

CAGE in Vestry and Poor Books

The first two entries below come from Barrett's book, pp.154 and 173

1787 The Parish Officers began to keep a vestry book and entered the rules for their meetings.

"No liquor to be called for after ten o'clock out of subscription.

No suppers to be paid out of the forfeit money.

No punch or wine to be had unless paid for by the Person that calls for it..

Every member who is not in the room at seven o'clock shall forfeit sixpence."

One of the earliest entries is

"Agreed to build a **Cage** at the end of ye poorhouses, to confine ill-behaved riotous persons."

1814 From the Parish Book

"Agreed to build a **Cage** at Birchington."

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According to Alfred Walker, the decision of **1787** was acted upon and the cage was built costing £12 12s 0d. He thought the poor houses were attached to the churchyard wall, to the cage would have been on the end of these.

The following entries from the Poor Books read:

"1788	John Friend Sen. paid for bricks and lime for ye Cage	£4 11s 9d
	John Tipper paid	£6 2s 3d
	his Carpenter's bill for the same	
	John Covell paid	£1 18s 0d
	his Blacksmith's bill for the same.	

John Tipper also reshingled the spire of the church in **1774** and a piece of wood on which he recorded this can be seen in All Saints

Church on the North wall near Quex Chapel. When a person was detained in the Cage overnight, a guard was needed.

"**1788** Paid Stephen and John Kemp for guard one night
at ye Cage. 3s."

"**1791** James Garner in the Cage - and paid for
a small blanket for him 6s."

The second reference in Barrett's book to the building of a cage in **1814** could well be the one we can see in the 1842 plan of the Powell Arms. The following two references show it was organised under the auspices of Dover, our civil authority and their Deputy was responsible for overseeing the job.

"**1815-16** To John Friend Deputy, Birchington, to pay
ye Bills for building the Cage. £24 0s 4½ d"

"**1816-17** Paid Edward Young for New Lock and work
done at ye Cage £2 6s 1d."

There is a reference to the Cage being used to store coal:

"**1788** for a Lowance (an allowance) when delivered out
of ye Cage 25 B (bushels) of coal 4d."

Then in **1828**, shortly after the New Inn had been renamed the Powell Arms, the Vestry meeting resolved that,

"the Parish Tools, Barrows etc. shall be brought and placed in the Cage every night, or such pauper neglecting to comply with this resolution shall be scotted half a day's pay."

Presumably these activities were connected with the road maintenance, which the paupers were employed to carry out each day.

The last reference to the Cage in Church archives is in **1831** when it was again repaired. It no longer appears in Church records from this date, but we know from the plans of the Powell arms of 1842, 1850 and 1870 that it still existed, but was probably only being used by the inn keeper at this date.