

It's the latter that concerns me most. At the beginning of this year I exhibited a large number of my paintings and drawings in other towns in East Kent. Several people asked why I'd omitted a showing in Dover and finally had to agree that the omission was inevitable once one looked at spaces available.

To be fair, Michael Foad at the Adult Education Centre at Westmount offered to display my work but available space would have severely restricted the quantity.

Surely it's way beyond time for Dover to include in its plans to promote itself a measure of accessibility to the arts, not just for visitors but for its residents as well. I know of so many local artists, writers, musicians and so on who have nowhere to meet, to exhibit, to absorb and to share. Just imagine the joy of being able to see a contemporary play, look at an exhibition of sculpture and generally just stay in touch with what's new without having to travel out of Dover.

I remember tackling Gladys Payne, the then Leader of the Conservative Group on Dover District Council about this very subject nearly 10 years ago. Her idea was to incorporate an impressive Conference Centre and an Arts Centre in one magnificent building which would be sited (yes, you've guessed it!) exactly where the Channel Tunnel works have devastated the land near Shakespeare Cliff! So much for progress and priorities.

Yours faithfully,

Lesley Gasking

PUBLIC SPIRIT

Five pupils of Astor Secondary School and our Membership Secretary, Barry Smith, are making heroic efforts during the summer holiday to tidy and clear various sites in Dover. More about this in the next issue but meanwhile they would be glad to swell the size of the donation they are making to THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME. Offerings, however small, to Barry please at 51 Glenfield Road, Dover.

SECOND PUBLIC MEETING

The Society's second public meeting on June 27th in the London Road Methodist Church Hall was attended by over 50 members including three of our Vice-Presidents, Budge Adams, Jack Ind and Lillian Kay.

Mike McFarnell, Dover District Council's Project Officer, displayed a number of enlarged prints and a sequence of slides illustrating various aspects of Dover's problems and projected developments and detailed the anti-litter campaign. He fenced quite skilfully in answer to critical comments on details of the District's plans.

After the service of refreshments (during which nine new members were recruited) John Gerrard, the Society's Vice-Chairman, who is the Harbour Board's Director of Engineering, outlined the long history of Dover's harbour. He went on to describe and illustrate various possible