

EDITORIAL

SEASONAL GREETINGS to all our readers. We hope to see at least eighty members at this year's Christmas Feast at a new venue, the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club on Dover seafront on Thursday, 16 December. Seating is strictly limited to eighty so please book early.

Since the last issue of the *Newsletter* on 1 August there have been two Society events in October and November. The October meeting on 'The Future of Local Government' merits a lengthy report to apprise members of all the implications of the government proposals and options for the future. This meeting was riveting stuff, with three excellent speakers representing the County Council, the District Council and the Parish Councils, then after the interval, lively questions from the audience of sixty. Many members have expressed regret at having missed this crucial meeting—quite how crucial we did not appreciate until we were told of the speeding-up of the government schedule on the review and the imminent arrival on our doorstep of a commission early in 1994! Following this meeting it was evident that we needed another in the near future to give members the opportunity to express their views to enable the Society to table its response by the time the Commission visits Dover.

This has necessitated a re-shuffle of next year's programme, with the January and March events changing places. The January meeting will now be a follow-up meeting on Local Government, with another speaker and ample opportunity for a group brainstorming session to enable members to voice their opinions. The talks arranged for January will be re-scheduled for March.

The November meeting was our third session of the popular Conundrums and Conviviality, held in Dover Museum, with its usual round of intriguing questions and a chance to meet and chat with fellow members.

Unfortunately our September trip to Boulogne had to be cancelled due to lack of support. This was disappointing as it was the first time this had happened since the Society was launched five years ago. Many members commented that they have visited Boulogne several times and would have preferred another venue. The Social Planning sub-Committee would like to plan a French trip for 1994 to a town which members would like to visit, so we propose to invite opinions in the next *Newsletter* and at the AGM.

In February another popular event, the Wine and Wisdom evening, will be held in St. Mary's Parish Centre. Last year this was one of our most successful meetings in terms of attendance. Please book this date and make up your own teams if you wish. This time the tables will be strictly limited to six contestants, so if you already have eight people invite four more and make two teams. Don't worry if you are not in a team or if you haven't the full number. As last year, teams can be made up on the night.

There is a lot to look forward to in 1994, so consult the back cover of this issue and reserve the dates in your diary: Dover Pageant, be a banker; Dover Festival, bigger and

better than ever: Dover Town Trail Quiz, help your team to beat the clock; a trip to the Wells; a flight to the Goodwins; a guided tour of Faversham or Canterbury.

1994 will, at last, see the opening of the A20 through Dover. How far into 1994 the official opening will be is still unknown but at least the end is in sight and Dover can begin to look forward to the future and, with the help of Dover District Council, Impact and the Dover Harbour Board, gradually improve its image and build its reputation as a tourist town as well as a seaport. In relation to this there is much to read in this issue in the articles by Julian Owen, Bill Fawcus and Lawrence Gage. Obviously this will be a major topic of interest for years ahead.

Our Membership Secretary, Sheila Cope, reports that, as happens every year, there are a number of absent-minded members who have not paid their subscriptions. If you are one of these please send your £4 post haste to Sheila.

Editorial thanks to all contributors for their help in making this issue such an interesting collection of local issues and information.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

MERRIL LILLEY, EDITOR.

MUCH of this *Newsletter* is devoted to matters concerning the A20 and this picture is interesting in that it shows that the DOE has, magically, but rather more slowly than at the drop of a hat, added two miles to the distance between Dover and Folkestone.

