

THE RT. HON. THE COUNTESS OF GUILFORD

President of the Dover Society, 1988 – 1992

I wrote to the Countess of Guilford in May 1988 to tell her about the formation of The Dover Society and to ask if she would become our first president. Her reply on 6th June speaks for itself:

“Yes, of course, I shall be delighted to become your first President of the New Dover Society. It's such a good idea and I entirely agree that all development is not necessarily good and it needs monitoring. Dover is such a special place and almost uniquely interesting in history as our Gateway to Europe. I shall be happy to try to help . . .”

She was a great enthusiast for anything really worthwhile and she warmly supported the Society's introduction of Awards for developments of particular merit in the town. On the 4th October 1988 she performed her first official duties for the Society when she presented Award certificates for the new Magistrates' Court in Pencester Road and for the Restoration and re-instatement of Buckland Paper Mill.

Unhappily, early in 1989 she was struck down by illness and there began a long battle against cancer which she fought with courage and determination. She continued to be interested in what The Dover Society was doing and it was a source of great regret to her that she was never able to fulfil the last few words which I quoted earlier – “I shall be happy to try to help . . .”

Lady Guilford died on 15th August this year. The last thing she wrote for the Society was her contribution to the thoughts and memories of Ray Warner which were published in our *Newsletter* in January 1990. She said of Ray “he made the world a brighter, nicer place.” I would say the same of her.

PETER JOHNSON
11TH NOVEMBER 1992