



# STEP UP!

The STEP SHORT NEWSLETTER

100 Years Ago.....

STEP SHORT Registered Charity No. 1143305

October 2015

## Mole Cafe Re-opened !

In August 2015 Step Short re-opened the Mole Cafe on the original spot in the newly refurbished Harbour Arm. 101 years after it originally opened in 1914 tea and cakes were served to visitors who this time, were not going off to war.

In the spirit of 1914 Ann Berry wore period clothing for the visit of the mayor of Boulogne Mr Frederic Cuvillier on the 26th August who enjoyed coffee and home made cake before signing the new visitors book.

The original Mole Cafe opened in October 1914 but shut after a few months only to re-open again in April 1915 after a general cancellation of leave. The cafe was started by Flora and Margaret Jeffery, aided by Mrs Napier Sturt. It closed in 1919. The original visitor book pages can be viewed on the Step Short website.



The cafe reopened on the 8th August and has been open for eight weekends to date. A request was made to keep it open until the end of October. Step Short also sold a good number of our souvenirs and many donations were received which has been a great help to the Step Short funds. Many thanks to all who have made this possible with lots of hard work.

MOLE CAFE	1
MOLE CAFE	2
THE ARCH, THE MARCH & THE BATTLE OF LOOS	3
WAR & PEACE SHOW—2015	4

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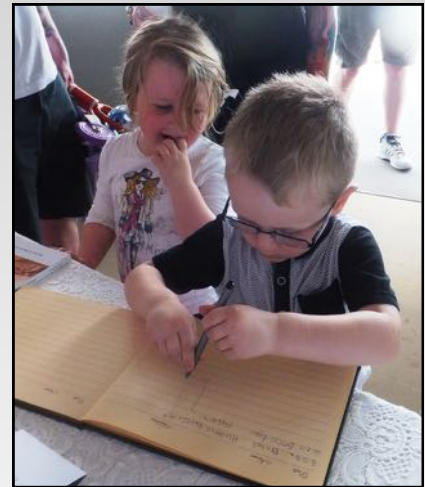
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## Mole Café Re-opens in 2015 (continued)



The Mole Cafe or Harbour Canteen in 1919 and the recreation of the visitor book table and flag display now. The shield and flag arrangement was beautifully re-created by Terry Legg and the new visitor book was donated by John Bailey.



Young visitors signed the visitors book as well. We hope their signatures will be read in 100 years time too.

Visitors enjoy tea and home made cake in the same location soldiers from all the allied nations would have used whilst they waited for their ship to cross the channel to France. The newly refurbished harbour arm will become a big visitor attraction when completed, offering shops, bars and superb views. Step Short would like to thank local Planning and Environment Officials who helped Step Short with advice on the catering and legal matters and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make it a success.



## Step Short March 2nd August 2015



The Step Short Parade on the 2nd of August was a big success. Organised this year by Parade Master John Wiggle the parade was well attended and even the sun shone to order. The Grand Burstin Hotel did an excellent job providing lunch for the marchers.



And the Arch, one year on looking superb in the September sunshine. All final snagging work was completed in August. Last week some graffiti appeared on the wall by a seat, done seemingly by a toddler with a blue crayon. Apart from some complaints about skateboarders and children playing football in the area—the memorial has been a big asset to the town. Drawing many tourists and providing a focus for remembrance.



### Regular Events .

On Sundays at 7.00pm a bugler will play the last post at the Arch from the 2nd of August through to Remembrance Sunday on the 8th November 2015.

### Battle of Loos 100 years ago.

On the 25th to 28th of September 1915 the British army fought the biggest battle of the year on the plain outside the mining town of Loos. What was significant about it was that the first of the Kitchener Volunteers joined the fighting with the regular army.

Many Step Short members had relatives who fought and died in this battle.

My grandfather had only been in France for 12 days when he joined the battle. He was in the Royal Engineers but they fought with the infantry there. He survived the battle and the war. His cousin a K2 volunteer in the Royal West Kent Regiment was not so lucky and was killed on the 26th September.

The battle is also significant in that new technology was used for the first time by our army. The British used gas for the first time in battle and also the Guards Division were the first to use the new Mills hand grenade in full battle.

The British suffered over 60,000 casualties of whom 7,766 were fatalities. **John Bailey**

## War & Peace Revival 2015



Step Short had a stand at the War & Peace Revival Show at the Folkestone Racecourse for the 3rd year. The stand was well visited and the team were pleased to receive many WW2 veterans, as well as re-enactors and members of the public.

The weather was kind to the show this year and it was generally sunny, with no mud!

D-Day Veteran Stan Hodge is pictured his friend Paul Heasman (left) in the tent and Mark is explaining what Step Short do to a visitor. The tent also hosted a visit by 60 Canadian students staying at the Sir John Moore barracks. Thanks to Mark Simmonds, Ann Berry, Geoff Tolson, Gail De Souza and all the Step Short members who contributed to this successful exhibition at the War & Peace revival. Following the change of ownership, this annual event will continue at the old Folkestone Racecourse next year and hopefully into the future.



### Where to Sign UP for membership!

Step short membership has now grown to over 400. This is a significant growth from our early days when meetings were held in phone boxes! (not really).

[www.stepshort.co.uk](http://www.stepshort.co.uk)

