

# EDITORIAL

The change in our publication date gives the opportunity to make a particular effort to publish this issue of the *Newsletter* earlier than the official date of 1st April in order that members may receive their copy, which will include a loose copy of the Agenda for the A.G.M., before the last date for the notice of meeting and/or the receipt of propositions to be put to the meeting.

At the meeting Brigadier Atherton, the President-Elect, will, if elected, be officially welcomed as the new President of the Dover Society. In addition we are delighted to announce three valuable additions to the Executive Committee; Laurence Gage assumes the chairmanship of the Planning Sub-Committee and Jenny Olpin takes on the rôle of Press and Publicity Secretary, with Paul Youden as an Advisory Member. Sadly, at this time, we have to report two resignations, from committee members who have been key figures for the last five years; Ken Berry, our Treasurer and Philomena Kennedy, founder of the Society, Editor of the *Newsletter* until Spring of 1991 and member of the Social Committee. Both will be sorely missed.

Our three summer events – in May, June and July – are all detailed in loose papers inserted in the *Newsletter*. Please send the completed application sections to Joan Liggett as soon as possible.

Since the publication of Issue No. 15 there are three events to report. The Christmas feast, held as usual in Dover College Refectory, received some criticism from members. Not for the food, which was of the usual scrumptious high standard, but for the poor quality of the service and the choice of music, which some members found somewhat sedate for the festive season. The Social Committee will be aware of these comments when planning the 1993 Feast and hope to ensure an enjoyable evening for all.

The last time we met, in February, was a very successful Wine and Wisdom evening with eighty-two members participating in the Quiz. The three top teams received prizes and many members have asked for a repeat of this popular event.

In January members heard a fascinating talk by Keith Parfitt on the Archaeology of the A20. In this edition of the *Newsletter* Mr Parfitt writes a continuation of his article of

the same title in issue No. 15, taking up the story from the day the Bronze Age Boat was discovered, with some photographs, more detailed than those published in December. Mark Frost, of Dover Museum, has also contributed an article which adds useful additional material on the old crypt and the tower mentioned in Keith Parfitt's talk. Members are urged to read the excellent article on the future of local government by our chairman, Jack Woolford, who has succinctly presented the crucial issues for our close consideration. An open letter from Ivan Green gives further food for thought. It is a subject which will, no doubt, merit further discussion if future issues and one with which we should all be concerned.

We have devoted our centre pages to presenting some of the artist's impressions submitted to Dover Harbour Board by their new joint-venture partners, Pearce Developments. Many members will have seen these on a larger scale at the exhibition at Dover Town Hall on 15th and 16th March and more details are given in an article here. These plans have been critically discussed in detail by the committee and the Planning Committee Chairman has collated our views in a letter to Dover Harbour Board.

The next few years will be exciting, crucial years for Dover. Firstly, there will be the opening of the new A20, changing the face of the town's road system. Secondly, work will start on the first stages of the Harbour Board's ten-year plan for the redevelopment of the Western Docks, including the building of a superstore, an hotel and shops. Thirdly, in the next three years, IMPACT money, as reported in our last issue, will be used to help town centre re-generation to make the town more attractive for residents and visitors.

Although it is difficult to focus on the new image of Dover, in the midst of what seems like total chaos on our roads with more queues, lights and changed priorities than ever before, what seems to be important at this point in time is that if we want to comment on any of these changes – if we want to have any say at all in what happens to our town, now is the time to say it! NOW! – before IMPACT spends one penny – before the Harbour Board ratifies the first project. He/She who hesitates will be too late!! The money will be spent – the plans agreed.

Earlier we invited members to send us their comments. All suggestions received, either by the Editor or by the Planning Committee, were used in preparing sheets for the Members' Meeting on 22nd March, to serve as useful starting points for discussion. Members were given an opportunity to talk, discuss, put forward suggestions as to how IMPACT money should be spent. These will all be reported in *Newsletter* 17. Members who wish to make additional points are invited to do so in letters to the Editor.

Welcome to all our new members, who are joining us in increasing numbers. Members will, no doubt, remember that subscriptions are due on 1st April but please note that from this April you can pay by standing order if you wish to do so. Our Membership Secretary has forms readily available.

A happy Easter to you all.