



Dear Old Dovorian,

At the AGM in June Tony Bunting completed his term as President of the Old Dovorians Club. The Club is fortunate to have benefited from his positive contribution during the past two years. It is reassuring that his active involvement will continue as a member of the committee. The committee, which is ably led by Richard Robinson, is fundamental to the well-being of the club. Tony kindly sponsored me as his successor, an honour and role to which I intend to be fully committed.

The Dover College Register of 1871 – 1910 records a former Old Dovorian as asking the question why one should join The Old Dovorians Club? He answered by referring to a line from Robert Browning's *Home Thoughts from the Sea*:-

Here and here did England help: How can I help England? – Say...
In other words it is not what an individual will gain from a country or organization but rather what they will offer in return. Old Dovorians can be important ambassadors for the school by way of example and by supporting the activities of the Old Dovorians Club.

Few schools enjoy such an historic site as the one on which Dover College has been built. Some of the buildings may be traced back to the 12th century and the foundation of St. Martin's Priory. The Refectory is the oldest building of its type in the country which is still used for its original purpose. The remnant of the fresco of the *Last Supper* is one of the few remaining examples in England of such medieval murals. The Gate House and Chapel are notable in their own right.

King Stephen is said to have spent his last earthly hours in a building which stood behind the site of School House. The walled lawn area is still known as the King's Garden. During those monastic times there is evidence of a previous school. A Bible in the Bodleian Library in Oxford is catalogued as being given by the *Scholares of Douorr*.

Dover College was founded in 1871 and was one of the earlier members of the Headmasters' Conference. The school has always been proud of the connections with the Royal Family. In 1906. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, later

George V, was president of the Board of Governors and the late Her Majesty Elizabeth the Queen Mother was sometime patron of the school. The Old Dovorian Club was formed in 1887 to facilitate cricket, football and social activities among members of the proposed club. The numbers grew rapidly and by the early part of the next century had reached 450, a figure which has further increased to 5,500 which comprise the current membership.

The World Wars and other conflicts may belong to previous generations but their influence remains. It has been claimed that Old Dovorians were awarded more decorations per capita than the former pupils of any other school. Such decoration included the Victoria Cross, Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross. In addition there was the not to be forgotten East Surrey's Football Charge led by Wilfred (Billy) Neville. All of which are an example to each of us who follow in their footsteps.

Over the years the school has faced many challenges such as being evacuate during both World Wars. On the other hand the school has been a fore runner of many innovations such as the International Class in the 1950s and the move to co-education in the 1970s. The building of confidence has always been a feature in the school's ethos. This is now formalized in the slogan '...because confidence matters.' It is also appropriate that in the context of St Martin the school is prominent in charitable initiatives.

Reflecting on the past may be a source of nostalgia and pride but it should be the aim of every age to maintain a present and build a future which is worthy of that past. My invitation to you is to support the school and The Old Dovorian Club in every way that you can, in order that our memorable heritage may continue to flourish.
Non rescuso labore.

With all best wishes

R. De B. Hovell
President Old Dovorian Club