

With difficulty he climbed to the top of Shakespeare Cliff on 5 December 1770:

'It is exceedingly high, and commands a vast prospect both by sea and land; but it is nothing so terrible in itself as it is in [Shakespeare's] description. I preached to a very serious congregation in the evening as well as in the morning'.

'On Tuesday December 17th, I preached at Dover; Wednesday about eleven at poor, dry, dead Sandwich, but I now found more hope for the poor people'.

December 15 1789 John Wesley made his last visit to Dover. He travelled from Canterbury:

'It pleased God to give me uncommon liberty of spirit, as also at Dover the next evening, where the New House, large as it is, was far too small, so that many could not get in'.

This sermon was preached when he opened the new chapel in Elizabeth Square in the Pier District. A pulpit used by the Founder of Methodism was formerly in what is now the Menzies Hall, as Peter Johnson mentions in his article.

When John Wesley died, a very old man in 1791, his followers numbered 100,000

The Dover District Council has recently added an attractive sheet on John Wesley to its 'Discover Dover' series. It can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre.

*Philomena Kennedy*

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## NEWS FROM OTHER DOVER SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

*We are pleased to print brief items - reports or dates.*

WOMEN'S GAS FEDERATION & YOUNG HOME MAKERS - Dates:

JULY 11 More Naval Reminiscences - Talk by Lt. Cmdr. N. L. Smith.  
AUG 8 Social Evening. SEPT. 12 The Wildlife of Kent. Illustrated Talk by Brian Hawkes. OCT. 10 A Taste of Italy - Cookery Demonstration by British Gas. NOV. 14 Royal Family Special - Illustrated Talk by Mr R. Fullagar. DEC 12 Annual Dinner. Contact Mrs Jean Cosham for details: Dover 211043.

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## Dover Tourism Initiative

The Dover Society was invited to participate in the Brainstorming Syndicates organised by consultants Peat Marwick McClintock (with American assistance) on behalf of Dover District Council, KCC, Eurotunnel and others involved in finding alternative employment for Dover when the Channel Tunnel is completed. Tourism is one obvious expedient.

The preliminary findings are that despite the world-wide growth of tourism and the world-famous assets of Dover, Dover is seen only as a transit town and its touristic image is bad. Compared with its competitors, like Canterbury or Tunbridge Wells (not to mention Glasgow and Bradford), the town is tatty, with poor shopping, catering and accommodation facilities and poor marketing and entertainment attitudes.

Consequently Dover Castle should be improved (!), there should be a Heritage Centre and a Maritime Quarter, a White Cliffs Country Park including a golf course, a White Cliffs Viewing Area and a caravan park with appropriate coach and car parking facilities and improved signage. The Military Tattoo and Cricket Week should be reinstated and there should be public transport linking, for example, the Maison Dieu, St Mary's, the Painted House the Castle and the Harbour. There must be fun elements like Sea Festivals and firework displays for children as well as adults and cooperative ventures with other towns on both sides of the Channel, with English Heritage, British Rail and the ferry companies.



Brainstorming breeds ideas and there were very many suggestions: rate reductions for window boxes on upper storeys; rating of empty properties; 50% grants for repair costs; deplasticated shop frontages with awards for achievement; better use of the Churchill image and of Dover's literary fame; commemoration of the Battle of Britain in 1990 using the underground works at the Castle (including David Niven's room!); rebuilding of the Pharos on the Western Heights; harbour trips; a sandy beach; self-catering accommodation; a Channel Tunnel Viewing Platform at Aycliff; junior cycle races; a water sports centre with power boat and rowing regattas; Xmas Carols at the Castle; son et lumière; buskers; a cable car for the cliffs; a town road race; a Tour de France stage; a wine and/or beer festival; history trails and town trails; refurbishment of Marine Station and its approach; mid-price hotels; training seminars for shopkeepers...

What emerged was agreement on the need for coordinated effort between all the professional and voluntary societies involved and I was confident in promising the best that The Dover Society could do to improve the town's image. As was said at our Inaugural Meeting: "We're Backing Dover!"

Jack Woolford

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**HELP!** The RIVER DOUR ASSOCIATION urgently needs new members. Since its foundation in 1974 it has done much to enhance the Riverside Walk by tree-planting, rubbish-clearing etc. It would like to introduce canoeing on a stretch of the river. The Dour could and should be a great asset to Dover. Please contact David Elms on 213392.

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Please publicize The Dover Society; show this Newsletter to your friends & invite them to the next meeting.

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Public Meeting

organised by

The Dover Society

MONDAY 27 JUNE, 7.30

in the Methodist Church Hall, London Rd. (corner of Beaconsfield)

# The Improvement of Dover

by an Officer of the Council

The booklet 'CONTACT' (CONcerted Townscape ACTION) will be available

Refreshments

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