



Newsletter

No 4 May 1989

Registered with the Civic Trust
Affiliated to the Kent Federation
of Amenity Societies
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EDITORIAL

THE DOVER SOCIETY is one year old! In the first year over two hundred people, concerned about the present and future of Dover and its surrounding villages, have become members.

We hope that we can claim that we are making some impact on the district and that we are increasingly regarded as a responsible body whose views are worth seeking. In addition, we are offering members a full and varied programme of events, support for which suggests that it is popular. PUBLIC MEETINGS have continued to bring matters of interest and concern before a wider audience and have been well attended. Our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was one of these and proved an enjoyable occasion. An account appears on another page and the membership of the new Committee is listed overleaf. We are delighted that Terry Sutton has agreed to become Vice-President.

We are very sorry to record the deaths of Councillor Alan Dale, Committee Member Terry Khambatta and Mr E.G. Matthews who contributed an article to Newsletter No 3.

In December the Committee heard the views of both the Dover District Council and of the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, represented by its Director Brian Philp, on the proposed HERITAGE CENTRE. In January a large number of members and their guests visited the Council Offices for another presentation. Work has now started on what is to be known as THE WHITE CLIFFS EXPERIENCE.

On 13th March a VISIT TO THE CASTLE was over-subscribed. Although it was not possible, for reasons beyond our control, to see the parts the tourist doesn't usually reach, we greatly enjoyed the evening and hope to arrange another visit sometime.

The Committee is most grateful for a GIFT of £50 towards funds given by Mrs E.M. Horsfield, one of our Vice-Presidents.

After the success of last year's Dover Society Awards we are giving at least one SHOP FRONT AWARD. We hope that we will receive many nominations from our members, members of the public and from the shopkeepers themselves. Please read the details and make a nomination. We are sure that everyone with a visual sense will be anxious to encourage and reward good design.

On the subject of visual impact the Committee would like to see far more stringent rules laid down for new developments. One of the current causes for concern is the TML VILLAGE at Great Farthingloe known locally, for obvious reasons, as Stalag Maxton.

The main street PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT has now been extended to the end of Biggin Street. There are interesting textural contrasts in the paving although some of it makes for uncomfortable walking. The numerous wooden plant and tree containers, with their narrow seats, appear like packing cases left around by careless delivery-men. It may be impossibly expensive to rectify what seems to me a most unfortunate choice of street furniture. I should like to suggest that containers built of the materials used for the paving, dark purple-grey and sand-coloured bricks, lighter sand square paving-stones and rough-textured mid-grey paviours would extend the pleasing textures from the horizontal to the vertical and make for a much greater unity of design which the main street badly needs. Could the present containers be enclosed, perhaps, retaining the wooden seats? Nevertheless, in spite of criticisms, the scheme as a whole is a great improvement.

It is a pity that traffic still has to use the stretch of BIGGIN STREET between Pencester and Priory Streets. It is potentially dangerous in an area that appears to walkers to be a pedestrian precinct. And if traffic can be totally banned from the precinct in Canterbury between certain hours, why can Dover not do the same?

The Society was sorry to read a letter from a Canadian visitor in THE DOVER EXPRESS some months ago. He complained at the lack of information, on places of interest and times of opening, at the Tourist Information centre. Our Press Secretary wrote to him enclosing a copy of my "Walk Around Dover". The situation should be greatly improved by DDC's forthcoming HERITAGE TRAIL. We are very glad to know that this will be in French as well as English.

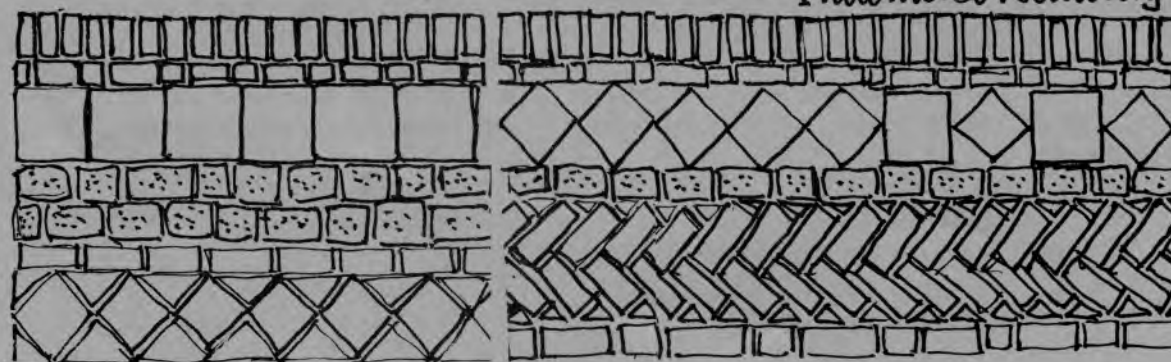
The Committee was invited to submit suggestions for the new DOVER PLAN and has done so.

In May 1990 The Dover Society is to act as Host Society to the Annual General Meeting and Spring Conference of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies.

Please remember to renew your SUBSCRIPTION if you joined in 1988 for one year. A renewal form appears elsewhere in this newsletter. You will receive one of the new Membership Cards in due course.

Do apply for future events in good time. Note the DEADLINES. Finally, please give this newsletter to at least one non-member to read. The more support we have the more effective we can be.

Philomena Kennedy



POSTSCRIPT

I wonder if a policy of using a coordinated colour scheme could be developed, especially in the Market Square and main street, for rubbish bins and other street furniture? I thought that the dark blue, near-white and reddish terracotta of the Market Hall façade, before it disappeared behind scaffolding, could provide a key. (It would suit some other buildings too. The black and gold of the posts in the pedestrian area might be an alternative.

In BRUGES there is obviously a policy of using a lovely dark red for doors, windowframes etc, which suits that city to perfection.

On the subject of the MARKET HALL façade, I do hope that the classical detail of Corinthian pilaster, pediments etc is to be properly restored to the parts crudely replaced after damage in World War II. PRMK

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The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rees, Brigadier Maurice Atherton,

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