

## Letters to the Editor

1 Castlemount Court  
Castlemount Road  
Dover  
11.6.93

The Editor  
The Newsletter

With a membership of 400, a splendid committee and a magazine second to none, the Dover Society really seems to have a voice worth hearing in the district.

Among this very strong membership there must be quite a few who would welcome the opportunity of expressing opinions on the various issues before our committee make decisions and put out press releases. Unfortunately, we ourselves missed the meeting during which we understand groups of members discussed current issues. In future perhaps part of our meeting times could be allocated for something like this on a regular basis.

Other members may like to comment.

HARRY & JUNE DYER

*Several members have commented on the increased number of references to the Society in the local press. Members who wish to express views to the committee at any time on any current issue may write to the Editor of the Newsletter, or to the Secretary, Leo Wright, or, in the case of planning issues, to Lawrence Gage, Chairman of the Planning Sub-committee. Any crucial points raised by members could then be discussed at the next committee meeting. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. In addition the Editor is always pleased to receive members' letters on local issues for publication in the next issue of the Newsletter. Ed.*

From Gavin Wright,  
Group Manager,  
Dover/Deal Group,  
Arts & Libraries Department, K.C.C.

6th July 1993

### MAISON DIEU HOUSE:- DOVER LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS 1993/94

Those Dover Society Members who use the library will know that, although an attractive building (dated 1665), Maison Dieu House has many problems to do with the limited space for services, notably the fact that all the lending services are on the first floor, up those very steep stairs!

For many years it was my belief that Dover needed a new purpose-built library but more recently we have been working on plans to capitalise on the existing building with its many interesting features and excellent site. I am pleased to say that I have recently heard that we now have planning permission to improve the foyer and to install a lift to the first floor.

We will also be taking the opportunity to refurbish the lending library and although we cannot *make* space (would that we could!) I feel we will be able to re-arrange services more logically and attractively. I am hoping the work will be carried out in the autumn of this year and, very naturally, we will ensure that the refurbishment is sympathetic to the building, which is listed Grade 2\*.

If any Dover Society member would like further information, do please contact me on (0304) 372984.

GAVIN WRIGHT, *Group Manager*

54 Cleveland Terrace  
Nelson  
New Zealand, 7001  
6th July 1993

The Editor  
The Dover Society Newsletter.

Dear Merrill,

I have just received the interesting April Newsletter, No. 16, and am particularly interested in the Open Letter from Ivan Green.

The idea that Dover District should become a borough, with a non-political, respected local citizen as mayor, who would be seen as the real leader of the people, and have a limited period in office, is indeed a way in which the community can become a cohesive self-reliant entity, in its own right.

Parish Councils constituted from viable local communities would form the link between individual citizens and the administrative functions of the borough, "furnishing the minds of citizens with information on public affairs to enable them to rightly exercise the duties of Citizenship." (J. Bavington-Jones, 1916, *Annals of Dover*. p 273.)

The idea of an assembly for the people in a public place to meet the new mayor would contribute to the close relationship of the local people to their respected, eminently suitable, apolitical, worthwhile leader and chief citizen.

The essential element is in the maintenance of values as an inspiring and unifying force, generated by centuries of traditional wisdom with the ability to adjust to changing social and environmental needs, without either rigid adherence to the past or following "modernistic" crazes – both of which could severely damage our future, our land, our borough, our county, and our country. Necessary adjustments and changes – whether social, political, economic, industrial, etc. – should not be permitted to disrupt or destroy the sense of community and trust which has developed over the centuries.

Therefore we need to preserve and protect what we have, and also to develop and improve what we need. Both aspects require a sense of personal and community responsibility.

With best wishes to all members of the Dover Society, and to all Dovorians.

Sincerely,  
Marion L. Griffin (Mrs)  
Membership No. 451

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## Into the Third Millennium – Any Ideas?

An extract from a recent letter from the Under Secretary of State at the Department of National Heritage, Ian Sprout, to the Chairman of the Planning Sub-committee:

*"The proposed Millennium Commission will be established by the National Lottery Bill, currently going through the House of Lords . . . it will receive one fifth of the new proceeds from the proposed National Lottery and will consist of nine members appointed by the Queen . . . The Commission will make its own decisions on funding entirely independent of the Government.*

*The Commission will fund projects to mark the year 2000 and the beginning of the third millennium, projects which will last well into the new century as a celebration of the best of the old. We hope that the Commission will be established very soon after the Lottery Bill receives Royal Assent, and will seek ideas for possible projects to fund shortly after that."*

The Dover Society would like to promote a major project and raise the status of the town – possibly something that could enhance and make better use of the Western Heights. If members have any ideas, the Committee would be delighted to hear them.