

# The Dover Society

# Newsletter

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Affiliated to the Kent Federation of  
Amenity Societies*

## Editorial

On 27 June our second PUBLIC MEETING took place and was well-attended. Mike McFarnall spoke about some of the Council's plans for the improvement of Dover. John Gerrard, Chief Engineer of Dover Harbour Board and our Deputy Chairman, gave a very interesting account of the history and future plans of D.H.B. and showed a model of the proposed new café which is to replace the one which was badly damaged in the great gale of October '87. As a result of members' comments the design has been modified. Ken Wraight spoke about the activities of the Planning Sub-Committee.

The COMMITTEE has continued to meet monthly, invariably with a full agenda, and the Planning Sub-Committee is making a careful study of all planning applications in the district we cover.

As we noted in the first Newsletter it was evident to the Committee, on a conducted tour, that neglect and shoddy maintenance had done their worst in BROOK HOUSE and that its inevitable end was all too obvious. However we were shocked at the lack of understanding of public feeling which led to its unannounced destruction at 5 o'clock one morning. We are also very concerned about the confusion over its possible listing as a protected building. It is to be hoped that the site will now be quickly cleared and that future development of this area will be a real asset to Dover.

On the credit side we congratulate the council on its efforts to control and clear LITTER, and hope that it gets the support it should from the public. The MARKET SQUARE scheme has some attractive features - the lamp-posts with their globes and hanging baskets of flowers and foliage, the elegant gold-banded black metal posts and signpost, the contrasts of surface texture underfoot and its centre-piece the dandelion-clock-headed fountain. Trees are an asset to the Square though the wooden containers rather less so. A notice about the history of the Trough, which has a rather grave-like appearance in this setting, would help to explain its presence. There are some interesting angles which make even the west end of Castle Street look better and the two most attractive facades of the Square, the Old Market Hall and Lloyds Bank, make good backdrops. A measure of public approval is that many people obviously like sitting there and meeting in it during the day and this immediately makes it a much friendlier place and a better town centre. We hope that the development or improvement of the exits from the Square will be carefully considered.

The OLD TOWN GAOL in the Town Hall is an imaginative idea well-planned and promises to continue to be a great attraction for tourists and local people. Do visit it if you haven't done so already.

The Dover Society strongly approves of the preservation and proper presentation of the town's extensive Roman, as well as its Saxon and Norman, remains and is following all proposals with close attention. We hope that the District Council's plans for the HERITAGE CENTRE will soon be available for inspection and discussion and for comparison with those put forward by Brian Philp and the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit. The Painted House has been a fine example of archaeological presentation and has drawn many visitors in the eleven years it has been open. We should be glad to hear from any members with a special interest in the proposed Heritage Centre.

It seems that the much-debated CARAVAN SITE will be at Bere Farm, near St. Margaret's. The access from the narrow, winding B-2058 will have to be very carefully planned for safety and we hope that the promised landscaping will be well-done. A result of the preceding controversy is that people of Dover realised what they might lose in CONNAUGHT PARK. It is good to know that it is increasingly enjoyed by townspeople as well as visitors and that it is now tidier. Perhaps it could be better signposted? An appropriately-sited carpark would mean that it could also be used by more people including the elderly and less mobile.

It has been suggested that a centrally-placed display case to show WHAT'S ON IN DOVER would be a help to tourists and local people.

We send our best wishes to the DOVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE for its ambitious plans for a trade and export centre.

The next PUBLIC MEETING and a very interesting TOUR of the Eastern Docks for members are announced later in this issue. Book early for the Tour to avoid disappointment.

THE DOVER SOCIETY has continued to grow since its inception in April and now has well over a hundred members. However a larger membership will allow us to offer more to our members and to be more effective. We hope that everyone will encourage at least one friend to join; a form is included for the purpose. Further forms may be obtained from the Secretary.

We look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

*Philomena Kennedy*

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## PRESIDENT *The Rt.Hon.The Countess of Guilford.*

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### COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN: Jack Woolford, 1066 Green Lane, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3AR.  
Tel.822871.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: John Gerrard, 77 Castle Avenue, Dover. Tel.206579.

SECRETARY: Barry Smith, 51 Glenfield Rd., Dover CT16 2AL. Tel.214049.

TREASURER: Norman Willis, 24 Danes Court, Dover. Tel.202285

PRESS SECRETARY: Sybil Standing, 16 Harold St., Dover CT16 18A.  
Tel. 210715.

SOCIAL SECRETARY: Linda Clackett, 3 Maison Dieu Rd., Dover. CT16 1RZ.  
Tel.201158.

EDITOR: Philomena Kennedy. Tel.852042.

CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE: Ken Wraight. Tel.823356.