

What has become of those Mays which many of us who have come to live near Dover think of as traditional, Mays of cold easterly and south-easterly winds blowing off the continent beneath grey-clouded skies? This meeting took place on one of the most glorious days of this remarkable premature summer, with brilliant sunshine tempered by a gentle south-westerly breeze under a blue sky with fleecy white clouds.

It seemed, therefore, difficult to face the prospect of spending the day indoors. Yet those of us who attended this meeting were rewarded by deep consideration and fluent expression of some of the issues which give pleasure and delight to being out of doors to those of us who live in Kent. After the Chairman's welcome on behalf of the Dover Society, the Mayor, Councillor Newman, spoke of his hopes for the White Cliffs scheme and what it might bring to the community. The Chairman, Mr. Woolford, who is the Federation of Amenity Societies' Chairman as well as ours, then took us, with deceptive swiftness and ease, through the business of the A.G.M. Solid and busy Agenda were swiftly despatched, though with no appearance of hurry. Mr. Woolford spoke of our disappointments and successes; we had trouble with Deep Dene and lost over the route of the new A.20, but on the other hand we had extracted a letter from the Prime Minister. The three speakers at the Conference were excellent. Dr. John Williams spoke on a strategy for Kentish Archeology with a fine illustrated lecture full of fascinating detail. Dr. Barry Cunliffe offered an archeological perspective with Dover in the forefront, in a talk which was vivid and imaginative; not the least striking of his observations was that on the archeological links between our part of England and the Continent. We wondered whether the Tunnel might not, in its way, restore a link between us and Europe. Mr. Brian Briscoe, County Planning Officer, completed proceedings with an excellent talk on this channel and rail link. Shrewd and drily witty, he made us aware of the thicket of problems through which the planning authorities must make their way. All three lectures elicited pertinent and knowledgeable questions from members. We dispersed with a sense of work being well done.

(K.F.A.S. - Kent Federation of Amenity Societies)

Hugh Bax

#### LOCAL WATCHDOGS HAVE THEIR SAY

The Dover Society has been asked to take part in one of the biggest audits of the environment of the United Kingdom. Our views have been requested on a variety of things ranging from planning and architecture to traffic and holes in the ground. The undertaking has been jointly organised by the CIVIC TRUST and MORTGAGE EXPRESS. The results will enable the Civic Trust to give grass-roots opinions on the many environmental matters on which it is consulted and will help to shape national policies.

