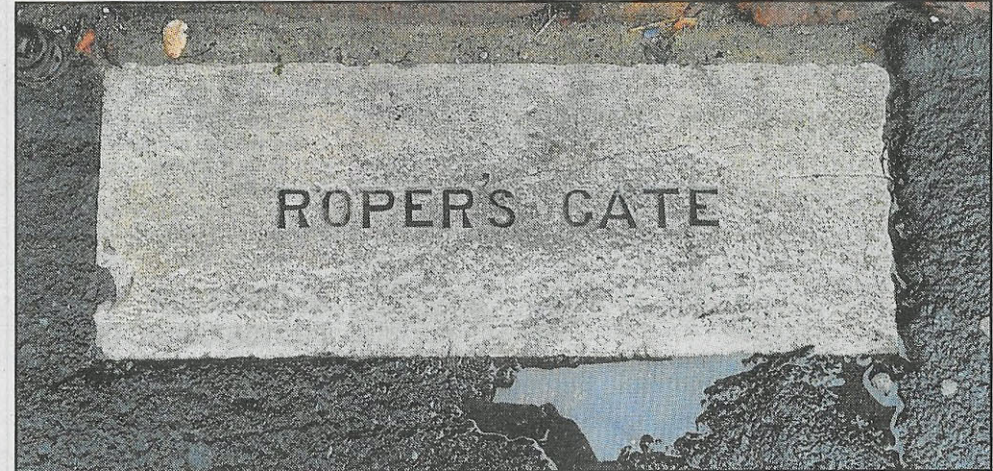
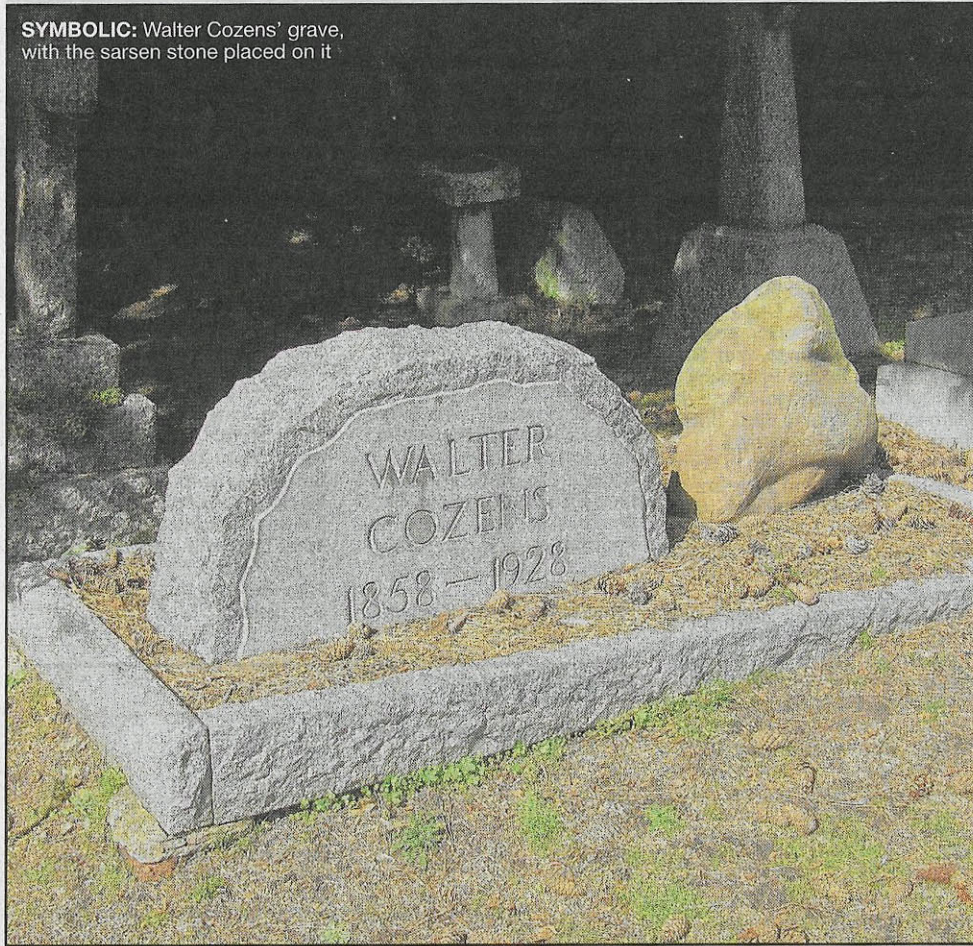


THE WAY WE WERE

Appeal to look out for lost examples of 1920s archaeology buff's historic plaques

SYMBOLIC: Walter Cozens' grave, with the sarsen stone placed on it



FASCINATING: The most recent Cozens stone find, discovered a few weeks ago in St Dunstan's



UNEARTHED: The first stone CHAS found, Grayfriars' Gate outside Third Eye

Builder who laid stepping stones into city's past

Builder who laid stepping stones into city's past

Way We Were



David Lewis
Canterbury
Historical and
Archaeological
Society

DID you know that the pavements of Canterbury include "history stones" placed there during the 1920s by Walter Cozens (1858-1928), a local builder?

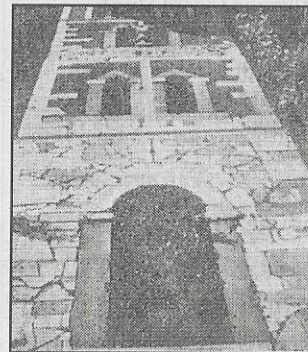
Each denotes an important historic building – many demolished years ago. Most have been forgotten, some have been dug up and lost, those that had lead lettering have lost it, and some are hopelessly dirty, cracked and disfigured.

But 16 have survived and are trodden on every day by visitors and residents who are totally unaware of them.

Walter was not just a builder. He had a lifelong passion for archaeology and local history and was, well, pleasantly eccentric.

His introductory text – *Archaeology Made Easy* (1924) – ended with a photograph of his home patio (Querns House) which laid out the "twelve Saxon features" that Walter had noted in Saxon churches.

His will listed all his books and showed which branches of his family should get them. His burial plot at St Martin's Church incorporates a large sarsen stone, presumably to remind us he was a builder. Walter was also instru-



HISTORIC: Walter's back patio

mental in the foundation of the Canterbury Archaeological Society in 1920 (later to become CHAS), and left us his history of the city, *Old Canterbury* (1906).

Surviving

When the CHAS website was created in 2010, we had found a dozen of Walter's stones and were convinced we had spotted all the surviving examples. Time and again since then we have been proved wrong, as sharp-eyed



REVEALED: The second stone CHAS found, the Royal Mint outside Treds

Cozens stones found to date

- 1. Greyfriars Gate
- 2. Royal Mint
- 3. T S Cooper
- 4. Chequers
- 5. Cambium Regis
- 6. Jews House
- 7. Doges Chantry
- 8. Black Prince's Chantry
- 9. Northgate
- 10. Wincheap Gate
- 11. Knights Templar
- 12. Blackfriars Gate
- 13. Burgate
- 14. Worthgate
- 15. Castle
- 16. Roper Gate

observers have found more.

For the past two years the count has stuck at 15, and I really doubted whether we would ever find more. I was wrong.

In recent weeks, a resident of St Dunstan's has spotted a superb example of a Cozens stone, in excellent condition, denoting the Roper Gate in St Dunstan's.

Unlike many other Cozens stones, this one is clean, uncracked, with no moss or dirt and easy to read. How on earth did CHAS miss it!

So can Canterbury Times readers rise to the challenge and find the seventeenth Cozens stone?

The list and locations for numbers one to 16 appear below. Do let us know if you are successful. Images of all the stones are on the CHAS website too.