

*Our Economic Restructuring Committee is working on a low interest loan pool. Criteria have been developed by a sub-committee of local bankers and we are waiting to see if each of the six local banks will make financial commitments.*

*Our Promotion Committee is working on:*

- *Developing a Downtown farmers' market*
- *Old Dover Days (a two-day colonial celebration)*
- *Fourth Annual Duck Derby (we rent rubber ducks for \$5 each on the fourth of July, the ducks are released over the dam on the river and the first one through the finish gate wins a great prize)*
- *A food booth at the Delmarva (our peninsular consisting of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia) chicken festival which will draw about 40,000 tourists. Last, but not least, our Organisation Committee is resting after doing a wonderful job on Twelfth Night, the Annual Meeting, newsletters, etc. This committee is concerned about stable financing for our program so the National Main Street Center will provide a fund-raising consultant in the near future to help us with long-range planning for fund-raising".* ◊

## *A Small Town in Germany*

Our environmental efforts may be encouraged by a glance at how Civic Type activity is also alive and well in Germany where, as here, it depends on the vision and energy of the concerned few.

Last Autumn, from Heidelberg, we visited a large village/small town, Ladenburg. It is one of the size and architectural merit of our Cotswold villages. It is in the rich vineyard area but the modern vertical vineyards, with mechanised cultivators replacing the old terracing had led to a flight from the land. Not developers, but the Mayor (what you can do with Parish Status!) and an energetic doctor gave the lead. They saw the potential of beauty and value. The Germans greatly value half-timbered houses but many of the then empty houses in Ladenburg had been hacked about, stuccoed or rendered over. One by one they were cleaned and restored, with the timber frames exposed. Persuasion, pressure and, occasionally, financial help were used and the village is alive again, and a very desirable place to live in.

It was also pleasing to see how the centres of Heidelberg and Würzburg, both university towns, had been completely pedestrianised – Würzburg quite recently. At the same time we were reading in the English papers that students in Oxford were blockading Magdalen bridge, in protest at the traffic in High Street, and Cambridge was seeking to ban bicycles from the City centre.

E.L.W.