

EDITORIAL

The presentation and format of the *Newsletter* is now established and familiar to our readers. The task of a new editor is, therefore, made lighter because of the precedents set by the original, formidable, editing/printing team of Kennedy/Adams. Nevertheless, it was with some trepidation that I exchanged the rôle of membership secretary for that of editor, aware of the high standards to be followed and maintained. I wish to thank all members who have helped me in this task and I hope our readers will find *Newsletter 11* a worthy follow-up to previous issues.

The heartfelt thanks of all members must be conveyed to our previous editor and founder of the *Newsletter*, Philomena, who has, regretfully, relinquished the post due to pressure of work. Fortunately she is to remain on the Committee, where her advice and work are invaluable.

There is much to report in the four months since our last publication. Dare we venture to say that we have cause for optimism regarding the future of the town centre. Since its official opening on 1st May the White Cliffs Experience has reported good attendances, exceeding all expectations, as has the new museum. One no longer hears reference to the former as a 'white elephant' now that a daily stream of visitors, of all ages and nationalities, throng to its doors and even queue to obtain entry. The two refurbished shops in Cannon Street are a welcome addition to the area and have made a successful start. The rumour that a developer has bought the decaying Metropole site in Cannon Street is confirmed as fact. Work has been completed in Pencester Gardens and 'Shop Around' has opened in Pencester Road (an improvement on empty shops there).

The Dover Society has mounted a display in an empty shop window in the Market Square since 1st May; it was organised by John Owen, our Projects Committee Chairman.

Our Local Issues Update (page 176) reports great changes at the port, at both Eastern and Western Docks. The latest news on the Shakespeare Cliff site and on the Battle of Britain memorial at Capel, make interesting reading in the same section. The Tag/Maclaren proposals for Lydden circuit do not go to public enquiry, so this project is set to embark on its next stage of planning. There is also a report on the exhibition which detailed the plans for the new A20. Work has now started on the town section of the road by the contractors, Norwest Holst. I can reliably report that the first work at East Cliff began at 7.55 am on Tuesday 13th August, opposite my bedroom window.

The Elms Vale Tram Shelter (another successful project supported by the *Dover Society*) has been finished and can be seen in all its restored splendour. Work on Lydden Pond has continued, with the help of the children from Lydden School.

A notable addition to the town which has come into its own since the last *Newsletter* is the exhibition space on the first floor of Dover Museum, reported to be one of the best exhibition spaces in the county, perhaps even in the south-east. This issue includes

reviews of the three exhibitions to date and it is hoped to make this review section a regular feature of the *Newsletter*. 163

Grateful thanks are extended to all members who sent us their memories of old Dover. These provide fascinating reading and, although it was intended to make this a feature of this issue only, this could well be continued if more members are inspired by these extracts to write their recollections for posterity!

The May meeting "Conviviality and Conundrums", at the Bay Museum was a successful and convivial evening and the June visit to "Finchcocks", although less well-attended, was an enjoyable outing. Both events are chronicled elsewhere in the magazine.

The Autumn and Winter programme promises to be an entertaining one. Three events in the near future are the visit to Wye College (7th September), the visit to Calais (5th October) and the evening at the Town Hall (21st September) with the Kent Concert Orchestra. Most members attending these events will have already ensured their tickets or places. Tickets for the concert can be obtained at the door if you have not already booked. It is hoped that large numbers support the concert and full details of the programme appear in the middle pages of this issue.

The first of the Autumn meetings in St. Mary's Parish Centre is the Presentation of Awards on 14th October, always an interesting evening, with the awards ceremony in the first part and a talk by Miss Lillian Kay after the interval.

The second meeting is for members only, on 25th November. If you have any questions to put, or opinions to voice, make sure you attend. It will take the usual format, of several talks by different speakers on current local issues and then, after the interval, an opportunity for all members to contribute to the discussion

On 14th December follows the now traditional and incomparable Dover Society Christmas Feast, at the usual venue, Dover College Refectory. My advice – return your booking forms as soon as you receive them in November, as each year places are in greater demand.

An outline of events in 1992 appears on the back cover. More details will be available in the January issue. As always offers of help will be welcome and suitable prizes for raffles at future meetings will be gratefully received by the Social Secretary.

Editorial thanks to all contributors for the articles, letters, memories and photographs or drawings used in this issue. Offers of contributions for the next *Newsletter* will be very welcome. Please send in your 'copy' at any time — don't wait for the next deadline.

Finally, greetings to all our members; welcome to our new advertising manager, Steve Peters, to our new membership secretary, Sheila Cope, to new committee member Margaret Robson and to the 23 new members who have joined the Society since 1st May.

MERRILL LILLEY

TO WOULD-BE CROSSWORD COMPILERS

If any of our readers would like to compile a crossword for the next issue, new talent will be welcomed. Crossword grids should be 15 x 15 squares and conform to usual crossword conventions.

ED.