

# EDITORIAL

As the Dover Society has reached its fifth anniversary, it seems appropriate to look back at five years of achievements and commemorate some of them by reminding members of the many successful projects undertaken by the Society in that time. Many of them are recalled in the centre pages, by the photographs supplied by John Owen, Chairman of the Projects Sub-Committee, who has been the guiding force behind the work. The latest project to be completed is the restoration of the leopard's head bollards which is described in a separate article.

Dover, it seems, now stands at a watershed in its development as a tourist town. From here we can only go forward on the tide of sweeping changes. By the date of publication of the next Newsletter, the A20 should be finished (the promised date is now October!!); IMPACT will be established in Dover (office in Castle Street due to open early in August) and town re-generation can then proceed apace. After two years of road construction chaos, the prospect of a completed highway on our doorstep is breathtakingly intoxicating. It is difficult to envisage the reality, when hopes have been raised and dashed so many times and the observation of the slow progress of gangs of itinerant workmen along the A20 route does not encourage optimism. However, as one of our committee members observed, in six months time it will all be 'history' and the town will be able to embark upon its re-development programme in earnest.

Since the discussion at the Members' Meeting in March reported in this issue, along with a list of members' suggestions, Dover Society members will follow with interest the arrival of IMPACT and its first projects in the town.

In this issue are reports of the AGM in April, the Festival trip to Hastings and Battle in May, the tour of Dover College in June and the trip to Grove Ferry in July. As in 1992, a large section of the Newsletter has been devoted to reports and reviews of the Dover Festival, from now on, it is hoped, an annual event in the town.

Our next trip is to Boulogne in September. A booking form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please return this as soon as possible to Joan Liggett, as early confirmation of numbers is crucial. The Society will meet Boulogne Accueil, as it did the Calais Accueil two years ago, for a mayoral reception and tour of the old town, before going on to the Nausicaa Marine Exhibition for the afternoon.

The October meeting will be on the controversial subject of the future of local government and should attract a large audience. Members will receive an Autumn Newsflash with details and application forms for the last two meetings of 1993, Conundrums and Conviviality at Dover Museum and the Christmas Feast at Dover College.

Sometimes members ask for more information about the Society's involvement in local planning. Lawrence Gage, Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee, has itemised all the current planning issues in his report in this issue. Members are invited to write to the Editor, the Secretary or the Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee if they have any queries or suggestions. Letters are always welcome. In fact, as far as the Newsletter is concerned, there are, on this occasion, sufficient letters to make a Letters Section, something which could, and should, constitute a regular feature. It is hoped that more members will feel encouraged to pick up pens and send in letters. With over 400 members it is one more way of keeping in touch with our membership.