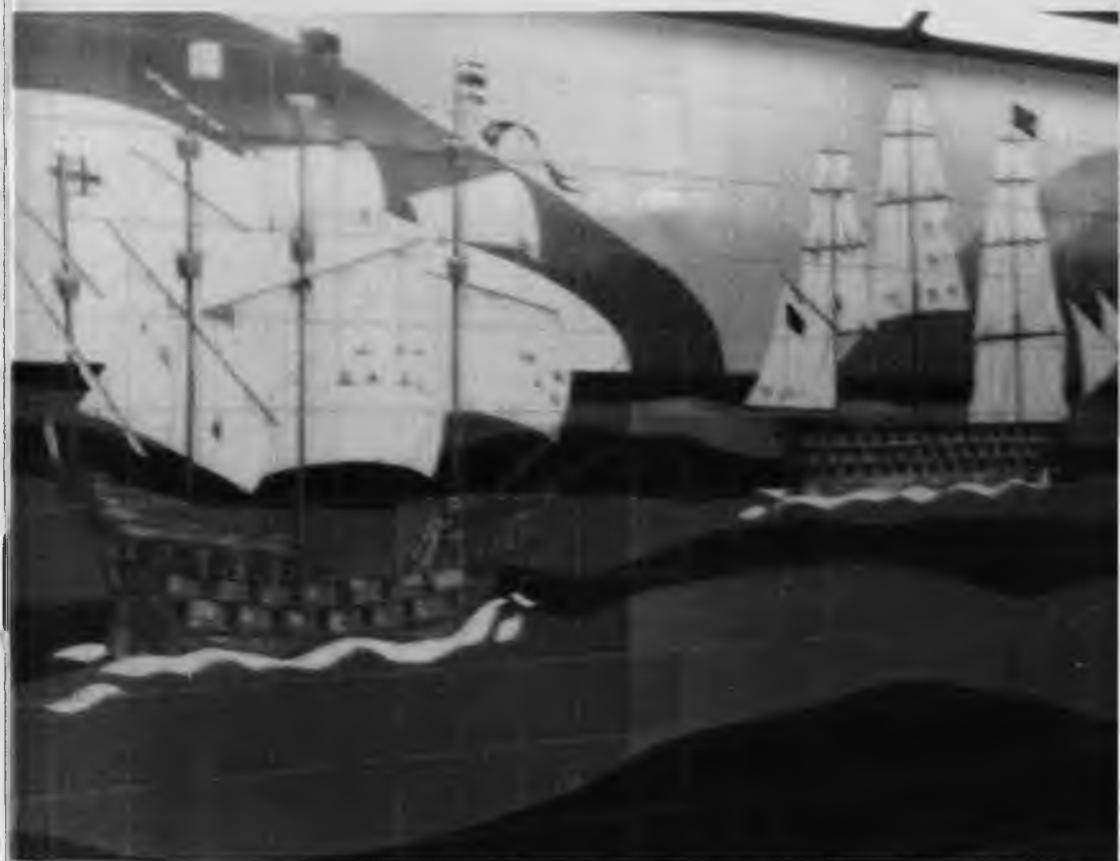


The  
Dover  
Society

# Newsletter

No 19

April 1994



A Detail from the Mural in the A20 underpass, Bench Street – New Bridge

*photo: Merril Lille*

12 BUCK  
£1

# THE DOVER SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1988

Registered with the Civic Trust, Affiliated to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies  
Registered Charity No. 299954

## PRESIDENT:

Brigadier Maurice Atherton

## VICE-PRESIDENTS:

A. F. Adams, Mrs Silvia Corral, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Ennals,  
Ivan Green, Mrs Marion Horsfield  
Jack Ind, Sir Clifford Jarrett, Peter Johnson, Miss Lillian Kay,  
Miss Philomena Kennedy, Peter Marsh, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rees,  
Jonathan Sloggett, Terry Sutton, Miss Christine Waterman, Martin Wright

## THE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Jack Woolford

1066 Green Lane, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3AR Tel: 0304 822871

VICE-CHAIRMAN: John Gerrard

77 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 0304 206579

HON. SECRETARY: Leo Wright

"Beechwood", Green Lane, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3AR Tel: 0304 823048

HON. TREASURER: Jennifer Gerrard

77 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 0304 206579

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Sheila Cope

53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD Tel: 0304 211348

SOCIAL SECRETARY: Joan Liggett

Tel: 0304 214886

EDITOR: Merrill Lilley

5 East Cliff, Dover CT16 1LX Tel: 0304 205254

CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE: Lawrence Gage

9 Castle Street, Dover CT16 1PT Tel: 0304 242749

CHAIRMAN OF PROJECTS SUB-COMMITTEE: John Owen

83 Castle Avenue, Dover CT16 1EZ Tel: 0304 202207

PRESS SECRETARY:

ARCHIVIST: Sybil Standing

16 Harold Street, Dover CT16 1SA Tel: 0304 210715

A. F. Adams, Jeremy Cope, Adrian Galley, Philomena Kennedy, Margaret Robson,  
and Ken Wraight, with Mike McFarlane as an Advisory Member

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## *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!**

# THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT <sup>5</sup>

## Members' Meeting, 17 January, 1994

JACK WOOLFORD

Our second meeting on this subject, addressed by the same three speakers, was even better attended than the first.

Mike Burchall (of KCC)'s nutshell message was: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!". He queried the need for the review, defended the status quo and described the collapse of consensus on the details of possible mergers of district councils, precisely on the option of no change. If this was unacceptable, the sensible alternative despite its strategic weakness and the loss of specialised services was three areas, East, West and North Kent, rather than seven.

Crispin Davies, of the Kent Association of Parish Councils, also queried the need for review and the prospect for savings and stressed the need for strategic overviews. He added that any rearrangement of Kent into unitary areas, from three to seven, would be no less remote from Dover which would have fewer councillors to represent local views. He listed the existing limited powers of parish councils and advocated increased local control.

Lesley Cumberland of Dover District Council said that the County Council's wish for the status quo was unlikely to be acceptable. The Association of District Councils had agreed on 7 unitary areas but Ashford had reneged. Dover's best option was union with Canterbury and Thanet which had interests in common: a large town with a regional shopping centre and hospital, a university, and arts facilities. History, tourism and seaboard interests were also shared.

David Shaw, the Member for Dover, said that Maidstone was too remote. Although Dover District Council was well managed it was too small to stand alone and would have to merge with Canterbury or Thanet or both. The headquarters of the new East Kent Authority should be in the new office development of Dover Port, looking towards Europe. The town council option was not realistic.

Our submission to the Local Government Commission is based on the responses to questions by the five discussion groups chaired by Terry Sutton, Mike McFarnell, Leo Wright, Lawrence Gage and Marjory Wright.

## 6 THE DOVER SOCIETY'S SUBMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dear Professor Grant,

It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance on Friday Jan 28th at Witton. As Chairman of the Dover Society I now have the honour to submit the views of my Committee and members on the proposed reorganisation of local government.

### 1.1 'Locus standi' of the Dover Society

The Dover Society was formed in 1988. Its constitution includes a commitment "to promote high standards of planning and architecture" and the Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events. It has established and maintained continuous dialogue with Dover District Council and our Planning Committee scrutinises and comments upon all planning applications. It is also in contact and dialogue with Temple Ewell, River and St Margaret's Bay Parish Councils. Independently and through its membership of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies it has also established and maintains dialogue with Kent County Council, with the Sussex Federation of Amenity Societies and with the other countywide environmental organisations (including Hants and Herts) in SETFOR (South East Transport Forum) which, in turn, is represented on SERPLAN. Through its MP, David Shaw, it is in regular contact, not to say conflict, with various ministries concerned with roads and harbours and has successfully appealed to the Ombudsman against a second violation by the Home office of established planning procedures at its penal establishment on Dover's Western Heights.

1.2 Its membership of some 400 indicates that it represents a wide swathe of responsible local opinion. On the subject of the reform of local government, committee members have been addressed by the Dover District Council Chief Executive, by University of Kent and Canterbury speakers and by Kent County, District and Parish Council officers and representatives. Two Members' Meetings in Dover, both addressed by county, district and parish council representatives, have each been attended by over seventy participants and at the second of these, in addition to an address by the Member for Dover, David Shaw MP, group discussions were held and reported back and are embodied in this submission, itself circulated and amended before publication. The Dover Society may claim to be well experienced in and well briefed on local government.

## 2. The Future of Local Government

2.1 Although the matter is not within the remit of the Commission, it would be misleading to imply by silence on the subject that the Dover Society, some of whose members were actively involved in the local government reorganisation of 1974,

acquiesces in the continuous centralisation of power at the expense of local government since 1979: the abolition of Metropolitan Councils and of the Greater London Council, the centralisation of rate setting by the Unified Business Rate, rate capping (since 1984), the sequence from rates to poll tax to council tax, increasing recourse to non-elected quangos and executive agencies and the incremental removal of responsibility for education, health, housing and policing, etc from local authorities; that is to say from local democratic control. In such circumstances it is not difficult to account for increasing apathy at local elections. 7

2.2 In contrast, we note the very different attitude to local government and control in our fellow members of the European community and their very much more impressive achievements in implementing coordinated transport policies, in educational provision at inter-communal level in France or urban regeneration at Kreis level in Germany, for example.

### 3. The Local Government Commission

3.1 The Committee has noted in detail and with interest the sequence of events leading to the appointment of the Local Government Commission, notably to the distinctive treatments of Scotland and Wales as compared with the division of the English shire counties into tranches, the nature of their groupings and the order of their treatment. It has also noted the sequence of findings, retractions and proffered rethinks, the brief consideration of 'opting in', the drastic speed-up, and the need for 'early wins' as revealed in the correspondence with the Dept. of the Environment. The committee is aware of the High Court actions of Derbyshire, Lancashire and now Somerset querying the independence of the Commission, and of the Nottinghamshire attempt to manipulate the review.

3.2 The pursuit of party political advantage at every level from Westminster downwards is inevitable, and consequently the Committee is encouraged by some evidence of Commission independence in the variety of recommendations from the status quo for Lincolnshire and parts of Derbyshire and the reversion to Ridings in Yorkshire on the one hand, to the unitary Isle of Wight and the dismantling of Cleveland on the other. The Committee is also aware of the fragility of government majorities, threats of back-bench revolt and the rival commitments of the Liberal Democratic and Labour Parties to regional government.

### 4. Comments on the Procedural Advice on the Preparation of Proposals

1.6 Local communities and effective local government are incompatible. Dover is a historic community but cannot *per se* provide effective local government. An area as small as Dover District Council contains three historic communities and the rivalries of Dover, Deal and Sandwich have been endless since 1974.

2.3 Agreed proposals at the county level are unattainable and at the district level unlikely. It is *ipso facto* impossible for competitors for survival to agree on who is to be eaten last. We have observed the competition between county and districts and

8 are aware of the backstage negotiations and disagreements between district councils. Latest information is that Ashford prefers the status quo, Sevenoaks would prefer to be unitary but would otherwise join with Tunbridge Wells and Malling. There were boundary disputes involving Swanley, Faversham and Malling. Nothing surprises us.

2.8 We hope to be persuaded that the Secretary of State's Guidance will not automatically override acceptance of alternative proposals.

2.18 We look forward to receipt of evidence on community identity not already known to us.

2.19 On the issue of a single proposal we hope that the District Council etc will agree with us.

4.2 Whether or not reorganised structures will be less costly in the long run is speculative. In the short run the costs of reorganisation, including transitional arrangements, estimated at £60-100 per ratepayer, will not expedite savings.

## 5. MEMBERS' VIEWS

Members' Views as expressed by chairmen of 5 discussion groups after addresses by county, district and parish councils and by the Member for Dover.

1 Do you accept existing local government powers as adequate?

There were differences of emphasis between those who thought that the existing system needed improvement, notably the need for greater power at the local as opposed to the county level, with better communication and less overlapping; and those who lamented the erosion of powers, with special emphasis on the iniquity of rate capping.

2 Do you think that the status quo is acceptable?

Four groups out of five accepted the status quo, with improvements.

3 Do you favour a unitary County Council (which the Commission disfavors)?

There was no support for a unitary county council, although assurances were desired on the safeguarding of such county initiatives as IMPACT, such matters of countywide importance as the East Thames Corridor, and such matters of local concern as the the East Kent Initiative.

4 Do you favour a unitary District Council (which the Commission disfavors)?

In addition to the Member for Dover, one group considered that district councils, now settled down and showing their worth, should not be disbanded. It was the county council which was remote and regional bodies which should be strengthened.

5 If existing district councils are to be merged into 7 unitary areas, do you favour amalgamation with Canterbury/Thanet/Shepway/Ashford?

Although a clear majority opted for the link with Canterbury and Thanet, there was a small minority for linking with Shepway and Ashford on the ground of similarity of economic interests and problems, with emphasis on transport rather than tourism. There was one voice for linkage with the Pas de Calais.

6. Alternatively, do you think that a division of Kent into North, East and West areas makes more sense? 9

Three groups out of five regarded the East/West/ North subdivision as too large but two groups saw some sense in it and one of these favoured it, observing that East Kent is an identifiable geographical and historical unit. Dover, Shepway, Ashford, Canterbury and Thanet have much in common and could be one of three or four units.

7. In any case do you think that Dover should have a town council with enhanced parish council powers?

This was generally supported. An important proviso was that it was premature until it became clear that it would be the only possible voice for Dover as a historic community. The words "consolation prize" were used. A second proviso was that merely ceremonial functions were insufficient and that powers would be necessary, that they must be statutory, and that agency agreements should be mandatory. It was also observed that this would be reversion to a two-tier system. Nevertheless Commission support for the proposal is desirable and welcome.

8. How should county-wide strategic issues including transport and relations with EC be handled?

It was strongly agreed that this was vital. Although their weakness was recognised, joint boards or an adaptation of the Association of District Councils were considered and preferred to 'quangos' because they are elected rather than imposed. If SERPLAN were the alternative it must be strengthened and not transformed into a quango, unelected and unanswerable. Reference was made to the Liberal-Democratic and Labour Party commitments to regional government. It was clearly felt that the county of Kent was not a mere historic relic but a community with common interests, especially in its role as national transport corridor for road and rail and for its decisive proximity to mainland Europe and its established status within the European Community.

9. Any other suggestions?

One group reverted to the possible improvement of the status quo. Another emphasised the need for collaboration within East Kent itself. It should have its own Euro-MP.

## 6. Summary

- a. The Dover Society is not convinced that reform of local government is necessary.
  - b. The Dover Society regards the twin concepts of community representation and economic delivery of services as mutually exclusive and unlikely foreseeably to reduce rates.
  - c. The Dover Society sees the status quo as acceptable and improvable.
  - d. If there must be change to unitary authorities, union with Canterbury and Thanet is preferable to other linkages.
  - e. A town council with enhanced parish council powers would then be necessary. The Society is aware that this is only the beginning of the dialogue and looks forward to further participation when the Commission, assuming it survives, has suggested preferential options. The Society further notes that 2-tier authorities are no longer to be regarded as "the exception".
- ◇

# 10 PROJECTS

UPDATE by JOHN OWEN, Chairman of the Projects Committee

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## *THE PROJECTS SUPPORT GROUP HELPS OUT AT THE MILL*

An interesting and enjoyable morning was spent at Crabble Mill on Sunday 12 December helping with the annual clean-up. The Dover Society group numbered five and at 0930 we went to work under the direction of Ann and David Courtney of the mill, cutting back excess growth and overhanging branches. Fire emergency access routes surrounding the mill were cleared but we couldn't bring ourselves to remove a swan's nest lest it be needed again in the coming season. Debris was removed from causeways and gullies – we made a stinking good job of that!

Perhaps the most satisfying job was the clearance of rampant ivy some ten or twelve feet high, which had become dominant in the walled garden to the rear of the mill. Additionally weeds and ground cover were removed to produce a much greater awareness of space, needing only a centre feature to complete the improvement. This was ably accomplished by Barry and Ernie, who planted the weeping ash provided.

Peter with his long-handled billhook, encouraged by Glyn, made easy work of the heavy stuff, finding time also to do some wattle work at the water's edge.

Muriel Goulding, a Dover Society member, wearing her Crabble Mill Volunteer's hat on this occasion, prepared our 'elevenses' in the comfort of the mill restaurant.

Using the cleared routes the accumulated waste was removed to the waiting skip, now almost full, when the forecast rain arrived with a vengeance at about 1145. By 12.00 much had been accomplished and we responded to the call of "The Fox".

Crabble Mill



In the walled garden at the rear of the mill





## *Snow fails to dampen Society occasion!*

Over twenty-five souls braved the elements at Lydden Pond on Sunday 21 November to mark the completion of the clay re-lining of the pond and the return of water, with the presentation by The Dover Society of a public amenity seat, alongside the pond, to Lydden Parish Council. Chairman Jack Woolford said a few words before formally presenting the inscribed seat to Councillor Dick Hubbard, Chairman of Lydden Parish Council. Councillor Hubbard replied, thanking the Dover Society for the gift and complimenting it on the hard work put in by the volunteers over a long period. Dover Society President, Brigadier M. A. Atherton, Vice-Chairman J. Jerrard and Mrs P. Hewlett, Vice-Chairman Lydden Parish Council, were also present along with many of the volunteers and helpers who were all in fine spirit and without whom the project could not have been undertaken.

It was nearly three years ago that the parish council approached the Society for help. The first site meeting was arranged by the Society's Projects Committee in February 1991 with representatives from Kent County Council, Lydden P.C., The Junior Leaders Regiment, and The Dover Society. This was followed by many subsequent meetings and visits to other recently restored ponds. The first work session was in March with essential preparatory clean-up work in a completely dry, overgrown basin. Lydden School supported the mainstay continuity team of Peter, Ernie, Glyn and John, working mainly at weekends. The pupils helped with tidying-up, weeding and planting and have an enduring educational interest in their pond.

12 'The ambitious plan is to re-instate the village pond which will require all the resources of know-how, finance and voluntary labour that we can get' – (*Newsletter*, No. 10, 1991). 'We are under no illusions about this – it is going to take a long time – it is a major operation' – (Society interview on the pond, BBC Radio Kent 1991). *Newsletter* reports of the last few years reveal just how widespread the involvement has been and how much sustained effort was put in by the regular volunteers whose jovial and at times caustic banter kept them going!

Notwithstanding the falling snow, after the handing over of the seat and the speeches, the last of another batch of daffodils was planted which will, in the spring, add to those which were so successful last year. There followed a quick celebratory sampling of some fizz which preceded the dash for the village hall and welcome hot coffee laid on with the help of Mrs Burkimsher, Ann, Linda and Joan.

'They're restoring their village pond (Lydden) or at least more accurately they *have* restored their pond and have won a Community Pride Award in the process' (Society interview with Chris Harris BBC Radio Kent 1992).

Over a year on and with a continuous water presence since August 1992, things are looking well from the newly installed seat, at Lydden Pond.

## National Tree Week

'National Tree Week is a national festival of trees which has been organised by the Tree Council every year since 1975. Its aim is to high-

light the importance of trees in our environment and to encourage tree planting and good management.'

The Dover Society re-planted a 1987 hurricane-devastated section of Lousyberry Wood, Temple Ewell in December 1990 with 200 predominately beech trees to conserve its character during the natural regeneration process of subsequent years.

Our aim during National Tree Week this year was again to provide the necessary after-care to sustain this process. Regeneration of the wood *is* proceeding, with the usual proliferation of ash and sycamore and it is good to see the beech we planted with retained golden brown leaves, unashamedly conspicuous in the month of December. With the deployment of the planted species so enhanced it is not too difficult to visualise the future and contemplate the scene when they reach maturity. Appropriately Tree Week's 1993 theme was 'Trees for all Ages'. Our after-care sessions took place on 4 and 5 December with extreme weather conditions on both days. The Saturday was foul with wind and rain and we got wet!; the Sunday bright and sunny with clear blue skies and we got hot!. On both occasions coffee was most welcome.

On this third anniversary of the planting we cleared back invasive bramble as necessary, replaced two failed trees, removed some shelters and cleared competitive



growth. Now well established the young trees are putting on substantial height, cherry (*prunus avium*) and maple (*acer campestre*) leading the field at about four feet. Growth is naturally variable according to the habitat, some of which is exposed ground, some sheltered, some with reasonable topsoil, some with very poor. With a few of the leafless cherry and maple shrouded in bramble and wild clematis, it is as well we left the shelters, if only as locating beacons. Some appear to enjoy their bramble bed-mates and height-wise are excelling themselves. It would appear to be all a question of balance!

The two sessions were adequate for the task, with eight volunteers turning up this year. We had time to spare to take in the sheer beauty of the surrounding countryside – on the Sunday, that was!

Clearing invasive bramble during National Tree Week, Sunday, 5 December 1993

# Will you help?

**THE DOVER SOCIETY PROJECT SUPPORT GROUP** will be out and about for a few hours helping environmentally on 23 April and again during Environment Week, 20/30 May. Details on (0304) 202 207.

## Deadline for CONTRIBUTORS

The Editor welcomes contributions and illustrations, particularly line drawings. Discs formatted to DCA are also welcome. The deadline for issue No. 20 – for publication on 1 August – is Monday, 4 July.

Publication in the *Newsletter* does not imply the Society's agreement with the views expressed nor does the Society accept responsibility for any statements made. All published material remains the copyright property of its authors, artists and/or photographers.

LAWRENCE GAGE, *Chairman*

## SUMMARY OF RECENT PLANNING ISSUES

Members of the Planning Sub-Committee have continued to be very active in keeping a watchful eye on all planning applications and taking an interest in proposals that have not yet become formal applications. There are a number of potentially exciting proposals which if they come to fruition will contribute greatly to the Town.



### NEW SHOPS

Work has commenced on the old Co-op site in Biggin Street. Demolition is complete and four new shop units will arise in its place. The ex B & Q building in Castle Street is to become a food store. Both developments will do much to improve the appearance and prosperity of the Town centre.

### ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL

We were delighted to give our support to the planning application for the Sanctuary Housing Association proposals for the Royal Victoria Hospital site. New housing units will be built at the back of the site but the existing listed buildings fronting on High Street will be retained and refurbished. Dover Society comments and suggestions on a previous application have been fully implemented in the current proposal.

## SEA FRONT

The Sub-Committee has met both the Dover Harbour Board and the Planning Department of the District Council to discuss a number of interconnected proposals for changes in the Sea Front area.

There is good news of the future of the White Cliffs Hotel. After initial refurbishment it is to re-open this Spring under a new name – ‘The Churchill’ and it will be managed on behalf of the Dover Harbour Board by Henley Lodge. It is planned to do more refurbishment over the next year or so and ultimately to re-establish it as a luxury hotel.

The Harbour Board, in association with Henley Lodge, hope to build a new **60-bed hotel on Camden Crescent car park**, providing 2-star accommodation to complement ‘The Churchill’. The current plans show a rectangular building, similar in height and style to Cambridge Terrace. It is proposed to close Camden Crescent as a road and to provide car parking for the hotel on a narrow strip of Granville Gardens. The hotel car park might be available for public use during daytime. Although the Sub-Committee strongly supports the idea of a hotel on this site, it initially had a number of reservations on the detailed proposals which are now being revised. The Society hopes to give unconditional support when the plans are finalised.

Good news, too, regarding the proposed **Re-development of the Western Docks** which has the potential to provide an enormous boost to the town. The District Council has given Outline Planning Consent for the Dover Harbour Board’s ambitious multi-million pound scheme, which will include an enlarged and improved marina, shops, offices, houses and – hopefully – some community facilities. We understand the District Council gave careful consideration to the views of the Society before reaching its decision and its approval is subject to a number of conditions which reflect our reservations on detailed aspects of the proposals. Further detailed planning applications will be needed for each element of the scheme and the Society’s Planning Sub-Committee will continue to make constructive comments at each appropriate stage.

The Dover Society has commented on the joint Impact/Harbour Board proposals for **improvements to the sea front**. Initially we expressed some reservations regarding traffic flow but the current proposals are being revised to take account of our comments. We await a formal planning application.

## IMPACT

The Society is also working closely with IMPACT on a number of other proposals and its upgrading of the **Stembrook Car Park** and the Church Street area are to be commended. Impact’s proposals for a new entrance to the Grand Shaft will provide a much needed and long overdue boost to this fascinating feature. It is hoped that members will call in at the Impact offices in Castle Street to see and comment upon all the schemes being proposed.

Impact is initiating a Town Centre Management Scheme to strengthen and promote the town centre. The Society is represented on the various Working Groups.

## 16 LOCAL PLAN STRATEGY – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Dover Society has presented very full submissions to the District Council on both these documents. Comments on the Local Plan Strategy incorporated the views of individual members as expressed in the recent 'Vision For Dover' questionnaire. Our submission was well received and Council Officers have said 'You have given us much to think about'. We are hopeful that at least some of the ideas of members will be incorporated in the next Local Plan.

### OLD PARK BARRACKS

The Barracks are surplus to the requirements of the Ministry of Defence and are to be offered on the open market for redevelopment. Planning permission is being sought for advertisement hoardings on the site as part of the marketing effort.

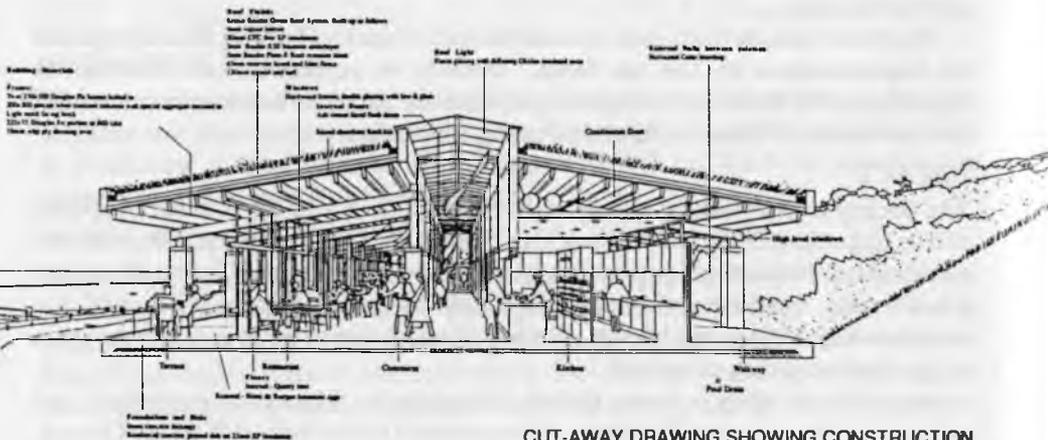
### WASTE WATER SCHEME FOR DOVER AND FOLKESTONE

All members of the K.C.C. Planning Committee and local County Councillors were vigorously lobbied on the concerns of the Society regarding the proposed sewage treatment plant at Broomfield Bank, Farthingloe. The Society favoured the Shakespeare Platform site but, despite our efforts, planning permission has been granted by Kent County Council. Only a public enquiry can now stop the scheme being built on the Broomfield site.

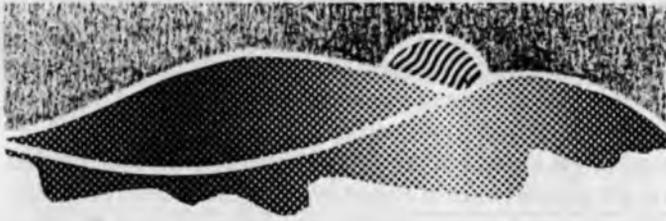
### NATIONAL TRUST VISITORS CENTRE – Langdon Cliffs

Whilst accepting the value of a Visitors Centre on Langdon Cliffs, is the view of the Planning Sub-Committee that any building should not adversely affect the unique atmosphere of the cliff top.

Lawrence Gage, chairman of the sub-committee, was invited to represent the Dover Society and to assist with the judging of the recent architectural design competition. The judges selected a scheme proposed by architects van Heyningen and Haward. A planning application is expected to be made soon and it is hoped to arrange an opportunity for members to comment on the scheme.



CUT-AWAY DRAWING SHOWING CONSTRUCTION



## WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT



# GREEN GANG

## Family Activities for the School Holidays

Last Easter – 1993– the White Cliffs Countryside Project launched its “GREEN GANG”, a magazine packed full with activities suitable for all the family. At that time we tentatively printed 500 copies to see what sort of response we would have. It was a reasonable response; families turned up for guided walks and pond dipping events. So we decided to go for it in a big way for the summer school holidays. We organised an event somewhere in the White Cliffs Countryside Project area for every day of the holidays. This time we printed 10,000 copies and distributed them to the local primary schools, tourist information centres and libraries.

The Summer 1993 issue of *Green Gang* came out in June and guaranteed an action-packed summer, with nature conservation and countryside events to suit all ages and interests. The summer events included Environmental Matters, ‘green’ play schemes and weekly schemes which children would book for a week’s activities. Every day the children were taken to visit the local countryside looking at different habitats in unusual and interesting ways. A day was spent looking at the problem of waste disposal and the need for re-use and recycling. This day also included a visit to the landfill site at Richborough and a visit to the Whynot Centre at Hawkinge where aluminium and steel cans are recycled.

As in previous years on the play scheme, we dedicated one day to visiting local farms and discussing the need for kind animal welfare. The visits to see rare breed cattle, pigs and sheep at Sladden Farm, Alkham, proved to be a great success with the children.

On the last day of the summer 1993 play scheme, the children helped care for the local countryside by taking part in practical conservation work themselves.

18 There were also many one-day guided walks; Conservation for Kids with practical events to help improve the appearance of the landscape, or footpaths or habitat management; Beach Cleans and Nature Detective Days where the children looked for clues of animals and made plaster casts of animal footprints. We also organised Earth Walks, Family Walks and Art and Crafts sessions.

Earth Walks are a special way at looking at the natural environment in an unusual, sensory way. The aim is to get people closer to nature by using their senses to explore the natural world. Using touch, smell, taste and other creative techniques, people of all ages look at the wild places in a different and stimulating way. I do not want to give too much away as I hope that you will join us for an Earth Walk sometime soon.

Family Walks are aimed at attracting grand-parents, parents and children, all out together to have fun by doing something in the local countryside.

Natural arts and crafts sessions are spent in making collages, cards and calendars – simple items from natural materials

*Green Gang* was originally developed to involve local families in their local countryside and the work of the White Cliffs Countryside Project. This has proved highly successful over the last year. And as well as attracting a regular local following, it has drawn families from as far afield as North Kent, Greater London, Essex and even France and Germany for some special events.

In the Spring 1994 issue of *Environmental Education*, the national journal of the National Association for Environmental Education, there was an article about the *Green Gang* as an example of good practise.

I am currently organising our next programme for Easter 1994. Look out for fun and exciting activities advertised in the local press. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for *Green Gang* magazine, *Countryside News* or the Guided Walks programme, please contact the White Cliffs Countryside Project, 6 Cambridge Terrace, Dover. Kent CT16 1JT or telephone 0304 241 806.

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## *The Dover Society & LE WALK*

The Society contributed to the sponsorship organised by the *Dover Express* for the benefit of the East Kent Hospic Project.

The Retiring collections at the November '93 and January '94 Meetings raised £31.34p.

The Raffle at the Christmas Feast made £73.27p.

Thank you to all those who contributed.

Jennifer Gerrard

*Hon Treasurer*

## *Water, Water... EVERYWHERE?*

LEO WRIGHT

Writing in February ... the River Dour is flooding in the Alkham Valley and in Bushy Ruff, tumbling over the concreted "mill-wheel" in Temple Ewell and over the waterfall in Kearsney Abbey. At High Water Springs the river was barely able to contain itself in its new deep concrete channel behind Camden Crescent.

And yet there were two meetings, chaired by the MP, to protest about excessive extraction from the aquifers. At the public meeting the NRA representative warned that, despite all the rain and the floods, we could still experience a water shortage in the summer. This opinion led to a correspondence in the *Times* where Southern Water hastily wrote to say that "water stocks are excellent, reservoirs are full and the water supply position is the best for a decade."

But things are not so with Folkestone and District Water Services. It could be that, with no reservoirs, the small catchment area of FDWS, even with normal rainfall, is not sufficient for the increased population and demand.

Perhaps in the long term, the reduction of leakages (OFWAT estimates that, nationally, loss from leakages amounts to 27%) and the introduction of metering will help. But how long is the term?

To ensure adequate supplies and to safeguard the water environment there are three possibilities.

1 To conserve the water which is even now hastening to the sea – but there is no date for the suggested shared reservoir at Broad Oak. Indeed, it may never be built, as Southern Water does not need it.

2. To "buy in" water from the big neighbour: Southern Water, but this would reduce profits or put up charges.

3 To revise the licenses for pumping from the aquifers, but FDWS would require compensation for this, which the NRA could not pay and the present government would not wish to.

The two meetings were inconclusive but showed increased local concern. The continuing initiative about our local river is now firmly in the hands of the Alkham Valley Conservation Society who are raising funds and examining the possibility of legal proceedings in the European Court.

We shall give them all possible support.

# The future of Dover



The hated Burlington House

**T**he future of Dover is a topic at the forefront of discussions nowadays, seemingly on everyone's lips and in everyone's mind. At last the A20 is finished and now – What next?

A questionnaire distributed to members at the October and November meetings asked members to comment on (a) the A20 and (b) the future of Dover. The answers to Question A were used in Newsletter 18 in the main article on the A20, and the answers to Question B in Newsletter 19. At the January meeting members who had not had an opportunity to fill in the questionnaire earlier added their responses to Question B, thus increasing the number of replies to the question, which asked:

“Faced with the various plans and proposals for improving Dover in the next few years (i.e. Impact/Western Docks Development/White Cliffs Business Park\*/ new hotels/superstore/future of the Farthingloe site/etc.) please give your suggestions or ideas of what you think would most benefit the town.”

As was the case with the replies to Question A, the responses were too numerous and too lengthy for each one to be quoted in full so the following summary represents the collated views of members, in some cases with verbatim extracts. Where exact words are quoted the member's name is given. The Editor would like to thank all the members who completed this section of the questionnaire.

\* Formerly Whitfield Business Park

## *Response of members to Question "B" 21*

Many people wrote in general terms and others mentioned specific issues or made definite suggestions. Some were optimistic, some pessimistic, some critical, some full of praise. Among the replies lies a wealth of opinion and innovative ideas.

### **Overall Planning**

Many members felt there should be an overall plan for Dover, some called it a co-ordinated plan or a master plan,

“so that the people of Dover can see what is being done, what is awaiting planning permission and what is being considered”.

*Jean Harland*

Everybody accepted that changes are coming and members felt that the people of Dover wanted to be involved in the planning. Most people felt that the changes would benefit the town.

This view is summed up by David Shaw, M.P

“Dover and Dover’s people will benefit from proposals that will enhance our environment, develop new businesses to provide employment and will enable us to broaden our available facilities. The most significant changes in the next decade, which will result in benefit to Dover, will be from the developments in Dover Port which will change the current focus of our area. These changes will also give a significant boost to enhancing the favourable and reducing the unfavourable perceptions people have about our area. The White Cliffs Business Park, hotel, leisure and other developments will all result in considerable uplift to our area which will be of tremendous benefit to all our citizens. It will be for the Dover Society and others involved in the planning process to ensure that these changes aesthetically improve our area as well as enhance its economic prospects.”

Many members felt that planning is crucial and criticised policies so far.

“Town planning needs major alteration. The present policy of ad hoc site-by-site approval has been a disaster. An illustration of this is the suggested building of a multi-storey car park in the Russell Street area. This whole area should be re-developed as a whole, starting with the removal of the bus garage to the business park, where it properly belongs. This is one of the last opportunities to make a success of this mid-town area, and it really is not good enough to spoil it for ever by piecemeal bit-at-a-time building.

*Ivan Green*

These views were echoed by other members; several people mentioned the re-siting of the bus garage; many members were concerned about the development of the area bounded by Townwall Street, Russell Street and Woolcomber Street.



*top:* The unused parking lot at the rear of the defunct car showrooms

*bottom:* The disused garage and showrooms, Woolcomber Street



“The successful and harmonious re-planning of the whole area between Russell Street and Woolcomber Street into a business quarter with parking, could, if forthcoming, be a very major uplift. Such a plan should be in conjunction with the Harbour Board plans for the Western Docks and the Sea Front.”

*Leo Wright*

“The positive development of the area bounded by Townwall Street, Castle Street and Woolcomber Street into an attractive, lively area . . .”

*Jeremy and Sheila Cope*

“One matter which I think is very important from the town’s point of view is the siting of the bus garage in Russell Street. This has been a contentious matter for years and the opportunity should now be taken to move it out of the town centre.”

*Peter Johnson, Vice-President*

## Traffic Flow and Parking

Many people expressed the view that overall plans should, from the outset, include careful consideration of traffic flow and parking. Ivan Green had most to say on this issue, raising the following points:

“With the easing of traffic brought about by the new roads, double no-parking lines should be limited to areas where they really are essential.

The town at present has very limited parking for customers’ cars, and the authorities use this to raise large sums of money. These parks ought to be used primarily to entice customers to our town shops, rather than as a money-making project.

These and other similar measures ought to be brought in to encourage motorists (and town shops need them) to come into town rather than go to big stores out of town where they are welcomed and parking is plentiful and free.

All lorries should be banned from the town centre unless they are actually delivering goods in the town centre area.

All heavy goods vehicles should be banned from parking or even entering residential areas, unless they have approved business in them. The present lack of control results in residential areas being spoilt by such use, and some lorry drivers even take their vehicles to their homes for tea. This measure would require the allocation of places where commercial vehicles could properly be parked.”

*Ivan Green*

## Extreme Measures?

Some members felt that now was the time to suggest major alterations to sections of the town considered to be eyesores or the results of bad planning. One of the areas most discussed was the area bounded by Townwall Street/York Street/Castle Street

24 and Woolcomber Street. Within this area the re-siting of the bus garage was the issue most mentioned. There were several suggestions that Burlington House could be demolished or reduced in height, as it spoils the view of either the Western Heights or the Castle from wherever one stands in Dover.

Some members suggested the re-siting of the bus station in Pencester Road. Others suggested that good use could be made of the redundant telephone exchange site at the back of the old Leo's site, now being re-developed with five retail outlets.

For future consideration was the suggestion that the Market Square would be improved by the demolition of the block of buildings in front of the White Cliffs Experience, leaving space to form open lawns, flower beds and seating areas.

## Impact

The majority of members welcomed the coming of Impact to Dover and approved the work completed and that planned for 1994, notably the improvement of the Riverside Walk, the approaches to Priory Station and the entrance to the Grand Shaft.

The Impact project was seen as a valuable asset to Dover at this juncture of its development.

“Impact will help to improve the image of Dover and this is very important in attracting people (and hence money and business)” *May Jones*

*A report on Impact, contributed by Julian Owen, is on page 30.*

## White Cliffs Business Park

The development of White Cliffs Business Park was seen as essential to the town because it would bring more jobs to Dover. In this respect it should have priority and be advertised nation-wide.

## Western Docks Development

Almost unanimously, members were in favour of the Western Docks development seeing it as a great advantage to the future development of the town.

- excellent
- visible from the new A20, an asset to the town
- a great boost to Dover
- will benefit the town
- encourage the docks development plus superstore
- press on with the Western Docks development

## The Farthingloe Site

Members were divided on the future of the Farthingloe site. Some agreed with Ivan Green who said:-

- “The Farthingloe site should be put back permanently to farming use. It is a beautiful valley which forms a fine entrance corridor to the town.”



How Burlington House obstructs the view of both the Castle and the Western Heights



26 Others suggested various uses including:

- a sort of motel development, which would boost the farm shop opposite. Walks could be offered over the hills.
- a caravan park.
- a holiday camp.

## Shopping

This was the most mentioned topic in the questionnaire answers. The people of Dover want more and better shops and Society members welcomed this opportunity to say so.

- I feel that Dover needs a department store to attract tourists and to encourage people to shop locally.
- Better shopping facilities. I am often asked by strangers for direction to the shops and I feel apologetic at the lack of good quality shops.
- I think the District Council should go all out to try to entice Ricemans/Debenhams for instance, to come and open a business in the town. We desperately need better, bigger shops.
- A really good department store, i.e. Ricemans, so that people would do their shopping here and not have to go to Canterbury.
- A department store such as Debenhams is badly needed to encourage visitors into the town.
- Take steps to improve shops in the town centre – reduction in rents/rates.
- The town centre **MUST** be improved to attract tourists, otherwise Dover will die.

## Hotels

A few members mentioned hotels.

- more higher-standard hotel accommodation.
- New hotels would encourage more tourists to stop over.
- A new hotel offering really good food and service is urgently needed on the seafront.

## Advertising

- More street signs to town attractions.
- Plenty of signs in French and German.
- Advertise the Business Park, emphasising the location.
- Signs to mark historic sites and treasures, e.g. Shakespeare Cliff, the Castle, Drop Redoubt, the Painted House, the Grand Shaft, the site of the discovery of the Bronze Age Boat, etc.

## Other Suggestions

- An on-going policy to make the town more attractive, especially the Market Square and main shopping thoroughfares.
- Encourage greater contact with French ports.
- Encourage more people to live in the town centre, particularly in flats over shops.
- Put a halt to converting private houses to office accommodation and the taking over of shops by banks, building societies and charity shops.
- Create groups of small buildings offering inexpensive office accommodation rented out by the month for small and new enterprises.

## New Attractions

Many members devoted a large proportion of their answers to suggestions for improving the town and introducing new activities and entertainment. These were many and varied and included:

- The development of entertainment and activities especially in the evening, e.g. bowling alleys, skating, bandstand, pop music for youngsters.
- A decent theatre where entertainment of good calibre can be enjoyed by locals and visitors, (concerts, plays).
- A dry ski run.
- An indoor skating rink.
- A major face-lift to Connaught Park to make it a tourist attraction. (e.g. like the gardens at Ventnor, I.O.W.
- Places/hotels/restaurants on the seafront with sea views and places to sit out in summer. Dover lacks this facility as a seaside town.
- Associated with Western Docks development – Maritime Museum considered essential for a town like Dover – Cruise Terminal acclaimed as a must for this development – shopping mall with good boutiques.

*Mike McFarlane* of the Hoteliers Group says:

“The Hoteliers have for many years campaigned for evening entertainment for their guests. (a theatre, ten-pin bowling, ice rink, etc.)

If the facility could be added to the Sports Centre, the existing management structure would reduce the total running costs. Perhaps a grant could be obtained from the National Lottery, which is supposed to support sport and the theatre or, within the new development in the Western Docks, a management structure may emerge to give another venue.”

## 28 Two Bright Ideas

**Connaught Park.** "At present the park is scenic and underused. (There is no reason why Dover could not be nearly as well-known for its Park as for its Castle.

The top entrance needs to be emphasised and enhanced – in fact it should be rather grand and conspicuous. Thousands of Castle visitors – among others – would find it easy to use the top gate. From there the park would be enjoyed going *down*, leading visitors to the town.

Coach/Tour Companies could include the Park in some Castle itineraries. A splendid Tea Terrace could be built (eventually) on the old greenhouse site – with wonderful views if the cemetery was screened. The Park could be developed gradually using the *Botanical Gardens* at *Ventnor, I.O.W.* (also on sloping ground) as a model. As in the case of Ventnor, there should never be an entrance charge. The scheme needs sponsors and volunteers – in large numbers – e.g. companies, organisations, educational establishments, clubs, groups, private individuals, etc; to be responsible for areas of varying size.

And this is only the beginning!"

*June Dyer, Dover Society Member*

### Town Centre Management

*Mike McFarlane writes:*

"There are eight regions in England plus Scotland and Wales. I believe we should have ten sales persons selling Dover (Example: Midland Region with big towns, Birmingham, Coventry, Nottingham, etc.) The sales person would be expected to organise twenty coaches to visit Dover, including The White Cliffs Experience.

If all ten achieved their target, 500,000 would visit the White Cliffs Experience – that is 200,000 more than the target. These sales persons could also sell accommodation space in the Hotels and Guest Houses – even empty shop space.

If a basic salary of £8,000 was given, with the expectation that the sales person would triple that salary through commission I believe Dover would see a dramatic change. It would be sensible to experiment with one sales person (MIDLAND REGION) building up over a couple of years."

## Making Dover a Tourist Town

What emerges from all the suggestions and discussions about Dover's future is the fact that we want people to see Dover not only as a port, which may have been the case up to now, but also as a tourist town.

In selling Dover to the tourist market we are, I think, trying to attract a new clientele. No longer are we aiming just at ferry-travellers, hoping they will stay a night or two on their way to or from the Continent, although they will still constitute a

percentage of our visitors. In addition, Dover wants visitors who will make the town their base for a Kent holiday, staying a long weekend or a week or more, who will see the town as an ideal place to start their sight-seeing. The town itself has enough attractions to occupy a day or two, with historic Castle, Drop Redoubt, Grand Shaft and Roman Painted House and more recent Museum, White Cliffs Experience and Dover Gaol. Dover should make the most of its assets. It can also offer country walks, organised by the White Cliffs Countryside Project. The surrounding areas offer other castles (Deal, Walmer, Richborough, Leeds); country gardens (the Pines, Northbourne); golf courses (Kingsdown, Cinque Ports, Princes, Royal St. Georges, Broome Park, Canterbury); and seaside towns from Deal to Margate and Folkestone to Rye. Also there are the day-trippers. Some will have their trip made easier by the new A20/M20. Some will come from abroad, mainly from Calais. All these visitors will also want leisure facilities within the town, like some of those suggested by our members; theatre, bandstand, skating rink, bowling alley, attractive gardens, places to sit and watch the sea and the harbour traffic, attractive shops and a wide range of hotels, restaurants and guest houses to suit all pockets.

In their answers to the questionnaires some members suggested ways of attracting visitors. These included good signposting, more advertising, along the A20 route, holiday packages which include offers of visits to the town's attractions, shuttle buses to out-lying sites (e.g. Castle, Grand Shaft) and train/trolleys trailers for town tours.

## More Jobs

There must also be a continuing campaign to make the town more attractive and an on-going policy to attract more business to the town and create new jobs. These plans must all be in conjunction with the development of the Western Docks and of the White Cliffs Business Park.

*Jonathan Sloggett*, in a lengthy answer to Question B, states:

“If the town is to grow and develop it needs a sustainable long-term basis for economic demand; in other words, it needs jobs. I am not sure where the jobs will be obtained. Many organisations concerned with the welfare of the town have been seeking to develop employment for some time. The District Council has had a modest success with the White Cliffs Experience. . . . .

I suspect that the best way to try to develop employment in Dover is to exploit the town's position virtually at the crossroads of Europe, close to the Channel tunnel with efficient ferry services of its own, etc. and to market the area to industry which wants to be in England but close to Europe.”

In conclusion, if, as seems likely, new jobs in Dover are to be found mainly in the development of three areas, the Western Docks, the White Cliffs Business Park and in tourism, then the sooner all these projects get under way the better it will be for Dover.

# IMPACT

ACTION IN LOCAL IMPROVEMENT

## *Update: Spring 1994*

JULIAN OWEN

For the past year the IMPACT design team has been working with Dover District Council, Dover Harbour Board and others – including the Dover Society – to identify the right targets for environmental improvements. This is an important stage, to get the preparation right. Now things are beginning to shape up and 1994 will see more parts of the jigsaw beginning to slot into place.

### **THE SEA FRONT**

Probably the most important project on the stocks is the improvement of the promenade in front of Waterloo Crescent, where Impact is working with the Harbour Board's architects. The work needs to complement whatever happens at the Western Docks, but also to stand alone if necessary. So Impact has taken a hard look at the traffic arrangements and has taken on board the comments of the Dover Society's planning committee. It sees this as a project for the winter of 1994/95 so as not to interfere with summer events and celebrations. It is therefore still very much in the preparation stage. Impact is also working with the water sports users and the County Council's Sports Development Unit to maintain the vitality of the area.

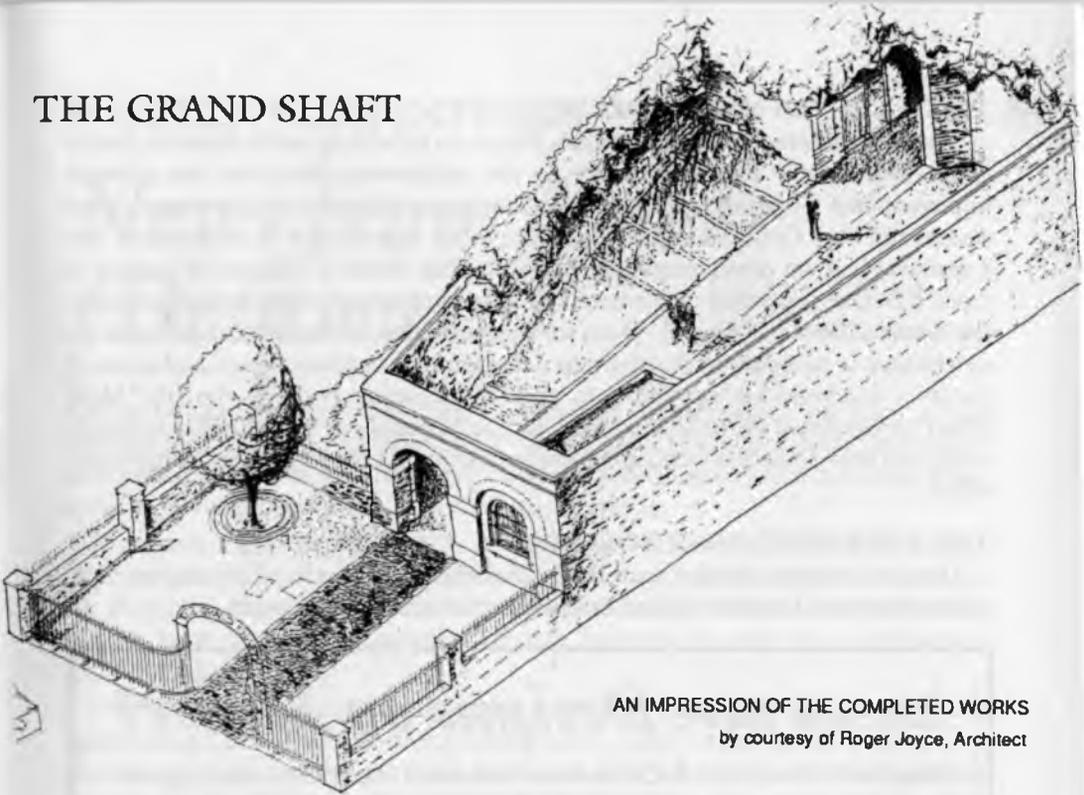
### **A PLACE FOR ART**

Impact is working with Dover Harbour Board to develop, in partnership with local people, the brief for an art-work on the seafront, on the important axis of Bench Street/New Bridge. This would be the subject of a professional art competition, to attract a work of real international quality. Just as important, however, is to improve the setting of some of the monuments and plaques which already feature on the promenade. Alastair Snow, a professional public arts consultant employed by the County Council on a project for arts in town centres, is advising IMPACT on this project.

### **THE GRAND SHAFT**

Work is due to start this summer on the faithful reconstruction of the entrance arch which once stood at the foot of the Grand Shaft. This is a vitally important site, not only from an historical point of view but also because it is situated at what is now Dover's front door. Careful research by Dover Museum, combined with investigative work commissioned from Canterbury Archaeological Trust, has helped Impact's specialist consultant architect to draw up exciting plans – which will give this precious monument a more dignified setting and aid its interpretation.

## THE GRAND SHAFT



AN IMPRESSION OF THE COMPLETED WORKS

by courtesy of Roger Joyce, Architect

## SNARGATE STREET

Still on the theme of the “front door”, it is expected that an extensive facelift of Snargate Street will be going ahead in April/May. Working with Jeff Reynolds and the Snargate Street Residents and Business Association grants have been offered to them for a repair and redecoration scheme. The improvements to the Grand Shaft, the completed installation of traditional lighting and the plans for more seats, bins and planting all make for a much improved appearance of this undervalued but very historic, street.

## STEMBROOK

Moving into the shopping area, but still concentrating on points of arrival, the next major scheme is the further improvement of the Stembrook car park and Church Street, to complement the Market Square and Castle Street. This is also planned for early summer. There will be little disturbance to the car park itself, except for changes to make the entrance and exit more attractive and to provide safer space for pedestrians around the toilets. The District Council will soon be installing closed-circuit television in the car parks. Church Street and St. Mary’s Passage will be re-paved to complement the path to the north door of the church, already paved with higher quality materials.

## 32 TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

There's much more to come, which I hope to be able to write about in future issues. But there's also much more to the programme than just the physical improvements. Together with the Dover Society, the Chamber of Commerce, local traders and both Councils Impact has begun to put together the "business plan" for a sustainable town centre management partnership which it is hoped to launch in April. It is more important than ever to be able to put out very positive messages about the future of Dover – "Dover – Open for Business". But for these messages to mean anything, it is necessary to develop and demonstrate a common vision and sense of purpose. Everyone has something to give. My separate article on the US "Main Street" programme shows how concern for the hearts of our communities is world-wide, and how Impact is developing similar techniques for structuring community effort.

### THE LEOPARD'S HEAD BOLLARDS

Last, but not least, Impact has recently obtained additional KCC funding to make a pattern from a Leopard's Head Bollard, so that more can be made. ◇

## *Do you have Designs on Dover?*

Members of the Dover Society who are interested in architectural design are invited to take part in a **ARCHITECTURAL WORKSHOP** to be held on **Monday 16 May 1994**.

IMPACT, in partnership with the South East Region of the Royal Institute of British Architects, is organising an architectural workshop on Monday, 16 May. The day will form part of the Dover Festival programme and will take place at Images Night-club in Castle Street.

Working in teams, participants will look at a specific site in Dover and put forward conceptual ideas for its improvement and development. Other groups taking part will include local architects, urban designers, students of architecture, French colleagues from L'Ordre des Architectes, Lille, and students from local secondary schools.

Design ideas may be as practical or fanciful as each team wishes, and they may be presented by means of drawings, writing, pictures, models, etc.

*The Workshop promises to be a most informative and enjoyable day and you are asked to contact Linda Wade at the Impact offices in Castle Street (tel. 0304 214141) if you would like to take part.*

# *News from Dover (Delaware)*

JULIAN OWEN  
IMPACT Project Manager

In the last issue of the Newsletter, I mentioned the link which has been set up between IMPACT and the 'Main Street' programmes in America, which are highly successful revitalisation programmes for 800 small towns in 34 states. Amongst these is the programme for Dover, Kent County, Delaware.

This former state capital (similar in size to our Dover) has some outstanding 18th century squares and impressive civic buildings and open spaces. Much of the shopping, however, is on the edge of town and the Main Street Project has had its work cut out encouraging private business to lead the revitalisation effort downtown.

We have much to learn from each other, and have been fascinated to see how our programmes have developed along similar lines – even to the extent of four very similar work areas which both Main Street and Kent's Town Centre Management Programmes have identified as needing to be addressed and kept in balance. The Delaware work areas, and their equivalent in the town centre management programme IMPACT is developing jointly with our partners in Dover, are:

- a Design (equivalent to our working groups on Development, but with a greater emphasis on presentation and display within the shops themselves).
- b Promotion (very similar to our work on image promotion, joint retail marketing and special events).
- c Economic Restructuring (which we have tended to call Business Support, involving recruitment and help for small businesses, training and customer care).
- d Organisation (normally locally-led not-for-profit companies, jointly funded by the public and private sector involving a large number of volunteers and backed up by training – similar to some development trusts in Britain).

Although there are of course tremendous cultural, development and legislative differences between American and British towns, the broad issues that we face in our town centres are very similar. There is certainly the same concern for keeping the town centre alive, not just as a retailing focus but also as the heart of the community.

In the absence of a planning system as strong as ours, American cities have been identified by "the great suburban build-out", but downtowns have not only

34 refused to die but also developed sophisticated techniques (such as Main Street) to respond to what might have been seen as overwhelming market forces. Historic town centres (however you measure that history) represent years of investment not only in property and business but also in social and civic life, and in a sense of identity.

What drives the Main Street partnerships are common concerns not only for a sustainable economic future for the downtown area but also for its important rôle in day-to-day social life and civic pride. In our UK experience, we have found such issues strike a common chord. One reason why "Main Street" programmes have pit together successful local partnerships is that Americans, with their own eyes, have seen the alternative. In the words of a vividly written book called "The Geography of Nowhere" by James Kunstler, "We created a nation of scary places and became a nation of scary people".

Nan Hagen, manager of the Dover, Delaware, Main Street programme, has kindly provided us with an update which illustrates how focused voluntary effort is playing its part.

*"The new year promises to be a busy one. We had our Annual Meeting last week and elected a new Board Chairman of Main Street, Dover. His name is Terry Jackson and he is a local architect. We also elected officers and announced the appointment of two new board members. The annual meeting was packed with people, many more than we expected and we are continuing to gather community support.*

*We held an orientation session for new volunteers in January and were pleased with the results. Eight new volunteers attended, were familiarized with the Main Street Approach, and all are now signed up to be on a committee.*

*On Twelfth Night, we held a fund-raiser for Main Street Dover in the home of our Mayor. Over ninety people paid \$30 each to attend and we cleared \$1400. This event proved to be a great way to raise money because it was not labor intensive.*

*Our Design Committee is holding one more focus group, this time with downtown employees and shoppers, in an attempt to reach conclusions about our "perceived" parking problem. This focus group is a follow up on recommendations made by a parking consultant who visited Dover last August. Soon we'll make our final recommendations to the City Council and to the Parking Authority. This committee is also working on a plan to beautify Governor's Avenue (one of our main downtown streets) and we are in the process of awarding small grants to downtown businesses within the area with which to improve their buildings. In addition, we are planning a workshop in April for merchants. The subjects will be visual merchandising, store layout and traffic flow. We have found a designer based in Philadelphia who will facilitate this workshop. >*

*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.



# *The Festival of Dover*

## *14-30 May 1994*

May 1994 welcomes the third 'Festival of Dover', a unique collaboration between Kent County Council and Dover District Council, with staff from both organisations forming the festival committee.

For the 1994 programme, the committee has drawn from the previous festivals those events which were well received, and peppered the programme with new and exciting arts and themes — ranging from recyclable art to opera at the Castle.

The highly successful children's programme, both in and out of school, has become the flagship of the festival. Within this year's educational programme the festival committee has secured two top names in children's literature — Michael Rosen and Martin Ursell.

The package of music and dance events has been extended to include a jazz weekend across the district, including a concert by the soul band 'Gambler'. It ranges from Tosca at Dover Castle to Old Tyme Music Hall to 'Zoots and Spangles' dance workshop. To launch the festival we are proud to host performances and workshops by 'Urban Strawberry Lunch' — a dynamic band of musicians who create a funky sound using rubbish as instruments.

For all Inspector Morse fans there is 'An Evening with Colin Dexter', author of the popular detective series. Since the first novel was published in 1975, Mr Dexter has been the recipient of one Gold Dagger and two Silver Daggers, prestigious awards by the Crime Writers Association.

A full programme listing all events within the Festival of Dover should be available from late April, from local libraries and Tourist Information Centres or contact Pete Ryan, Arts & Heritage Officer, Deal Library on (0304) 374762.

✘ From the start of the Festival the Dover Box Office will be at Messrs Thomas Cook in Cannon Street, opposite St. Mary's Church.

# The Festival Diary

The  
Festival  
Programme  
will give  
more detailed  
information.

TIME		EVENT		PLACE
<b>SATURDAY 14 MAY</b>				
All Day	Workshops	Urban Strawberry Lunch	Kearsney Abbey	
All Day	Workshops	Launch of Cretaceous Park	Coxhill Mount, Kearsney	
All Day	Exhibition	Jacqueline Kim Brown Environmental Sculptress	Kearsney Abbey	
All Day	Dover en Fête			
Evening	Music	Tosca	Dover Castle	
<b>SUNDAY 15 MAY</b>				
All Day	Workshops	Urban Strawberry Lunch	Kearsney Abbey	
All Day	Workshops	Build a Dinosaur	Coxhill Mount, Kearsney	
<b>MONDAY 16 MAY</b>				
All Day	Workshop	Urban Design	Images Night Club	
7.30 pm	Music	My Fair Lady	Dover Town hall	
<b>TUESDAY 17 MAY</b>				
	Walks	(See full Programme)		
7.30 pm	Music	My Fair Lady	Dover Town Hall	
<b>WEDNESDAY 18 MAY</b>				
2.30 pm	Music	Festival Music Tea	WCEX The Coffee Shop	
7.30 pm	Music	My Fair Lady	Dover Town Hall	
<b>THURSDAY 19 MAY</b>				
	Walks	(See full Programme)		
<b>FRIDAY 20 MAY</b>				
7.30 pm	Music	My Fair Lady	Dover Town Hall	
<b>SATURDAY 21 MAY</b>				
11 - 4	Music	Busking	Pencester Rd/Market Sq.	
11.30 - 12.30	Dance	Zoots and Spangles, Beginners	Images Night Club	
2.00 - 3.30	Dance	Zoots and Spangles Intermediate	Images Night Club	
Afternoon	Children	The Jungle Show	Deal Library	
7.30 pm	Music	My Fair Lady	Dover Town Hall	

<b>SUNDAY, 22 MAY</b>			
12 - 4	Music	Busking	Pencester Rd/Market Sq.
All Day	Walk	Town Trail Quiz	White Cliffs Exper. (Start)
All Day	Walk	Vineyard Trail and Wine Tasting	St. Nicholas Vinyard, Ash
<b>MONDAY 23 MAY</b>			
Evening	Music	Harmonimusik	Dover Town Hall
<b>TUESDAY 24 MAY</b>			
10.00 am	Music	Czech Choir	St. Mary's Church
Evening	Workshop	Recyclable Art with Angelo Pizzigallo	Dover Library
<b>WEDNESDAY 25 MAY</b>			
Morning	Music	Festival Coffee Morning	WCEX The Coffee Shop
2.00 pm	Dance	Tea Dance with Chris Houseley	Dover Town Hall
7.00 pm	Workshop	Book Illustration with Martin Ursell	Dover Library
9.00 pm	Music	Matt Clackett's Jazz	Images Night Club
<b>THURSDAY 26 MAY</b>			
1.00 pm	Music	Lunchtime Concert	Dover College
Evening	Music	Czech Choir	Dover Town Hall
Evening	Music	Dixie Moochers	Swingate Inn, Swingate
<b>FRIDAY 27 MAY</b>			
All Day	Flower Festival	Four Days of Events	River Church, River
Evening	Music	Old Tyme Musical Hall	Dover Town Hall
<b>SATURDAY 28 MAY</b>			
11.00 am	Art	Pavement Picasso	White Cliffs Experience
8.00 pm	Music	Gambler - Jazz 'n' Soul	Dover Town Hall
<b>SUNDAY 29 MAY</b>			
Evening	Ceilidh	East Kent Hoppers	Dover Town Hall
<b>MONDAY 30 MAY</b>			
All Day	Teddy Bears' Picnic		Kearsney Abbey



# LE TOUR

DONNA SOWERBY  
Arts & Events Manager  
D.D.C.

The world's biggest annual sporting event, the Tour de France, is coming to the South of England on Wednesday, 6th and Thursday 7th July 1994. It will be the first time that British crowds will see the full road race stages of the Tour, which on its only previous visit to this country was confined to a closed circuit.

*Dover Castle will be the focal point for the start of the UK stages of this prestigious event, with TV cameras capturing the scenes for 950 million viewers worldwide – all eyes will be on Dover Castle, the town and the District.*

First staged in 1903, the Tour de France is the toughest endurance event in the world, involving 2,500 miles of racing over three weeks. It is also the world's most lucrative bike race with prize monies totalling a massive £1.2 million.

For 1994 the race begins on 2 July in Lille for the first three stages in Northern France, then crossing to Britain via the Channel Tunnel for Days 4 and 5. From Dover Castle on Day 4, the race will move on to Folkestone and then along Stone Street to Canterbury, then the A28 to Ashford and on to Royal Tunbridge Wells before the finish on Madeira Drive, Brighton. On the following day Hampshire will host the race, starting and finishing in Portsmouth and taking in a circuit through Havant, Petersfield, Basingstoke and Winchester. The Tour de France will be completed on 24 July in Paris – on the famous finishing stretch along the Champs Elysees.

Le Tour comes complete with a full line-up of riders, officials, back-up personnel and media; in total over 3,000 people will be travelling with the race in some 1,500 vehicles. Accommodation, restaurants, petrol stations and many other businesses will benefit from the entourage alone who will be staying within a 30 mile radius of Dover. With an annual event budget of almost £13 million, and each sponsored team costing in the region of £3 million, it is good that some of this will be spent in Dover District and will benefit the local economy.

As this is a truly European event, Dover District Council is working with the towns hosting the race across the Channel in an exchange of information and ideas. The British Police motor cycle escort of at least forty officers will be joined on the UK stages by an equal contingent of French Gendarmes.

A normal Tour de France race day begins the night before when Le Tour team moves into the start location to set up the tented village, the signing-on podium, the safety barriers and general equipment. While the team members rest, the host town's



40 off a programme of curriculum projects with the schools throughout the District. This will culminate in a schools exhibition during the week of Le Tour celebrations. It is estimated that one million people will line the route between Dover and Brighton with approximately 50,000 visiting Dover on that day alone in addition to those staying for the week of the activities. An estimated £2 million will benefit the local economy.

By July 1994 it will have taken over two years of extensive planning and organisation to enable this event to be staged. Similar to the Open Golf Championships at Sandwich last year there are many agencies and individuals involved in the staging of such a major project. There will inevitably be disruption, but Dover District Council is working closely with the Police to keep this to a minimum by setting up public meetings around the town for the various areas affected. Special hotlines will be set up in the next couple of months to answer queries from residents, and new information on the event, road closures, diversions, etc. will be publicised throughout local newspapers.

To celebrate the arrival of the Tour de France in Dover, a series of events are planned from 2 – 6 July. The programme is entitled 'L'EVENT' and will include the Carnival, Summer Ball, Concerts, Cycle Trails, Fairs and Fireworks. Full details and brochure will be available late spring from local Tourist Information Centres.

It is hoped that residents will support the race and local businesses will seize the opportunity to capitalise on the visit to Dover of the world's biggest annual sporting event, to help raise Dover's profile for everyone's benefit.

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## SHIPPING NEWS ————— BRUCE LILLEY

LLOYD'S LIST of 28 January 1994, devoted a large section of several pages to the Cruise and Ferry Trades in general and to Dover in particular. Several articles took up the question of the effect of the Channel Tunnel on the ferry trade. P&O, Sealink and Hoverspeed each had a report, as did Dover Harbour Board, with its plans for the Western Docks. Another article defined the rôle of George Hammond plc in expanding facilities for importing fruit via the Dover Cargo Terminal, opened in 1990 at Dover Eastern Docks and now being expanded to provide 50% extra storage.

In an article entitled "Fillip for the Ferry Service" Dover's General Manager, Ferries, suggested that the ferry industry is "going to fight very hard for its market share", with big, new, super ferries and four large berths for them now available at Eastern Docks, concluding that the overall effect on ferry traffic may, after all, be "quite minimal".

The cruise industry was discussed at length in different articles, which high-lighted the increasing popularity of holiday cruises, with the United States the largest market and Europe the second largest. It was stated that the UK market soared 150% in the last six years. With twenty-two cruise ships expected to put in at Dover in 1994, there are indications that Dover could become a desirable stop on cruise liner itineraries in the future.



## *“The Custom & Harbour House”*

— IVAN GREEN

This fine old Victorian print entitled “The Custom and Harbour House” is of great interest, not only because of its depiction of the building, but also because it includes the ship.

It has a large open hull without cabins or any weather protection. Amidships, the best section of the hull, is taken up by the paddle wheels, the boiler, the engine, and the very tall funnel needed to provide sufficient draught for the simple boiler.

The ship is still a fully-rigged sailing ship, carrying an emergency set of sails, since the old salts would never completely trust the new-fangled power plants.

These little ships completely changed the whole aspect of the Channel crossing, not only as regards speed, but also reliability, being no longer dependent upon wind strength and direction, and limited only by unfavourable weather conditions.

# DOVER PAGEANT

## in CONNAUGHT PARK

2nd MAY 1994 — 2 – 5pm

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The inspiration for the Pageant came from the 1908 Dover Pageant and the organisers have tried to retain many aspects from the original programme cover.

This year the Title Sponsor is the National Westminster Bank, especially appropriate as the theme is **BANKING ON DOVER**. Noreen Thomas has again written the script which traces the history of Banking and the town using colourful costumes, with music, dancing and displays, an ideal day out for all the family. The Pageant Mistress, Lorraine Sencicle, has recruited the many people needed to dress up and bring a small part of the rich history of Dover to life. She has also done considerable research and written a book on the main banking families in Dover.

The chariot races, organised by the National Chariot Federation, are a very important part of the Pageant. The Dover Victim Support Unit has close links with the Pageant and the organisers provide this opportunity for charities and groups to raise funds for themselves.

The Dover Society will, as last year, be taking part in the Pageant and will have a refreshment tent where members can meet and where new members can enrol. If you can help in any way on the day please contact John Owen, the Projects organiser, by telephoning 202207. If you can contribute cakes for the stall please telephone Ann Owen on Dover 202207 or Sheila Cope on 211348.

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## *Dover 2020:* A FLIGHT of FANCY

MERRIL LILLEY

It is one of those perfect summer mornings when the white cliffs of Dover are at their very whitest in the strong sunlight. People on the tourist viewing platforms at the visitor centre on Langdon Cliffs savour the panoramic views of the channel which have delighted visitors for centuries. Below them a cargo ship is unloading fruit; one of the six super ferries plying out of Dover is about to enter the harbour and another is almost ready to leave the Eastern docks.

At the Western Docks can be seen a gigantic cruise liner, catering for two thousand passengers. A fleet of coaches has assembled on the quayside ready to receive its various parties and distribute them around the Kent countryside. >

The ship has twelve hours in port and the cruise itinerary has offered five trips; to London (10 hours); to Canterbury with cathedral visit and city tour (7 hours); a scenic tour of Kent castles, Dover, Walmer, Deal and Richborough, including lunch at the new hotel at Dover Castle (8 hours); historic guided tour of Dover, including the Grand Shaft and Drop Redoubt, the Roman Painted House, the Castle and Hellfire Corner, lunch optional at the new hotel; and lastly a town tour including the museum, with famous bronze age boat, The Heritage Centre (formerly the White Cliffs Experience), the Painted House and The Old Town Gaol and ample time for shopping.

Almost three-quarters of the ship's passengers have opted for one of these guided tours and the departure times are staggered over the next hour. When all the coaches have left, the remaining passengers can walk ashore at leisure. Some are content with exploring the vast shopping mall and maritime museum at the Western Docks. Some take the monorail into the town centre to mingle with the throng of tourists in the Market Square, visiting the Heritage Centre, open-air cafes and tempting boutiques and antique shops. Some of the more energetic passengers walk through the marina to the promenade where they have booked sailing or wind-surfing sessions at the Water Sports Centre.

Hotels are fully booked, including the fabulous new five-star hotel on the cliffs in front of the castle on the site of the old nineteenth century Officer's Quarters, now attracting the rich and famous to enjoy its vast terraces with unrivalled Channel views. A smaller hotel on the Western Heights, nesting in the hollow above the Grand Shaft, where the old barracks once stood, is almost as popular. Although its terraces command less spectacular views, it has the unique feature of the historic Grand Shaft on its doorstep and can be reached on foot via the imposing Snargate Street entrance built in 1994. Its upper terraces lead almost directly on to the newly-built entrance of the Drop Redoubt, only recently re-opened to the public after extensive renovation of the old fortifications. A friendly rivalry regarding attendance numbers exists between the two English Heritage sites on the opposing heights, Dover Castle on eastern side of the town and the Drop Redoubt on western, as more and more tourists are attracted to the area.

Another factor which has contributed to the growth of Dover as a tourist centre is the proximity of several popular Kent golf courses and the building of a super-modern golf driving range at Whitfield, where the activity centre also offers ten-pin bowling, ice-skating, indoor tennis and squash courts.

The promenade area with its water sports and safe, clean beach and attractive gardens and bandstand is crowded with summer visitors. In the harbour rowing boats and sailing dingies with brightly-coloured sails are engaged in providing lessons for schoolchildren and visitors. A group of swimmers are training for the annual cross-channel swim.

In the Western Docks, glinting in the sunlight, the monument, which was built in the year 2000 as part of the Millennium celebrations, stands as a landmark for sailors. It towers over Dover which is now, as it has always been, the Gateway to England.◊

# 44 The South Foreland Lighthouse

SYLVIA AND WALTER PARKINSON

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When we heard in 1988 that Trinity House was going to close the South Foreland Lighthouse many of the residents of St. Margaret's were sad that the light would be extinguished after standing on top of the cliffs for centuries and sending its light out over the straits guiding shipping around the notorious Goodwin Sands. The tower in its present form has stood since 1843. Also there were fears of what might be developed on the site. Then on 30th September 1988 the Lighthouse was closed and the wait began to see who would buy this piece of St. Margaret's history.

Then in 1989 we learned the glad news that the South Foreland Lighthouse had been bought by the National Trust. Later on, it was opened to the public one weekend free of charge. We took this opportunity to pay another visit to the Lighthouse, having had a look around with the History Society a year or so before. During our visit we saw a clipboard and paper on a table asking if anybody was interested in being a volunteer to help run the Lighthouse as a tourist attraction.

THE SOUTH FORELAND LIGHTHOUSE - 1924

*With acknowledgements to the Francis Frith Collection*



Having visited other National Trust properties and seeing the stewards standing or sitting in rooms and answering questions we thought that we could do that nicely, as we were retired. Several people had already put their names down, so we added ours. A little later on we were invited to a meeting in the tower and sat around on the first floor, on steps, milk crates or planks of wood, and learned that this was going to be a special Trust property.

Visitors as they climbed the stairs would find a person on each floor who would explain the workings and the history of the light and also of the many interesting things in the surrounding area. The second surprise was that we had been 'selected' to organise the volunteers into groups (or, nautically, watches) for each Saturday afternoon from April to October, 2 p.m. to 5.30. Also we would have to look after everyday expenses and arrange educational visits for groups. We opened in April 1990, had a very successful year and followed that in 1991 by opening on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays.

We have a wonderful band of volunteers who talk to our visitors and who, judging by the remarks written in our visitors' book, are very much appreciated. Groups that come to the Lighthouse include youth groups, i.e. Scouts, Guides and schools, and adult groups such as Rotary clubs, National Trust members and societies.

In the 1950's one of the two keeper's cottages was demolished as due to automation only one resident keeper was needed. Now this cottage has been perfectly rebuilt, we have a new information room, and the tower has been repainted.

We now look forward to a new season starting on 2 April and to meeting many people from every corner of the globe.

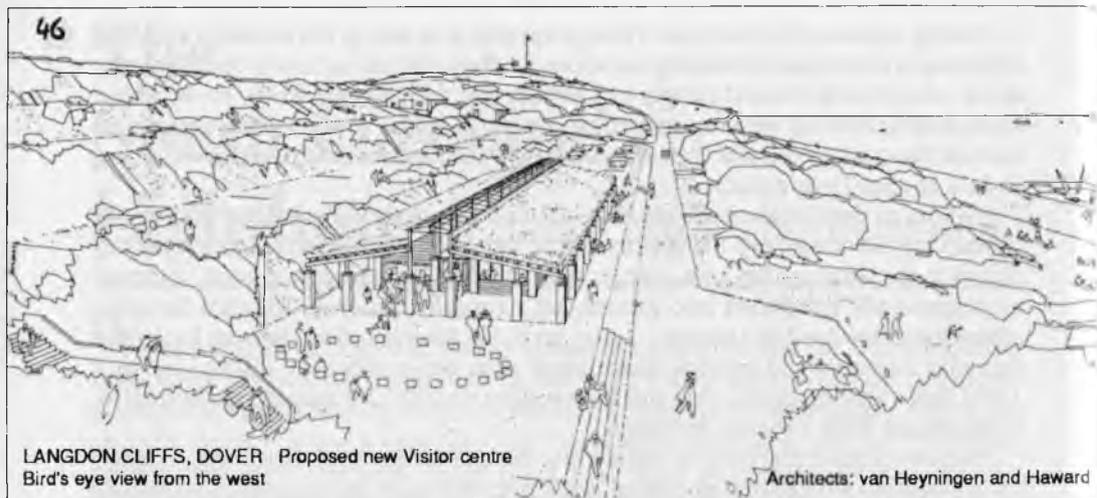
I think we must be grateful to the National Trust and other such bodies who are making sure our historical buildings and beautiful countryside are protected for future generations to enjoy. ◇

## Membership Secretary's Report – Spring 1994

We are pleased to be able to maintain the subscription at its present level (£4 or £6 joint for two members living at the same address) for 1994-95. Nevertheless costs have increased. In order to save postage I shall not, in future, reply with a cheque acknowledgement and renewal membership card when subscriptions are paid. If you particularly wish to know that I have received your money safely please request a reply when sending the money in. Of course prompt payment of subscriptions is the most effective economy – they are due on 1 April. I also recommend our Standing Order scheme. Please ask for a form if you would like to pay that way.

The Committee feels that it is good for members to know each other. In future, starting with the next *Newsletter*, we will, in each issue, welcome members who have joined in the preceding four months. We will, of course, respect the privacy of any new member who does not wish his or her name to be included.

**PLEASE PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION NOW**



LANGDON CLIFFS, DOVER Proposed new Visitor centre  
Bird's eye view from the west

Architects: van Heyningen and Haward

## THE PROPOSED VISITOR'S CENTRE ON LANGDON CLIFFS

TERRY SUTTON

This is an idea of what a new Visitors' Centre could look like on Langdon Cliffs, Dover, by 1995 if the National Trust's proposals reach fruition.

However, reservations have been raised on aspects of the design and there could well be modifications by the time planning consent is gained and the centre costed and constructed.

The visitors' centre would be built on the present lower terrace of car parking on the site of part of the old convict prison. Peter Battrick, who is the Trust's regional public affairs manager, says the design for the centre fulfils the Trust's aims by improving the present unsightly facilities in a way that is "sensitive to the site, environmentally friendly and energy efficient,"

The National Trust's competition to design the visitors' centre was won by the architects van Heyningen and Haward. Involved in the judging process was Lawrence Gage, chairman of the Dover Society's planning sub-committee. Initial submissions came from twenty-one architects of whom twelve were interviewed before the judges looked at designs from seven practices.

The Trust protects more than five miles of the White Cliffs of Dover from Great Farthingloe to Bockhill Farm, east of St. Margaret's Bay. Around 250,000 people each year visit Langdon Cliffs, acquired by the National Trust in 1988.

The idea is to construct the centre predominantly of wood, a sustainable resource, but with a turf roof that will carry a suitable grass seed mix allowing it to become a home to many wild flowers including orchids.

“The turf roof will be highly energy efficient and will also ensure the whole structure blends successfully into the surrounding downland. There will be a deep verandah to shade any reflections from glass and it should be hardly visible from the sea,” says Mr Battrick.

The building will house information about the work of the Trust as well as the archæology and history of the landscape of this sweep of The White Cliffs and the Dover Strait. There will also be a café and a small shop, lavatories and a meeting area for school groups. A spokesman for the Trust stated “The existence of this building, and the provision of accommodation for the Trust’s warden, will provide greatly improved security for an area that has been subject to vandalism in the past”.

# WINE & WISDOM '94 SHEILA R. COPE

**H**ow to reduce the members of the Dover Society to silence? Ask them what happened in Paris and Brussels in 1887. The hush was caused by Clive Taylor’s opening question at the Wine and Wisdom evening on 21 February. Once again Clive, assisted by his wife Jillian and by Andrew Denyer, efficiently masterminded the questions. Clive’s own pleasure was infectious. By the time we heard the first answer – the two cities were connected by telephone – we were relaxed and, with the wine starting to flow, confident.

In the interval we enjoyed crusty bread and cheese prepared by Joan Liggett and her family and thought about the Dingbats. These are word-puzzles, incomprehensible to the novice but obvious once the brain had “clicked”. They require consultation between team members and contrast with the topics of the other eight rounds.

For the Archers and the Lizards, who tied for second place with 76%, the most difficult problem of the evening was division of the prizes. Try sharing three bottles of sparkling wine and three monster slabs of chocolate fairly between six people! Of the 14 teams taking part the Motleys were few in number, yet they won with 79%. This quartet comprised May Jones (geography expert), Bessie Newton (sport specialist) and Budge Adams and Lillian Kay whose combined knowledge of historic Dover is formidable. The winners received commemorative glass tumblers. Thanks to Clive, who nourished our minds, and to Joan, who nourished our bodies, the rest of us will also remember an entertaining evening. It was also useful. My favourite piece of new knowledge was the medical term for “delirious fumbling with bedclothes, etc.” It was carphology, defined by the OED (concise edition). ◊

# BANKING ON DOVER

by Lorraine Sencicle

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Reviewed by JOHN OWEN

Of the many books on Dover, we have here in the tercentenary year of the Bank of England, an informative work on the part played by the banking families in the commercial development and prosperity of the town and port of Dover from 1685 to 1846.

The author has gone to great pains to tease out the banking element from available sources and has produced, in rather less than 200 pages, a very good read for all who are interested in the town's history. Her book successfully conveys the vibrant commercial activity of the area at the time and the innovative resourcefulness of the early business community. It is not surprising therefore to learn that Dover played a prominent part in the development of banking in England.

Part of the Minet family, arriving as Huguenot refugees from France in 1685, set up a trading and shipping agency business in Dover and by way of deposit facilities, receipts and bills of exchange led to the provision of a banking service; something of a rarity outside London at that time.

*Banking on Dover* traces the part played by such banking families as Minet, Fector and Latham in the commercial, political, civic and social life of the port of Dover.

The text is generously supported throughout by helpful illustrations, drawings and maps.

Many Dover mills of the period and the important shipbuilding industry feature with much else to interest the reader. This at a time when the town and port is yet again facing new economic challenges on the approach of the millennium.

*Banking on Dover*, in giving us a new perspective on our heritage, is dedicated to the *Dover Pageant 1994* which has 'banking' as its theme and is to be held in Connaught Park on Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May.

## COMPETITION

WRITE a short story of not more than 1000 words set in Dover in the future — at least 20 years from now.

Winning stories will be published in future issues of the Newsletter.

First prize will be a book token and a year's free membership of the Dover Society. Runners-up receive a year's free membership .

1767 – 1992  
 Time & Tide Wait For No Man  
 George Hammond plc  
 Nigel Watson

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Reviewed by Jack Woolford

I was pleased to receive a courtesy copy of this book from David Ryeland, a benefactor of the Dover Society and a stalwart colleague in the 1970s "Save our Seafront" campaign [which sought (in vain) to save Dover from the noise and pollution of the relocated hoverport]. I was also a little embarrassed, for business histories tend, as might reasonably be expected, to be embarrassing paeans of self-praise.

When in the first paragraph the author says that there is no evidence to support the date of 'Hammond's origin, but none to refute it, my professional historically hackles were consequently raised, only subsequently to be more than disarmed. Nigel Watson has skilfully interwoven local and national economic and military/naval history and has constructed a narrative which is as much an economic history of Dover as of Hammond's, and an excellent revision course on the local, national and international factors which have shaped Dover over more than two centuries. It is fascinating to be reminded, in chronological order, of the haven rivalry of Dover and Deal and of their competitive activities in peacetime smuggling and wartime privateering; of the chances and challenges of geographical and tidal conditions and the success or failure of attempts to overcome them; of the transitions from war to peace and their perverse effects on prosperity; and of the changes from sail to steam, from sailing to flying, from sailing to hovercrafting/jetfoiling and from sailing to Channel Tunnelling, all of them decisive in changing Dover's detailed rôles.

It is even more instructive, for me at any rate, to be informed on the details of shipping agency both in peace and in war: the organisation, financing, insurance, warehousing and delivery of shipping supplies and cargoes (including passengers, coal along the seafront railway or by aerial ropeway from Tilmanstone, fruit and fish, pitprops, petrol and pens ...); the salvage of shipwrecks and seamen; the arcana of consulship; and the mysteries of stevedoring.

Most of all it is instructive, not to say inspiring, to have revealed the inside story of how the Hammonds of Deal and the Lathams of Dover originated and coalesced, rose and fell, were rescued and revived and ultimately survived by development from a paternalistic family firm into a successfully diversified plc. Although there is not much information or comment upon industrial relations, failures and shortcomings of management are as visible as modest self-appraisal and the colourful characters, notably of Jim Ryeland (including his civic roles as councillor and JP) and his sons, are vividly portrayed. Reading between the lines is a special delight.

The book is handsomely designed, printed and bound and beautifully illustrated, with old prints, pictures and documents as well as colour photographs. It is expensive at £27.50 and cannot become a best-seller because the print-run is designedly small. Library copies are, however, available and Hammonds might well be approached in case of difficulty.

## Letter to the Editor

from Lorraine Sencicle

re Dec.1993 issue

"making the most of English Heritage"

Madam,

I read with interest the Editor's "advertisement" for English Heritage telling us that by becoming a member one is allowed free admission into Dover's castle.

However, I was very sad that the Editor omitted to mention that membership of the "Friends of Dover Castle" also allows free admission into Dover Castle.

Furthermore, by joining the "Friends", members receive a twice-yearly news letter, are invited to the prestigious Carol Concert that is held in the Castle Keep and also other interesting events. Moreover, money raised by "Friends" goes towards funding specific items for the castle.

Membership subscriptions are:

Adult	£7.90
Joint	£14.70
Family	£15.75
Junior	£3.70

and the address to write to is:

Friends of Dover Castle, P.O. Box 106  
Dover CT16 1XL

I do hope that you find room to publish my letter, even if you are unable to give the same amount of space as you did to English Heritage.

Yours faithfully,

LORRAINE SENCICLE, (Mrs.)  
Committee Member,  
Friends of Dover Castle.

The Editor is always delighted to receive and publish readers' letters, in this case doubly so as it affords the opportunity of reminding our readers of the advantages of joining the "Friends of Dover Castle".

Another advantage of joining 'the Friends' is that it is much cheaper than English Heritage, if you spend a lot of time visiting Dover Castle and visit other historic sites only rarely.

It depends. If one also visits Deal, Walmer and Richborough Castles and, indeed, other sites nationwide, one might prefer to choose English Heritage. Some people join both.

However, the article referred to was not intended solely as an advertisement for English Heritage and did not mention subscriptions or addresses.

For those who may be interested, these are:

Adult ... £17.50

Two adults at the same address : £30.00

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London WE 5E2

### FOOTNOTE on the Discussion at the March Members' Meeting

A crucial item of discussion was the Christmas feast. Where? - the Yacht Club? returning to Dover College? Or trying a new venue? If you have any strong views on this subject please get in touch with Joan Liggett.

## Report of the March Meeting

# The White Cliffs Countryside Project

On March 14th Melanie Wrigley, of the White Cliffs Countryside Project, addressed the meeting at St. Mary's Parish Centre, giving an update on the work of the project and outlining some of its future plans.

The project, launched in 1989, manages the "Heritage" coasts from Folkestone, through Dover to Kingsdown, regarded as areas of outstanding natural beauty.

The project is funded by public and private funds from a variety of sources; KKC, DDC, Shepway DC, English Heritage, Kent Trust for Nature Conservation, the Countryside Commission, English Nature, Eurotunnel and Network South-East. Some money also comes from the EEC.

With the aid of some excellent slides, Mrs. Wrigley described some of the successful work completed by the WCCP and went on to give a detailed picture of the life of the flora and fauna of the chalk grasslands along our coast, with some examples of the rare species to be found only in areas of chalk grassland. For instance, the rare late spider orchid is found only in this area of Dover and Folkestone and the Adonis Blue butterfly is found only on the hills behind Folkestone.

There is so much to see in the chalk grassland area that the WCCP guided walks have, each year, attracted more and more people. Last year 6000 people came from outside the Dover area. Details of all walks and are given in the WCCP programme available from the Tourist Centres or from the Museum.

The WCCP is concerned all the time with new ideas and developments. In 1994 the Drop Redoubt is to be floodlit and the 140 acres of the Western Heights under grazing is to be declared a Local Nature Reserve. There will also be improvements to St. Martin's Gun Battery and information boards will be put up. There are also plans for story-telling guided walks around the moats of the Drop Redoubt. Another idea is to give the area the name of Cretaceous Park in a series of dinosaur-building days for local children. In the future, also, the WCCP would like to offer walking holidays and interest holidays to people coming from outside the area.

All the Dover Society members present thoroughly enjoyed the talk, agreeing that the the WCCP has much to offer to residents and visitors. A vote of thanks to Melanie was proposed by our chairman, Jack Woolford.

### Planning Ahead

After the interval and raffle, members divided into three groups to discuss the social calendar. The items discussed were Trips to France, the venue for the Christmas meeting, liaison with the Deal Society, outings for 1995 and topics and speakers for 1995. As on previous occasions these group discussions proved very valuable and, in this case, extremely useful to Joan Liggett and the Social Planning Committee. Many thanks to all who took part.

*continued at foot of previous page*

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If Renewal, MEMBERSHIP No. please

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

2nd NAME if Joint Member .....

POSTCODE ..... TELEPHONE .....

I/We agree to abide by the Constitution of the Dover Society.

Signed ..... Date .....

(A copy of the Constitution may be read in the Reference Department of the Dover Public Library. It is based on the model constitution published by the Civic Trust)

**MEMBERSHIP: Individually – £4 annually. Joint Membership – £6 annually.**

**Note: Annual Subscriptions become due on 1st April.**

Please make cheques payable to the Dover Society and forward to the Membership Secretary; Mrs Sheila Cope, 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD.

It would help us in our planning if you would fill in some or all of this section.

Special Interests .....

.....

If you belong to other organisations would you note them, please?

.....

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Can you offer any expert knowledge or experience? Please state.

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# PROGRAMME

**APRIL 18**

Monday 7.30

Members only

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Speaker: R. L. Ratcliffe

"The Coming of the Railways"

St. Mary's Parish Centre

Parking at Stembrook

**MAY 2**

Members and Guests

**DOVER PAGEANT at CONNAUGHT PARK**

Meet at the Dover Society Tent

**MAY 22**

Sunday 2.00

Members and Guests

**A DOVER QUIZ (Town Trail)**

An Event in the Dover Festival Fortnight

Meet at White Cliffs Experience

**MAY 28**

Saturday 9.30

Members and Guests

**A GEORGIAN JOURNEY (£12)**

Trip to Tunbridge Wells

Coach from Pencester Road

Usual Pick-up points

**JUNE 22**

Wednesday 4 pm

Members and Guests

**A TRIP TO THE GOODWIN SANDS (£19)**

Meet at the Hoverport at 4 pm.

**JULY 16**

Saturday 11.30

Members and Guests

**A VISIT TO FAVERSHAM (£8)**

In "Open House Week"

Coach from Pencester Road

Usual pick-up points

**SEPTEMBER**

Members and Guests

**TRIP TO MONTREUIL.** Details later

**OCTOBER 24**

Members and Guests

**AUTUMN MEETING**

St. Mary's Parish Centre

Parking at Stembrook



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