on the lives of all our Dover communities. This can be an overwhelming remit, but the various talents of its members ensures that the meetings are constructive. This is the team that will 'lobby' the Dover Town Council, Dover District Council and Kent County Council on issues such as litter, drainage, lighting, 'eyesores' and Rights of Way to speak of only a few.

It is, of course, also important to remember that The Society's 'areas of benefit' are not just Dover Town but that of Guston, Hougham, Langdon (East and West, Martin and Martin Mill), Lydden, Temple Ewell, River, St Margaret's and Whitfield and, I am keen that we are not just focussed on Dover Town so please do let us know if there is anything, as members, that The Society can, within its remit, offer support.

Socially we were sorry to have to cancel the trips planned for Summer 2022. Following a brief survey, we are now focussing on day trips, including London, as possible venues for 2023. We are grateful to our member Rodney Stone who is liaising with organisers, and we look forward to offering some interesting destinations and hope to see as many of your as possible joining with other members, friends and family.

We were pleased to have a very successful Christmas Feast at the Dover Marina Hotel last December. Eighty-three members and friends enjoyed an excellent lunch followed by delightful entertainment from Mr Peter Whibley, and his accompanist, Ms Aileen Dickson. The Raffle raised £267.50 for the Dover Foodbank. Our winter monthly meetings continue to be popular and our speakers interesting and engaging.

The annual February Wine & Wisdom, organised by Quiz Master Clive Taylor, is now, following 'lockdown' run on an American Supper style at £5 each. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Lyn Smith and her team for her work as our new Social Secretary.

This Report does not cover every detail of our activities as there are Civic roles and responsibilities that we as members of the Planning and Executive engage with on behalf of The Dover Society. I hope you are

inspired not only to continue your support but also to consider joining either the teams or as a volunteer with our projects. I also implore you to be more interactive. Let us hear from you, we welcome feedback! We want you to have a voice in shaping The Society as it moves on through the 21st Century and is truly representative of the Dover that is inclusive of all its communities albeit cultural or economic. We are a Society that is proud of its heritage, the potential of Dover and believes in working in partnership for the future of the town, and its' surrounding area, that at last is shaking off its 'post-war' shackles. We look forward to the coming year in continuing to monitor, challenge, partner and inspire those who care and work for the promotion of our town. Let's embrace our heritage, our history and our communities with the shared objectives that aim to preserve, develop and improve for the good of all Dover's society.

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Cowgate in Winter

Deborah Gasking

Did you know that almost 20% of this country's trees are not in woodlands? So our lovely Cowgate cemetery, with its moderate tree cover, is in that essential fifth.

And did you know that winter is the most fabulous time to be out in nature? There is the opportunity to actually see more: there are fewer leaves on trees allowing views up into the tree canopies and down on the ground as more light penetrates - it's easy to walk past wildflowers, insects and fungi.

So how do our trees survive the stresses of winter?

Deciduous and coniferous trees have a few different survival strategies, the most obvious being that deciduous trees lose their leaves in a process called abscission that shuts down photosynthesis and reduces water loss. Most evergreen conifers, with their narrow fleshy, needle-like leaves, photosynthesise all year round, their needles are better at retaining water due to the small surface area and waxy coating.

Both types, though, enter a dormant state over-winter and stop new growth above ground. Preparation for this begins in late summer as daylight hours decrease and reach their adaptive tolerance by midwinter. This is at a cellular level with changes that involve shrinkage, dehydration and sugar concentration so that the cells harden and become glasslike, preventing freezing and damage to living cells. Their bark covering also provides insulation and protection against freezing and cracking.

Did you know that the UK's woodland cover;

Has more than doubled in the last 100 years?

But that much of this is non-native?

That existing woodlands are isolated and in poor ecological condition?

That there has been a decline in woodland wildlife?

Factors such as pollution, invasive species, deer browsing and fragmentation - woods chopped up into small parcels - all need to be tackled to redress this state of affairs.

The Committee on Climate Change, the government's independent adviser on tackling climate change, recommends increasing UK woodland cover from its current level of 13% of total land cover to at least 17%, and possibly to 19% by 2050.

We urgently need to scale up the creation of native woodlands, put more individual trees back in the landscape, and restore damaged woodlands.

Woods and trees lock up carbon to fight climate change, improve our health, wellbeing and education, reduce pollution and flooding, and support people, wildlife and livestock.

Green spaces that are rich in wildlife, bird song and blossom are also intrinsically linked to our own health and wellbeing, yet we remain one of the least wooded countries in Europe.

So, find a small amount of time and visit Cowgate to soak in all that nature has to offer. Even in winter.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Ann Burke

Time to Renew

It seems to come around very quickly, renewal time, you can renew at our AGM on April 17th, in cash, or cheques made out to 'The Dover Society'. Or doing a direct credit to the bank. More people are choosing to make a Standing Order and then it is done automatically, yearly. Our bank details are The Dover Society, sort code 20-02-62, account no. 80864803, Barclays Bank, Dover.

Our membership remains at £6 for one person and £10 for two! A bargain indeed in these expensive times.

Not all members come to the meetings, but they enjoy reading the Newsletter, saying

that we have had some interesting speakers this year and look forward to more of the same.

Our new members since the last Newsletter are. Mr & Mrs Thorpe, Dover, Mr & Mrs Stephenson, Eire, Mrs Lorraine Tbh, Dover, Mr Stephen Horne, Dover, Mrs Carol Cunningham, Shepherdswell and Mrs Mary Francis re-joined. Our membership at present stands at 503.

We sadly heard that Mr David Brivio and Mrs June Robertson have passed away and send condolences to their family and friends. Mrs Robertson's daughter, Mrs Godfree, has taken over her late mother's membership, she lives in Portsmouth.

Environment Committee Janet Dagsys, Chair

Committee: Patsy Allan, James Benjafield, Pam Brivio, Jeremy Cope, Carol Duffield, Lesley Easton, Ben Elsey, Deborah Gasking, Mike McFarnell, Mary Margery, Alan Sencicle

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, taking action 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 Bench Street/Underpass & Cannon Street, the campaign to save the Discovery Centre

Theatre, signage on Snargate Street, in the town centre and of walks, conservation & the state of uninhabited buildings, Dover Priory Station and the Roman Painted House.

We continue to liaise with our colleague and Dover Town Council 'Walkers are Welcome' promoter Pam Brivio on walks in the town, Chris Townend (Growth & Development, Dover District Council), Diederik Smet (Destination Dover Manager) local Kent Police and other local town, district and KCC councillors. Sarah Bradley of DDC has talked to the Environment Team on DDC's Litter Strategy and Kelly Green (DDC Town Centre Manager) will talk to the team in the first quarter of 2023.

Janet can be contacted through the Membership Secretary

Bats on the River Dour

Deborah Gasking

For centuries, bats have been called sinister and spooky, likely because of their bead-like eyes and razor-sharp canine teeth. But there's more to these nocturnal creatures than meets the eye.

So why this article on bats?

Bats love water where they can find a feast of insect life: their larder.

A great spot to see and identify them (with a bat detector) is Kearsney Abbey, that beautiful expanse of the River Dour.

There are more than 1300 species of bats in the world, making them the second most common group of mammals after rodents. Some weigh just two grammes, while others have a wingspan of six feet, but all are impressive and vital members of their ecosystems.

The scientific name for bats is Chiroptera, Greek for 'handwing'- they have four long fingers and a thumb, each connected to the next by a thin layer of skin, the flexibility of which allows them to change direction swiftly and catch insects in mid-air. They are the only flying mammals in the world.

There are two main types of bats: microbats and megabats. Most bats are microbats, which eat insects that come out at night.

The UK has 18 bat species, 17 of which are known to breed here. Tiny Nathusius's pipastrelles are particular fans of lakes and canals. Very occasionally, though, they have been known to turn up on oil rigs out in the North Sea, suggesting that they fly across the sea. In the last couple of years it's

been confirmed that two pipistrelles have migrated over from the continent, with one travelling from as far away as Latvia.

Bats are very important to the environment and thus human life. These insect-eating microbats consume millions of bugs a night, acting as a natural pest control for plants.

To navigate dark caves and hunt after dark, microbats rely on echolocation, a system that allows them to locate objects using sound waves. They echolocate by making a high-pitched sound that travels until it hits an object and bounces back to them. This echo tells them an object's size and how far away it is.

As insects are scarce in winter, bats seek somewhere with a constant cool temperature where they will be undisturbed to hibernate. The ideal hibernation temperature is usually between 1.1 and 4.4 degrees Celsius, which is why places like caves and mines are ideal.

In Kent they have been found using places like chalk caves, dene holes, ice houses and disused buildings. Although small numbers hang free, they usually squeeze into cracks and crevices.

When bats hibernate, their body temperature can drop to near freezing and their heart rate drops to about 10 beats per minute. That means that they can go minutes without taking a breath! Other bodily functions also slow down to help conserve energy. This state of being is called torpor. During their hibernation, bats will cycle through periods of torpor –

they may enter the state of torpor for just a few hours on an especially cold day, or they might stay in torpor for months!

In the state called torpor, their body temperature falls and their metabolic rate slows, meaning they use less energy and, while their insect food source is unavailable, can survive on the fat they have stored up. Being aroused from hibernation can cost bats a lot of energy, and the loss of body fat can lead to starvation. They wake naturally at times during hibernation, usually to feed opportunistically, when temperatures are warm enough for insects to be flying, or to move to another roosting site.

Bats play an important role in many habitats around the world. Some tropical

plants depend partly or wholly on certain bat species to pollinate their flowers or spread their seeds, while many bats, including all British species, help control insects by feeding on them. In the UK, some bats are 'indicator species', because changes to these bat populations can indicate changes in aspects of biodiversity. They might suffer when there are declines in insect populations or when habitats are destroyed or poorly managed (for example, some bats live solely in large or old woodlands).

Bat numbers are declining, due mainly to the loss of roosts and feeding areas and the increased use of pesticides. Kent is probably under greater pressure for change to the environment than anywhere else in Britain.

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Practical Help

I/We could sometimes give practical help with the following (please tick relevant sections)

Social events Writing for newsletter Projects e.g. clearance, surveys
 Photography Any other interests or expertise

THE DOVER SOCIETY
Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting
Held on 25th April 2022

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM held by zoom. Agreed without dissent
3. Matters arising. There were none.
4. Chairman's report – Derek Leach
 - a) Those present observed a minute's silence in memory of deceased members noted in the Newsletter.
 - b) Chairman's update following upon his report included in the March 2022 Newsletter.
 - i) Graham Margery is regrettably standing down as Chair of the Planning Committee.
 - ii) Occasional meetings with DDC directors had been resumed
 - iii) We hope to plant a tree in Pencester Gardens to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
 - iv) The installation of Blue Plaques is to be resumed.
 - v) Planning Committee members visited Citadel to hear of new owner's intentions.
 - vi) Approval sought and granted to the appointment of life Vice Presidents Jeremy Cope, former Chairman and Secretary, Sheila Cope, former Membership Secretary and Mike Weston, former Treasurer.
5. Treasurer's Report – Mike Weston

This was Mike Weston's last report as Treasurer. Mike enlarged on the Financial Statement distributed to members. Finances were in satisfactory shape with a surplus on the General fund of £1144. Comments on elements of the accounts included subscriptions (very slightly up), no outings but members' meetings reinstated., Newsletter costs similar to last year, Jean Marsh thanked for work in selling adverts which brought in £760. Administration including insurance and photocopying and printing were less but postage increased. Room costs for Committee meetings restarted following the pandemic. Interest received was derisory. Donations given £80 with £94 received. Gift Aid received was £579 - taxpaying members were urged to sign up. Miscellaneous costs of £99 included wreaths and sundry refreshment items for members' meetings.

The Treasurer then described the various funds; Projects (included a generous donation of £300), Publications, Town Hall Fund, and funds held for River Dour Partnership and Bluebird Trail.

The Treasurer's report and financial statement (subject to audit) were accepted.
6. Election of Officers carried without dissent.
 Chairman Jenny Olpin, Vice Chairman Derek Leach, Secretary Leslie Easton, Treasurer Jane Jones.
7. Election of Members of the Executive Committee carried without dissent
 Anne Burke Membership Secretary, Lyn Smith Winter Social Secretary, Alan Lee Newsletter Editor, Terry Sutton Press Secretary, Graham Margery Acting Chair Planning & Local Government, Janet Dagens Environment, Deborah Gasking Ecological and Other Projects, Martyn Webster Plaques, William Parker-Gorman Web Page, Jean Marsh Advertising Secretary, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt.
 Ex Officio Member. Rodney Stone Summer Social Secretary.
8. Any Other Business. There was none.
9. Resolution to amend the Constitution.
 As part of updating the Constitution with the Charity Commission, Members are asked to reconfirm their decision made at 2021AGM. The meeting confirmed The Executive Committee's proposed revision to describe the area of benefit to match town and parish councils with that used by Dover District Council. The area as described in the revision is not materially different but brings the definitions up to date.
 The revised wording now confirmed as appropriate by the Charity Commission, if approved, will read:-The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising part of Dover District Council particularly the areas covered by Dover Town Council, Guston Parish Council, Hougham Without Parish Council, Langdon Parish Council, Lydden Parish Council, River Parish Council, St Margaret's at Cliffe Parish Council,

Temple Ewell Parish Council, Whitfield Parish Council, which area hereinafter will be referred to as the area of benefit. The Executive Committee may revise the aforesaid list of named Parish Councils within Dover District Council area and comprising the area of benefit subject to confirmation by a simple majority vote of the subsequent Annual General Meeting

- (i) To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.
- (ii) To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit.
- (iii) To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.

The above amendments were carried without dissent.

THE DOVER SOCIETY
35th Annual General Meeting: 7.30pm Monday 17th April 2023
At St Mary's Parish Centre

Resolutions for discussion and nominations for officers and committee members should be submitted to Jeremy Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD, jeremycopes@willersley.plus.com by Friday 31st March 2023. Nominations should be supported by a proposer and seconder and the written consent of the potential candidate.

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2022
- 3) Matters Arising
- 4) Chairman's update. Report included in the March 2023 Newsletter
- 5) Appointment of a President – Derek Leach
- 6) Treasurer's Report
- 7) Election of Officers

The following members are proposed by the Executive Committee.

Chairman	Jenny Olpin
Treasurer	Jane Jones
Election of New Officers to currently vacant roles	
Vice Chairman (Acting)	Graham Margery (proposed by Jenny Olpin and seconded by Derek Leach)
Hon. Secretary	Carol Duffield (proposed by Jeremy Cope and seconded by Jenny Olpin)

8a) Election of the Executive Committee – Executive Roles

Membership Secretary	Ann Burke
Social Secretary	Lyn Smith
Editor	Alan Lee
Environmental	to be appointed
Planning & Local Govt.	Graham Margery and Ann Burke (proposed by Jenny Olpin and seconded by Derek Leach)
Advertising Manager	Jean Marsh
Web Master	to be appointed
Projects including	
Ecological matters	Deborah Gasking
Plaques	Martyn Webster
Executive Members	Alan Sencicle, Patrick Sherratt, Derek Leach, Mike Weston

8b) Non-Executive Roles

Media Officer	Terry Sutton
Email Communications	Jeremy Cope
Summer Social Secretary	Rodney Stone

9) Election of Audit Committee John Morgan, John Widgery

10) Any Other Business

Following the interval, the speaker will be Andrew Nunn 'The Duke of York's Royal Military School'



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INCREASED MEMBERSHIP

Channel Challenge

Terry Sutton

Thousands of refugees in recent months have crossed the Dover Strait in small boats powered by outboard engines.

One hundred years ago, in the 1920s, there was a craze to cross the Dover Strait in small boats powered by outboard engines.

But those were mostly wealthy people, including a few aristocrats, aiming to go the opposite way from Dover to Calais.

This craze reached its climax in June 1929 when 36 "starters" set off from Dover in a race in various sized small craft, all powered by outboard engines. The result was chaos in rain and fog.

None of the craft arrived at Calais under their own power. Some were towed into French ports by French fishermen while more than a dozen of the speed boat pilots were saved by the crews of Channel lightships. Three of the

starters, although lost in fog, tied their craft together and rowed into Calais!

They were not the only ones trying to cross the Channel with the help of small boats. In 1926 thirty-six "aspirants", from a range of nations, set off to swim across the Dover Strait. Each, setting off from France or from Dover, had a small boat to pilot the way. That year there were only five successful crossings. In 1923 only three swimmers were successful while in 1927 three canoeists were.

In the 1920s a young Parisian woman tried crossing from Cap Gris Nez to Dover in a hydrocycle while a Polish seafarer attempted to walk from Dover to France wearing large wooden shoes. He failed to get far.

Today many of these unorthodox Channel crossing attempts are banned by the French maritime authorities for safety reasons.

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Looking Back 100 Years

Terry Sutton

One hundred years ago, in the autumn of 1923, Dover's massive Admiralty Harbour was transferred from the Admiralty to Dover Harbour Board. It was the most important change of the year.

Apparently, the Admiralty decided Dover was no longer an important base for the Royal Navy which caused much sadness in the town where the Navy boys were always popular. The harbour and its quays were formally handed over to Dover Harbour Board on September 29th in 1923 following an Act of Parliament. A small portion of the Dockyard was retained by the Admiralty. Dover Harbour Board was still trying to interest investors in the provision of a very large dry dock, costing well over a million pounds. A small amount of Kent mined coal was being exported through Dover to Boulogne because of the fuel shortage of coal from the Ruhr.

Another change was the ending of the Noon Day gunfire, a feature in Dover for many years. The firing of the gun ceased in August 1923 on the grounds of "national economy".

Yet another important change, to the benefit of Dover, was that five railway operators came under the control on January 1st of



Dover 1923

the newly named Southern Railway which decided to make Dover an important employment base and to upgrade Priory railway station.

One of the main works of Dover Town Council was to find useful tasks for the unemployed. One job was finishing the task of linking by road Elms Vale and Tower Hamlets by converting a cow path to create what became known as Astor Avenue. Plans were afoot to widen parts of Folkestone Road and the approach to Buckland Bridge from the Crabble direction.

A number of obsolete warships, including Dreadnoughts, were being demolished at Stanlee's ship-breaking works at the Eastern Docks, providing a number of low-paid jobs while the British Oxygen Company had built a factory and offices in Castle Place. The very old Dover business, Dover Tannery, closed down.

On April 23rd the bodies of 79 Belgian soldiers who died in the UK were returned to their homeland with a big ceremony.

There was a row over the town council's decision to buy and lay-out Pencester Meadow (Pencester Gardens) when it was discovered the seller did not own all the land.

Another big debate was over the move to replace Dover's ageing trams with trackless trolley cars. Eventually it was agreed to replace the trams with East Kent buses.

With many old houses being demolished in the Pier district, there was a shortage of homes to let. A number of large houses on the sea front, previously used as B&Bs, were vacated and let as flats.

A Surprise Discovery at Langdon Abbey

— Tim Boyton-Adams —

Dover and the immediate surrounding area had its fair share of religious houses during the Middle Ages – the Domus Dei or God's House, the Collegiate Church of St. Martin le Grand, the Priory of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Martin, St. Radigund's Abbey – and Langdon Abbey. All were closed during the course of the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII and his Chief Secretary and Vicar-General, Thomas Cromwell, 1st Earl of Essex (c1485-1540).

The National Archives contain many letters written to Thomas Cromwell by his agents during this tumultuous period of English history – and his agents were, by and large, Tudor 'self-made' men (like Cromwell himself) who carved careers for themselves in loyal service to the crown. Many were churchmen, anxious for the reform of what were considered by some to be 'superstitious' and 'idolatrous' practices within the pre-Reformation Church. One such agent was Dr. Richard Layton (c1500-1544), educated at Cambridge, from where he graduated in 1522, afterwards taking Holy Orders, and then entering the service of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, where he met Thomas Cromwell. Layton ultimately became Cromwell's principal agent during the mid-1530s, visiting many monasteries and reporting to his master on what he had found at each, in a string of letters that today survive in the National Archives at Kew. Layton's service was typical of many during this period and he appears to have been a 'career' churchman, holding many benefices and livings, ultimately becoming Dean of York.

The visitation of the monasteries had one aim – to ascertain their wealth, following King Henry's break with Rome in 1534. Layton and other commissioners were commissioned by Cromwell to question each monk, nun and friar, in every monastery and friary in the land, to judge the 'religious health' of each house – and of course, to record details of their possessions and income. Layton, by and large,

concentrated his work in the South and East of England, ultimately managing the surrender of various abbeys and priories during the mid to late 1530s. One such monastery that he visited was Langdon Abbey, situated at West Langdon, just East of Dover – a Premonstratensian house of White Canons, founded by William de Auberville (the elder) and his wife Matilda (or Maud) de Glanville, daughter of Ranulf de Glanville, Chief Justiciar of England to Henry II, in around 1192. The abbey was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Thomas of Canterbury and held extensive lands, which by 1491 extended to 300 acres. Very little of the abbey remains today, but extensive 12th century vaulted cellars remain as part of a later house built on the site, now in private hands.

In October 1535, Layton paid an unexpected visit to Langdon Abbey and his letter to Thomas Cromwell has the following account (the spelling has been modernised):

'Please it your goodness to understand that on Friday 22nd October I rode back with speed to take an inventory of Folkestone (priory), and from thence went to Langdon. Whereas immediately descending from my horse, I sent Bartelot your servant, with all my servants to circumcept (inspect) the house the abbey, and surely keep all back doors and starting holes (private entrances) etc. I myself went alone to the abbot's lodging joining upon the fields and woods, even like a cony clapper (a rabbit's burrow) full of private ways; a good space knocking at the abbot's door, neither sound nor sign of life appearing, saving the abbot's little dog, that within his door fast locked, bayed and barked. I found a short pole-axe ... and with it I dashed the abbot's door in pieces, and set one of my men to keep (guard) that door, and about [the] house I go with the pole-axe in my hand, for the abbot is a dangerous desperate knave and a hardy. But for a conclusion, his whore alias his gentlewoman bestirred her stumps towards her starting hole (private entrance), and there Bartelot

watching the pursuit took the tender damsel, and after I had examined (questioned) her, to Dover there to the mayor to set her in some cage or prison for eight days, and I brought holy father abbot to Canterbury, and there to Christchurch (the Cathedral priory) I will leave him in prison. In this sudden doing extempore, to circumcept (inspect) the house and to search, your servant John Antony and his men marvelled what fellow I was, and so did the rest of the abbey, for I was unknown there of all men. At last I found her apparel in the abbot's coffer (chest). To tell you all this comedy, but for the abbot a tragedy, it were too long. Now it shall appear to gentlemen of this country, and other the commons, that ye shall not deprive or visit upon substantial grounds. Surely I suppose God himself put it in my mind thus suddenly to make a search at the beginning, because no canon appeared in my sight; I supposed rather to have found a whore amongst them in the abbot's chamber...'

Just to put this into context - one of the agents'

injunctions to male religious houses laid down that 'there be no entrance into this monastery but one, and that by the great fore-gate of the same, which diligently shall be watched and kept by some porter specially appointed for that purpose, and shall be shut and opened by the same both day and night, at convenient and accustomed hours, which porter shall repel all manner of women from entrance into the said monastery.'

Langdon Abbey was subsequently dissolved in the first round of monastic closures for houses with incomes of less than £200 per annum - its annual income stood at only £56. The last abbot, William Sayer (the very one imprisoned by Layton at Canterbury) signed the Deed of Surrender, along with ten canons - the document survives today in the National Archives at Kew and has a very fine impression of the abbey seal attached to it - one side showing an image of the Blessed Virgin and Child, the other the martyrdom of St. Thomas. Sic transit gloria mundi...

Curiosity of Dover

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Planning Committee

Graham Margery - Co Chairman

There have been a few changes to the Planning Committee recently and we are pleased to welcome Ann Burke as Co-Chair and Jacquie Axford to help in the ongoing task of overseeing planning applications. Over the last four months we have reviewed some 75 applications that are potentially of interest and made formal response to Dover District Council in respect of 21 of them.

Local Plan: Section 3 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that each local planning authority should prepare a Local Plan for its area. The Local Plan guides decisions on future development proposals and addresses the needs and opportunities of the area. Topics that Local Plans usually cover include housing, employment and shops and they also identify where development should take place and areas where development should be restricted. It is therefore a crucially important document that is used to assess Local Authority plans in a number of aspects including the assessment of planning applications. The current DDC Local Plan was adopted in 2010 and the new one has been under consideration for some time having been delayed by the pandemic. The first public consultation was concluded in March 2021 and, of course we made comments on the plan, to try and ensure our interests were taken into account. The second public consultation on a revised plan was concluded in December 2022 and again we made our comments. We now have to wait the results of the consultation to be considered and a final draft produced that will be presented to the Planning Inspectorate towards the end of 2023 with a view to adoption in 2024. We look forward to

the new Local Plan and hope to see our interests reflected in it. We will refer to it as plans are brought forward and will endeavour to hold the Local Authority to account.

Bench Street: Dover District Council announced in April 2021 that £3.2m had been secured from the government Future High Streets Fund which together with £1.7m from DDC will be used to redevelop part of Bench Street. More recently DDC has submitted a Levelling up Fund bid which, if successful, will be used to further develop Bench Street and make improvements to the subway to the sea front.

At the heart of the latest plans is a £2.9m project to comprehensively redevelop part of Bench Street providing a key thoroughfare between the waterfront and town centre. There will also be a new so called creative space forming part of a mixed-use development that will include seven residential units. The area involves the large building once displaying the Banksy artwork and the east elevation of Bench Street including the Funkey Monkey night club. The draft proposal was shown to the public at an engagement event last summer which we were happy to support in principle but with some reservations about the details. The "Banksy" building and the east of Bench Street will be demolished and replaced with an educational campus for the creative and digital industries and facilities for small/medium businesses. There will also be a green space to the rear of Bench Street.

We have long recognized that the Bench Street area is in desperate need of

regeneration with progressive dereliction over the last 40 years. We also recognize that this proposal represents a small part of a bigger scheme for the Bench Street area with the underpass and the western side of Bench Street also needing redevelopment. As there are no published plans yet for funding the work on these additional areas, we fear that they will be delayed, be sub-standard, or may not happen at all.

We are concerned about the unspecified details of the current scheme which presumably will come later. We are particularly disappointed that the Banksy building is planned to be demolished as it is deemed to be structurally unsound. This building has interesting architectural features so we hope to see them reflected in the new design particularly the decorative window surrounds and the rounded corner marking the original junction of Snargate Street with Bench Street which, if mirrored in the new college building, would open up the view into the town and create an attractive “funnel” drawing people from the seafront into the town centre. The buildings on the east of Bench Street also have interesting features which we would hope to see reinstated. DDC have now acquired the properties involved and the intention is to demolish them while detailed plans are worked up. We wait with interest to see how this develops.

The Three Cups, Crabble Hill: We hear a lot from the media that pubs are finding these to be difficult times particularly after stresses of the pandemic. We now see that a planning application has been submitted to convert the Three Cups pub into four flats. Whilst it is sad to see the demise of another pub, the provision of much needed additional housing is something to be welcomed although there are some concerns about parking. The flats are each of a good size meeting design standards

which is always something of interest to us. The application has yet to be determined so we wait to see how things turn out.

The Citadel, Western Heights: We commented in the last newsletter that there are plans to convert some of the buildings for commercial use. Subsequently there has been another planning application. This is all a good sign that an otherwise derelict site is being slowly brought into use and this will involve improving access to the site. Being part of the Western Heights Conservation Area and with some Listed Buildings the changes will need to be handled sensitively but the longer-term plans will open up the site and ensure environmental sustainability.

Barwick Road: A Planning Application has recently been submitted for a development of 73 terraced houses and 5 blocks comprising 64 flats. The blocks of flats are of three and four storeys designed to blend with the landscape which is on a steep hill. The land in question is currently a disused light industrial site now derelict so bringing this into use for housing is very much to be welcomed. Much of the proposed site will be of modular construction which ensures rapid build together with longer term energy efficiency. The properties are all to a high standard in a setting comprising green spaces with trees. Unusually, the landowner will retain ownership of the site, the dwellings all being for rental and in this way solving the perennial problem of providing affordable housing whilst giving a return to the developer. The increased traffic in Coombe Valley Road is of course a concern but overall, this is a well thought out and sensitive scheme which we have been pleased to support.

A belated Happy New Year to you all as we look forward to the joys of Springtime.

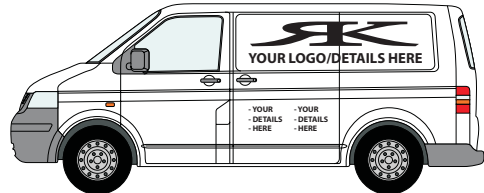


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Around Dover Museum

The Ringlemere Cup

Veronica Ward

For thousands of years gold has been desired, worshipped, fought over and possessed. Gold is thought to have been produced from the collision of neutron stars and to have been present in the dust from which the Solar System was formed. The oldest gold artefacts in the world are from Bulgaria and date back to around 4,600 BC.

The Ringlemere Cup is of international significance and was cast in the Bronze Age (3,300-1200BC). It was found at the site of an ancient mound or barrow enclosed by an earlier 'henge' (similar to Stonehenge but made of wood rather than stone). It was a highly valued object and would have been used for ceremonial purposes. It was made in Southern England, but the gold would have come from continental Europe, western Britain

or Ireland and brought here by a boat like our famous Bronze Age Boat here at the museum. It is made from a sheet of gold alloyed with 20% silver. The handle was made separately and fixed with four beautiful rivets. The cup, alongside an amber pendent and some flints, were found at Ringlemere Farm near Sandwich by a local metal detectorist in 2001. It was declared as treasure in 2002 and bought by the British Museum for £270,000.

The cup was number 10 in the list of British archaeological finds selected by experts at the British Museum for the 2003 BBC Television documentary "Our Top Ten Treasures".

From 2004-6 the cup appeared in the Museum's "Buried Treasure" exhibition on treasure trove, both at the Museum itself and touring Cardiff, Manchester, Newcastle, and the Norwich Castle museums. In 2007, it was on temporary display in Dover Museum and it is now back in the Prehistory galleries at the British Museum.

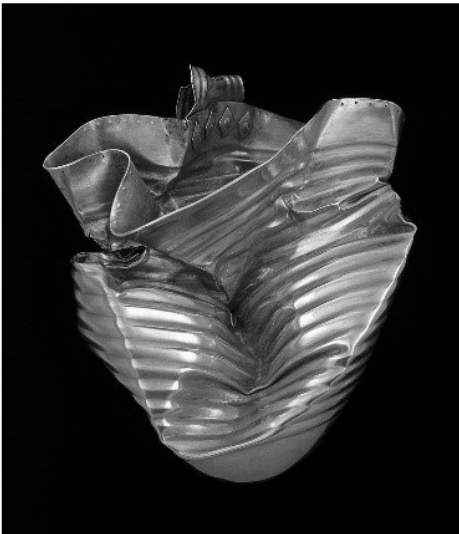
In that wonderful rendition of 'Gold' Spandau Ballet sang in 1983: 'Gold... always believe in your soul, you've got the power to know, you're indestructible! The Ringlemere Cup has certainly been indestructible.

Come and see the replica on the top floor at the museum.

We open: Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 5.00pm. Open Sundays in the summer 10.00am to 3.00pm. Admission is FREE.

Tel: 01304 201066

www.dover.gov.uk/museum



The Ringlemere Cup

Anti-Aircraft Battery D3 Frith Farm, Guston

Barry O'Brien – Dover Tales

Less than one mile from the gates to Connaught Barracks, Frith Farm, Guston, was the site of Anti-Aircraft Battery D3.

A Second World War Heavy Anti-Aircraft (HAA) Battery the Frith Farm site was ready for action on 25th August 1939 at which time it was equipped with two 3inch semi-mobile guns dating from the First World War. The site was manned by half of the 233 Battery while the other half were stationed at Farthingloe (D1) but who were, at the time, still awaiting the arrival of their guns. Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery D2 was located at Wanstone Farm while D4 was located in St. Radigunds. In all there would appear to have been at least 19 HAA sites in and around the towns of Dover and Folkestone.

Many of the Dover HAA sites were built on green-field land and had no concrete gun emplacements or magazines, leaving the guns and command post protected only by sandbags while the ground around the guns reduced to a sea of mud throughout the winter. Frith Farm, though, did have an accommodation block albeit with no

electricity supply, no glass in the windows and no bed-frames.

With the 3inch guns removed to the Harbour Battery (D5) the new 3.7inch guns destined for the site arrived at Dover Priory station on the afternoon of 25th May 1940 and were henceforth towed to Frith Farm, although these were mobile type guns and not the static ones planned.

They were also received un-painted and the paint was still wet when that night's enemy action began, coincidentally this was also the first time the Battery had fired a shot in anger. A Heinkel 115 minelayer was duly despatched by the guns while the only casualty at Frith Farm was the paint on the newly painted gun barrels which had blistered along the barrel's length from the heat of firing. By 1942 the Frith Farm site was armed with six 3.7inch mobile guns with GL Mark II radar manned by 411 Battery of the 127th Royal Artillery Regiment. From 2nd August 1944, the site was manned by 413 Battery of the 173 Anti-Aircraft Regiment and thereafter, in 1946, retained as a Nucleus Force Headquarters Battery.



Anti Aircraft Battery D3 Christmas 1940



Nissan Hut is Now a Stable for Horses

The only building that survives today at Frith Farm is the Nissan hut used for the living/sleeping accommodation of the men whilst Officers used requisitioned

houses nearby. Nowadays the Nissan hut survives as a stable for horses, shown on the defence of Britain data base as a defended building. Ref. No. S0014875

Location of WW2 Air Defence Sites around Dover

Site Number	Site Name	OS Grid Reference
D1	Farthingloe	TR 297 399
D2	Swingate	TR 349 433
D3	Frith Farm	TR 319 436
D4	St Radigund	TR 289 424
D5		TR 328 426
D6	Dover Harbour	TR 328 416
D7	Western Heights	TR 310 408
D8		TR 329 461
D10		TR 352 477
D12		TR 356 513

With thanks to Mark Chapman

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Derek Leach

Terry Sutton

Derek Leach OBE, our Dover Society former chairman, has retired from the unpaid post as chairman of the influential Port Community Forum which he has chaired for nearly nine years. Derek is succeeded by Mick Tedder who worked at the port of Dover for forty years before retiring as freight import director employed by local shipping company Hammonds.

Tributes were paid to Mr Leach by bosses of Dover Harbour Board and others at the last Port and Community Forum held in November.

The forum was set up in the wake of the

failed attempt to privatise the Port of Dover when some local people tried to switch the ownership of the ferry port to local people. As a result, in an attempt to gather better local community views on the work of the port, and its future, the forum was set up. Members of the forum today represent a wide range of community views and opinions.

During the November meeting of the forum, it was formally announced that Dover Harbour Board had gifted more than £1 million to mainly 150 local organisations and projects through the Kent Community Foundation.

The International Exhibition of 1862

Barry O'Brien – Dover Tales

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Effectively a World Fair the International Exhibition of 1862, or Great London Exposition, ran from May to November 1862 on a site in London's South Kensington that today is home to the Natural History Museum.

Sponsored by the Royal Society of Arts, Manufacturers and Trades, over 28,000 exhibitors from thirty-six countries took part, attracting some 6.1 million visitors, with gate receipts slightly in excess of costs, leaving a total profit of £100,000 by today's equivalent.

The Exhibition opened on May 1st 1862 and, with Queen Victoria still in mourning for her consort, Prince George, Duke of Cambridge and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, presided, with an opening address delivered by the Earl Granville, Chairman of Her Majesty's Commissioners, the group responsible for



Granville Leveson-Gower, 2nd Earl Granville. Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports 1865-1891

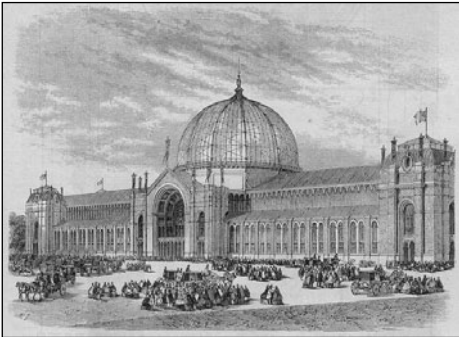
the organisation of the event.

The International Exhibition ran for 6 months in all, with an official closing ceremony taking place on November 1st 1862, although the exposition remained open to the public until November 15th 1862.

With the final closure of the project, the Government of the day, under Prime Minister Viscount Palmerston, proposed purchasing the building, which suggestion was voted down by Parliament and the decision was made to dispose of the structure's materials, with much of them being used for the construction of Alexandra Palace in North London.

Newspapers of the day report: "On October 17th [1864] a great number of persons visited the neighbourhood of the Great Exhibition building, it having been announced that it was intended to blow down the two towers that supported the Great Dome, but the operation was postponed for a day to allow Sir John Burgoyne and other officers of The Royal Engineers to be present at the operation. The public had the opportunity of witnessing the Corps of Sappers and Miners at work."

The report continues that the towers stood 70 feet tall [21 metres] and were 40 feet in circumference [12 metres], with 100lbs of dynamite installed within the walls of each



Great London Exposition of 1862 South Kensington

tower in order to bring about their demolition. The towers were estimated to weigh approximately 30 tons combined.

Clearly Sir John's attentions were not unwarranted as demolition continued for some time, with a report of November 12th 1864 recording that 'Operations were resumed on November 5th by The Royal Engineers under Sir John Burgoyne. The fuse having been applied and the sappers and miners having connected it with the battery some 200 yards away, the word of command was given by the shrill sound of a bugle, but the explosion had no perceptible effect on the enormous structure beyond a breach in the bricks and an enormous cloud of smoke and dust.' A second and third time charges were applied but with the same result as before. Attention was then turned to towers at the Western end of the building where, after a first failed attempt, half of one tower "came down with a tremendous crash to the ground to the cheers of the spectators."

Clearance of the site continued until "On December 12th [1864] the complete demolition of the grand entrance to the Great Exhibition Building was accomplished by the Royal Engineers Sappers and Miners. There were present on this occasion, General Sir John Burgoyne, Lord Mountcharles, The Marquis of Salisbury, Sir Charles Forbes, Colonel Chapman, Deputy Adjutant General The Royal Engineers, Captain Fowke and other distinguished persons, together with a larger crowd of spectators than on any previous occasion.

There were 110 charges containing a total force of 180 lbs of gunpowder. Precisely at half past eleven the bugle sounded and the three batteries were fired, almost instantaneously the structure crumbled down from crown to base, falling entirely

within the enclosure and without scattering any of the bricks or debris into the road or near the neighbouring houses which were crowded with spectators."

Construction of Alexandra Palace, the "Palace of the People", recycled much of the demolition material, with construction commencing September 1865.

Once cleared, the South Kensington site was purchased, and a competition was held to design the intended Natural History Museum with the winning entry, ironically, submitted by the aforementioned civil engineer Captain Fowke who, sadly, died shortly afterwards. Construction work of the building began in 1873 and the new museum opened in 1881.

Four months after overseeing the successful demolition of the building which housed The International Exhibition of 1862, Sir John Burgoyne was appointed Constable of the Tower of London, but that's another story for another day.



Alexandra Palace

Memories of a Tram Conductress During World War I

Derek Leach

Taken from the Joe Harman Archive

Born in 1895, May Archer wrote this letter to Joe Harman in 1985 aged 90.

In 1914 the war had just broken out and I wanted to help in some way. I thought of joining the Women's Land Army, but my brother was a tram conductor and had been called up for war service, so I thought why not try for a conductresses job. I went to see the manager to see if any help was wanted. It was, but only for the duration of the war as servicemen had been promised their jobs back at the end of the war. I can't remember any staff recruitment process and I started work early in 1915 and was demobbed in the middle of 1920.

It meant working out of doors in all weathers and taking turns to take the first tram out in the morning, clocking on at 5am and helping to run the tramcar out of the shed ready to take the shore men to the Crosswall terminus ready for work at 5.15am. Then we waited to take the night shift home. We worked long hours for 18 shillings a week; boy conductors got 15 shillings at 14 years old. We had one half day a week off and alternate Sundays with overtime paid for Sundays.

Children in those days were up to all sorts of pranks, but they did not go round pinching goods from shop counters. Near the entrance to the Grand Shaft in Snargate Street there was a sort of tram signal box with another one halfway down Northampton Street to control the single-track stretch. Children would watch the two sets of signals. If the signal arm was up, it meant that a tram was coming, if

down the way was clear. If boys found the signal arm was up, they would put it down; this meant that two trams would face each other at Bethel corner, leading to an argument between the drivers as to who was going to back up with both drivers painting the sky blue before one or the other gave way, watched by the hiding boys.

When it rained, we had to wear oilskins and sou'westers like fishermen with one bag slung over the shoulder for tickets in rounds as large as dinner plates and a bag for the money. We were well loaded. There were no ticket machines in those days, tickets were hand punched. Wellington boots were only just coming on the market then so in wet weather we wore clumped sole boots and black gaiters up to the knees.

Sometime after I joined the tramways there was a bad accident. A tram car lost control going down the Chute into River (Crabble Road). Being a nice, warm,



*Dover Tram Conductress Lottie Scrase Centre Front
(died in River Tram Accident)*

summer's day the car was full of passengers; it left the rails and crashed into the Crabble Mill wall at the bottom of the Chute. The car overturned throwing most of the top deck passengers into the mill yard. The conductress, Miss Scrase, and several passengers were killed and some badly injured.

The River route was closed for a few days and when it reopened only one car ran on the route for quite a time. We all took our turn on that route, which was rather tedious because we went from the tram shed (at Buckland Bridge) to River terminus and back to Buckland Bridge, roughly 10 minutes each way. There was an army guard just outside the Athletic Ground gate who used to send out two basins of tea – one for the driver and one for the conductor or conductress. It was very welcome on cold, wet nights. I expect we looked a bit funny going along Lewisham Road drinking tea out of basins. Lewisham Road was not like it is today, but just a track from the Athletic Ground to near the school and then tarmac to the end of the route. There were only a few houses then with fields on both sides of the track.

The war dragged on and there was a shortage of drivers for a few weeks. Two of the conductresses, Miss Kay and Miss Lawrence, volunteered as drivers and were accepted, but I was told I was too short. Neither of them drove for long; Miss Kay left to get married and Miss Lawrence had an accident when a lorry ran into her car and she was squashed between the controller and the stairs. After being on the sick list for quite some time she went back to conducting.

We had some very bad winters during the war. On one particular day, with deep snow, I went up on the top deck to collect fares and noticed some children making

snowballs on the high terrace in London Road. A few minutes later a snowball caught me right in the earhole; I looked round, but all the children had disappeared.

One job I did not like was fishing about in freezing puddles to find the point iron. This happened when the dummy point was worn and the driver had to put down the point iron to help get over the points. It was the conductor or conductress who had to pick up the point iron – alright in good weather but not on cold, winter nights.

One day I was pulled up into the air when I jumped to pull the trolley arm down, but it pulled me up and swung me round the car; there wasn't enough tension in the trolley arm.

One night we were the last car finishing at 10.59 and ran the car into the tram shed. I cashed up and my driver and another driver and I started for home. As we neared Eric Road my driver said, if you hear a plonk and a splash it will only be my mate falling in a puddle. Would you believe it, as we got to Eric Road I stumbled and went plonk right in the middle of a puddle and my billycan went one way and its lid the other. There we were on a cold, wet night fishing for the billycan and lid. A window opened and somebody called out, "Can't you tram people make less noise at this time of night?" We found the billycan and I used it next day.

I still remember that special day in November 1918. We left the Pier Terminus at 10.50am and arrived at the Town Hall at 11am where there was the largest crowd I'd ever seen. A policeman told us that the war had ended. Everybody started cheering and we loaded up with excited

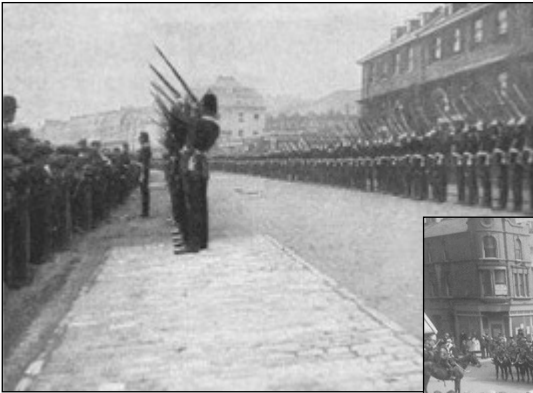
passengers; I could hardly get round to collect the fares. By that time there were only two conductresses left, Miss Brewster and myself.

In the summer of 1920, the tramways had its first staff outing and both of us had a nice day. Soon after that I was demobbed and went to work in the Scottish Laundry and Miss Brewster went to work in the

tramway's office. I must say that it was a rough sort of life sometimes, but I enjoyed it and I saw a good many dawns shooting through the sky from the Pier Terminus.

Wartime conductresses that May remembers: Miss Kelly, 2 Miss Perrins, 2 Miss Edwards, 2 Miss Gansdens, Miss Lawrence, Miss Lenton, Miss Smith, Miss Genge, Miss Reagan, Miss Brewster and May Archer.

Post Card Memories



*Suffolk Regt Firing the Feu-de-Joie 25 May 1899
Queen Victoria Birthday Military Tattoo*



*Dover's only cavalry unit: Dover Troop,
(Duke of Connaught's Own) Royal East
Kent Mounted Rifles, on parade in the
Market Square, probably around 1907.*



*March Past of Royal Artillery,
King's Birthday Parade, Dover Seafront*

A Theft at The Fort

Barry O'Brien – Dover Tales

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On May 24th, 1864, being “the forty-fifth anniversary of Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria”, as the prominent buildings in Dover flew flags of various relevance and description, while “most of the shipping in harbour displayed a profusion of bunting”, all the troops garrisoned in the town paraded at 10am to be marched “to the plateau adjacent to the Castle Hill Fort (later named Fort Burgoyne and still only three years into Construction) where the troops performed a number of exercises prior to the midday firing of a Royal Salute from the castle.

With the firing of every seventh gun of the salute the massed troops let fire a ‘feu de joie’ (a rifle salute with each soldier firing

in succession along the ranks to make a continuous sound), while the band of the Highlanders struck up the National Anthem with the conclusion of each volley. The ceremony over, the men removed their hats and gave three hearty cheers for Her Majesty, prior to parading before Colonel Maclean RA who took the salute in the absence, on leave, of General Charles Ellice CB.

Sadly, Tuesday May 24th, 1864, was not such a joyous occasion for everyone in Dover as, elsewhere, Private William Rose of the Royal Engineers appeared before Magistrate W P Elsted Esq in the County Police Court charged that on the night of May 21st he did “burglariously” enter the Castle Hill Fort Canteen and steal “therefrom a wooden till containing about five shillings in copper money”.

The licence holder at the canteen, John Prescott, gave evidence that on arrival at the premises at 6am the morning of the 21st he found that a wooden bar, which had previously been placed across a window of the building, had been forced away. On entering the canteen, Mr Prescott continued, he found that the wooden till which, he maintained, had been secure at 11pm the previous night, was no longer in its rightful place.

Private William Higman, Royal Engineers, later deposed that when he went to light the fire for the donkey engine at 5am that morning, on opening the firebox door he discovered a discarded till which was later found to be that which was missing from the canteen. By 7am the till had been returned to Mr Prescott by way of a Royal



Queen Victoria

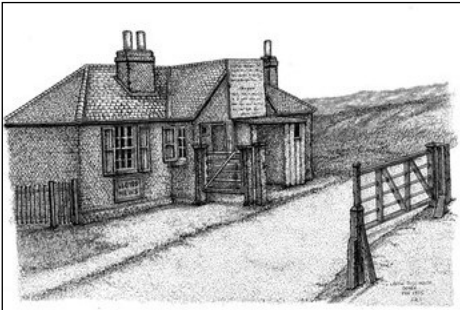
Artillery Sergeant, although the five shillings which had been left in the till the previous evening was missing. At which point Mr Prescott went to see the Captain of the Engineers to level the accusation of theft against Private Rose.

Mr Prescott advised the court that, having left the canteen at 11pm the previous evening, he had occasion to journey into Dover and “close by Love Lane (now Connaught Road) met the prisoner and another soldier named Bruce coming up the hill”. Private William Bruce, Royal Engineers, confirmed that he had caught up with Private Rose walking up Love Lane between midnight and 1am on the 21st and that they had, indeed, met with Mr Prescott but that he, Private Bruce, had parted with the prisoner soon after “about 50 yards past the toll bar”. (The Dover, Deal and Sandwich turnpike leading up Laureston Place and the old Castle Hill Road originally dates from 1797, the later toll house being close to the current turning to Guston.)

Private Bruce admitted that he had been “rather tipsy” at the time and could not remember entering the fort but was sure that he had done so alone. There also seems to have been a suggestion that Private Rose had left his belt in town that evening although Private Bruce could not

confirm whether or not Rose had returned to fetch it, having parted company with him. Bruce did however confirm that the canteen was located only about one hundred yards from where he left Rose.

Corporal Frederick Gates, Royal Engineers, confirmed that although he and Private Rose slept in the same room, he could not confirm at what time of the morning Rose had returned on the 21st, only that he was present at tattoo - 9.30pm, which was known as tattoo from the Dutch phrase ‘doe den tap toe’ meaning that inn-keepers should “turn off the tap” as it was time to return to barracks. The Corporal went on to acknowledge that Rose could well have left at some later time without his knowledge, a fact attested to by a Colour Sergeant who told Mr Elsted that the door to the room had not been locked that night as the key had been lost. Corporal Gates continued that, the following morning, he had been made aware of a cap beneath Private Rose’s bed containing “about three or four shillings worth” of coppers. When Gates enquired further, Rose advised that he had changed all his coin into copper the previous day. This claim was, though, thrown into question by another Engineer, named Forrest, who maintained that Rose had told him he had drawn two shillings



Castle Hill Tollhouse Nigel Walking



Victorian Donkey Engine

from the Pay Sergeant the previous day, the 20th, and by that evening had but eight pennies left.

Sgt Pope of the Kent County Constabulary gave testament that he had visited the canteen with Mr Prescott, where had found that a piece of wood had been prised from a window “as if from the outside.” He also advised that the donkey engine where the till was found was in a “direct line from the canteen to the prisoner’s quarters.”

At conclusion the Magistrate, Mr Elsted, committed Private Rose to trial at St Augustine’s Quarter Sessions.

As a point of interest, the Prescott family were long established in the area and had, seemingly, farmed the land around the top of Castle Hill for many long years. Indeed, the Sergeants’ Mess of Connaught Barracks, built some 50 years later, was located on the site previously known as Prescott’s Pond.

A member of the Prescott family was credited with the conversion to non-conformist religion of one Captain Samuel Taverner, a Captain of a Troop of Horse, at the age of 22. Taverner later received a commission from Cromwell, which he resigned following the Restoration. During his term as Governor of Deal Castle, he had heard Edward Prescott preaching in a field, and, having concealed himself behind a hedge to listen, subsequently became a stalwart supporter of his cause.

In 1670, Taverner was brought before the Privy Council, along with five other prominent Dover men, named Matson, Dell, Barry, Yorke, and Street, to be reprimanded for his non-conformist belief. When Taverner refused to submit to the Privy Council’s orders to desist, he was imprisoned in Dover Castle.



Dover Unitarian Church, Adrian Street

On his release from confinement, Taverner retired to London until he could safely return to Dover and exercise his ministry. Ordained as Pastor of the Dover Baptist Church in 1681, in 1692 he obtained a licence for the south-west end of his dwelling house in Market Lane to be used as a meeting house, and there he ministered until his death in 1696.

The Baptist congregation continued to meet in Captain Taverner’s house until 1745 when, greater religious toleration prevailing, a chapel was built in the middle of Market Lane, on the west side, and continued to be used until 1820 when the General (Unitarian) Baptist Chapel was built in Adrian Street.

The licensing arrangements for the canteen at Fort Burgoyne appear to have been taken over by the military in due course, presumably as the fort’s construction progressed, with an unnamed Sergeant Major of the 38th (1st Staffordshire) Regiment of Foot holding the licence until June 1873 after which a Sergeant MacMahon took on the responsibility until Sept 1878 when a certain Mr G Wood became licensee.

*Quotations taken from The Dover Telegraph
May 28th, 1864*

*With thanks to Paul Skelton and John
Bavington-Jones*



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PROGRAMME 2023

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.

2023

March 20 **General Open Meeting**

Monday 7.30 **Speaker: Derek Leach**
"A Saint, A Chapel and a Policeman"

April 17 **Dover Society Annual General Meeting**

Monday 7.30 **Speaker: Andrew Nunn**
"The Duke of York's Royal Military School"
More details of the AGM appear in the centre of this newsletter along with a reminder on page 5.

October **General Open Meeting**

Monday 7.30 Speaker: To be confirmed

November **General Open Meeting**

Monday 7.30 Speaker: To be confirmed

December 3 **Dover Society Festive Lunch** The Marina Hotel, Dover Waterfront

12.30 for 1pm This is a provisional booking and will be confirmed, along with all other details, in the next newsletter

2024

Confirmation of dates and details for 2024 meetings will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.

Dover Society Summer Trips 2023

Iain is in touch with the Thames boat people and Savile Gardens, but at present no firm dates have been arranged. The dates being looked at are early June and early September.

For an update nearer the time please contact

Rodney Stone, Bahia, 10 Lighthouse Road, St. Margaret's Bay, CT15 6EJ Telephone: 01303 852838

Short Breaks Organised by Iain

Iain is organising day trips for the Silver Phoenix Travel Club details of which can be found on the Club's website www.silverphoenixtc.com. These include trips to shows at London theatres and a visit to the Royal Windsor Horse Show on the 11th May.

The Society will not be involved in these arrangements. Members interested should contact Iain direct on mobile 07842 124094. Pick-up points will be in the Canterbury area, and Iain can advise on longer term parking facilities there if required.

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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