

EDITORIAL

Our centre page focus for this edition of the Newsletter is the development of the Western Docks – the most encouraging news to hit Dover newspaper headlines since our last issue, 'OUR 4,500 NEW JOBS' pronounced the Dover Express. The interesting article written by Bill Fawcus, the new Harbour Board Property Development Manager and a member of the Dover Society, describes the plan in general terms, with special reference to the preliminary stages, planned for the next four years and beginning almost immediately, with the establishment of the Transport Museum in Cambridge Road and the opening of a store for the yachtsmen (and women) using the Marina *and* for the general public. Our centre spread plan represents a glimpse into the more distant future, as also does the cover picture. Readers may be more interested in the close detail of the preliminary phase map. Members who visited the exhibition in the Harbour Board Hall on 4th March will also have seen a scale model of the development.

This is not the only development news since our last publication. Work on the modernisation of the Cannon Street shops should be finished by the summer and it is reported in the local press that English Heritage is considering two separate offers for the project to use the Officer's Quarters at Dover Castle as an hotel.

In the meantime the A20 roadworks continue, increasingly, to disrupt our daily lives. When one attempts to drive anywhere in Dover a different route must often be found, through intricate meanderings of cones, diversions, and temporary lights. 'Where ever you go in this town it's like a bomb site,' said a tourist emerging from the debris of Bench Street.

Meanwhile, as residents, we grit our teeth and face another year of upheaval before the projected date for the completion of the work. Out of the chaos, hopefully, the new Dover will emerge.

As the regeneration of the town progresses the Dover Society will continue to work for preservation and/or conservation and will monitor proposed new developments. Our rôle as a society is clarified and heightened in an excellent article on the organisation and functions of amenity societies by our Chairman, Jack Woolford, who is also Chairman of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, and who must be commended for his unflagging work as Chairman for both organisations.

Our thanks are due to some of our regular contributors; Melanie Wrigley, for keeping us up-to-date on the activities of the White Cliffs Countryside Project; to Philomena Kennedy for her competent and detailed review of the exhibition of children's art at the museum in December/January; and to John Owen, Projects Manager, for his reports on the Lydden Pond and Lousyberry Wood projects and for his interesting article on the South Goodwin Lightship.

John Owen is also co-ordinating the project of the Dover Society's participation in the May Day Pageant, to be held in Connaught Park on 4th May. Please give this

your support. If you have not volunteered already, it is not too late. Visit the Society's tent on the day and donate a prize for the spot raffle or some home-made cakes for refreshments.

Adrian Galley reports on the Town Centre Regeneration in Local Issues Update. Adrian has filled the rôle of Chairman of our Planning Sub-Committee, for four years and earns our gratitude for his hard work, dedication and enthusiastic commitment to Dover's Future. When Adrian speaks of the regeneration of Dover, as he did so eloquently at the Society's A.G.M. in April, 1991, one is convinced of his firm beliefs and his optimism that Dover has a bright future. Regretfully, as he no longer works locally, he is unable to keep up his regular monitoring of local planning developments and the Society will need to appoint a new Planning Committee Chairman.

The Social Planning Sub-Committee also needs some help, as Lin Clackett, our Social Secretary is taking a temporary break from this post, which she has filled admirably for four years. Both Lin and Adrian will be sadly missed.

Lin has, however organised all the summer programme for us, which offers a wide choice of activities. Members should have received a booking form for the outing to the Vineyards and Sandwich in May. Two other visits are planned, one to Chatham Historic Dockyard in June and one to St. Omer in France in September. Members wishing to join either or both of these outings should complete the booking forms enclosed with this Newsletter and return these to Ken Berry by 10th June.

Also enclosed with your Newsletter is a questionnaire designed to give members an opportunity to make suggestions, express views or volunteer help. Please return this to the Editor. We welcome all your comments and offers of help.

MERRIL LILLEY

Membership News

Membership: £4.00 per person per year. (1st April – 31st March)

Current membership: 326.

The current year started on 1st April 1992. If you have not renewed your subscriptions, please do so as soon as possible, making cheques payable to the *Dover Society*.

Please continue to introduce new members and to give spare copies of your *Newsletter* to friends who might be interested in our activities.

Though our membership is growing steadily our target is 600+ and with your help we should achieve it. We hope to welcome many more members in 1992.

SHEILA COPE
Membership Secretary