

## *The Objectives of the Dover Society*

*founded in 1988*

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archæology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- And commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All Members receive three News-letters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events – talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

## EDITORIAL

The April issue of the *Newsletter* heralds the beginning of the sixth year of the Dover Society. We hope to see a large proportion of our members at the Annual General Meeting on 18 April, where, after the business part of the meeting is concluded, Mr. R. L. Ratcliffe will talk on "The Coming of the Railways to Dover". An agenda for the meeting is enclosed with this *Newsletter*.

The main feature in this issue is the article entitled "The Future of Dover", which presents the views of members expressed in the answers to the questionnaire distributed at the November and January meetings. The Editor was delighted at the response to this questionnaire and would like to thank everyone who contributed. Obviously, members of the Society have strong views about the future of their town. As the questionnaire specifically asked respondents to state what they thought would most benefit the town in the future, replies which were largely critical of past defects were not used unless they included constructive ideas for re-generation of the town.

Opinions on the future of Dover seem to range from the highly optimistic to the gloomily pessimistic. Will the town forge ahead as an increasingly popular tourist centre or will it gradually become a more depressed area? What do you think? The piece called "Dover 2020, a Flight of Fantasy," paints the rosiest picture imaginable! Why not enter our competition to write a short story set in Dover in the future and suggest some more ideas of what Dover might be like in the twenty-first century, at least twenty years ahead, please. >



The A20 Underpass – Bench Street to New Bridge

Now that the A20 is finished, it appears to have the approval of most of Dover's residents, with praise for the lay-out, the flower beds and the pedestrian walk-way from Bench Street to the sea-front, which is light and spacious, with firm hand-rails and an attractive mosaic depicting ferries through the ages. Attention now turns to the subject of town centre re-generation and new schemes and plans to persuade people to regard Dover as a tourist centre as well as a port.

This issue includes reports from our Planning Committee Chairman, Lawrence Gage, and from Impact's Julian Owen, presenting some of the changes already planned, notably the work on the entrance to the Grand Shaft, on the promenade and at Pencester Gardens, and work in progress, on the old Leo's site and the Victoria Hospital site.

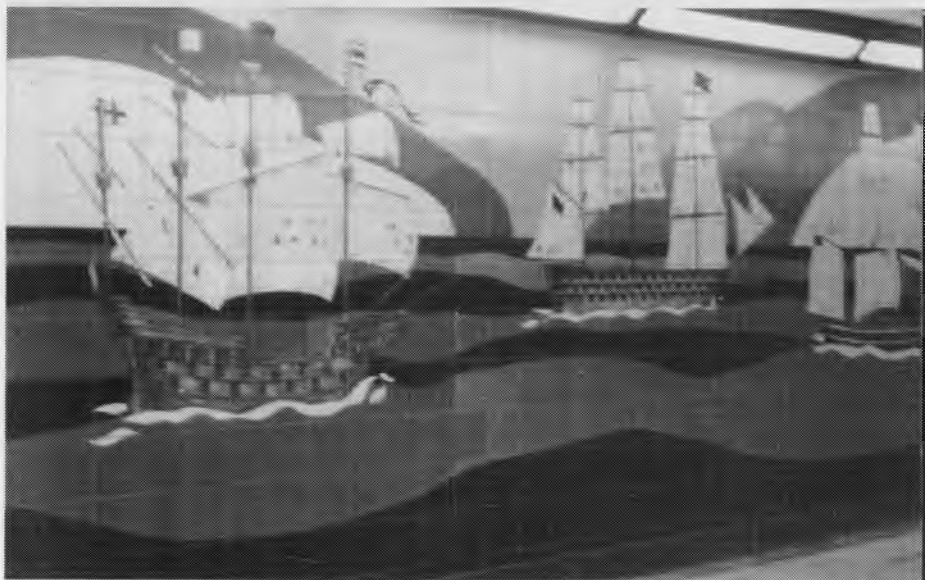
Three events since the last *Newsletter* have all been successful; the Christmas feast, the January meeting on local government and the Wine and Wisdom evening.

The vital meeting on the Future of Local Government, held in January, was very well-attended and produced some useful results, which are all reported here in detail by our Chairman, Jack Woolford.

Looking ahead there are several summer events to note. Application forms for some of these are enclosed with this *Newsletter*. The Town Trail Quiz, devised by Philomena Kennedy, takes place in Dover Festival week and can be booked either by returning the form enclosed with this *Newsletter* or, in the usual way, through the Festival booking office when it opens. The outing "A Day at the Wells" is also a Festival event. Advance notice for the Festival is given here in outline so that

4 members can note the dates in their diaries. Detailed information will be available in the Festival programme, due out at the end of April, so look out for that. Other Society events are the trip to the Goodwin Sands in June and the trip to Faversham in July during the "Open House Week". All Dover Society events are listed, as usual, on the inside of the back cover.

Meanwhile, remember the AGM on 18th April and remember to pay your subscriptions, due in April each year. Enjoy all the summer activities, Dover Festival, Tour de France, Dover Pageant, Town Trail Quiz and outings to Tunbridge Wells, the Goodwin Sands and Faversham.



One of the tiled murals in the New Bridge Underpass

Best Wishes to all our members from the Editor.

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## A REMINDER

# MEMBERSHIP for 1994/95

Please remember to pay your subscription  
**NOW!**