

## *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, Pincham, 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 Society's seventh year got off to a good start with a well-attended Annual General Meeting in April. About one quarter of our members were present to participate in the necessary business of the meeting prior to the interval and afterwards to enjoy the talk on "The Coming of the Railways" by R. L. Ratcliffe, President of the City of Rochester Society.

An account of the meeting is included in this *Newsletter*, as are reports of our two successful outings in May and June. The coach trip to Tunbridge Wells, with thirty-two Society members taking part and the Hovercraft trip to the Goodwin Sands with forty-five, were much enjoyed. We still have two trips to come – the outing to Faversham in July (alas too late for a report in this issue) and the September visit to France. For the French trip, *please apply early – as soon as you receive the application form* enclosed with this *Newsletter*.

The Social Planning Committee would like to make an appeal to members to help our Social Secretary, Joan Liggett, by returning application forms for any event as soon as possible after they are distributed, either in a *Newsletter* or by a Newsflash. As last year there will be an Autumn Newsflash for the November Museum Quiz and for the December Christmas Feast.

Our regular reports from Projects, Planning, Impact and the WCCP bring members up to date with current events in Dover.

On 12 May an Open Meeting in Dover Town Hall organised by Lawrence Gage, Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee, discussed the possibility of Dover applying for some of the money from the Millennium

Fund to finance a local project. Of the eighty plus people who attended, seventeen spoke to the assembly and all completed the questionnaire.

As will be seen from the results (see page 81) the majority of respondents felt that areas crucial for Dover's future development were the Western Docks and the Western Heights.

One of the ideas that appealed to many was a Cruise Liner Terminal and the benefit it might bring to the economy of the district. We have followed this up with a centre-page article on *Cruise Liners in Dover in 1994*, when twenty-three liners are visiting the port. As part of the wider Western Docks development it is evident that this industry could greatly add to Dover's prosperity. Other popular suggestions were for a Conference Centre, a theatre and/or concert hall and a sports centre. One of the most ambitious ideas was for a modern Pharos on the Western Heights with a laser dome on top and various other suggestions (e.g. revolving restaurant, conference centre, concert hall etc.) on other levels. This may be the kind of project to consider for Dover, as it emerges that the whole concept of the scheme invites exciting ideas with vision, suitable for the Third Millennium. A full report of the open meeting and the questionnaire results are included in this *Newsletter*.

The aim of the Dover Society in setting up this public meeting was to create an opportunity for the townspeople of Dover to participate, if they wished to do so, in the planning of an application for a sum of money to be spent on a national project, within the Dover area, to celebrate the Millennium. Following the meeting, the Society, through Lawrence Gage, has been instrumental in helping to assemble a Steering Committee which should then proceed to the next stage of setting up a working party. The Dover Society will then have achieved its purpose and its rôle thereafter will be to support the working party if asked to do so.

The committee of the Dover Society is concerned to maintain a watching brief on all matters which concern the town and for the Society as a whole to be seen as an enthusiastic, caring and democratic group of individuals working for the benefit and progress of Dover.

Our numbers in the Society remain fairly constant at about 400 members, usually falling a little in the summer months to 370, when some people fail or forget to renew, and then building up again by the following March to perhaps 420, by the addition of fifty to sixty new members in the winter months. The pattern has been repeated each year in the last four years. It is pleasing to note that our Membership Secretary reports an influx of younger members in the last year's intake and also that some fifty members have taken advantage of the standing order method of paying their subscriptions. Please continue to recruit new members. (Some of you are very good at this!).

If you are a two-*Newsletter* family give one copy to a friend. If you are ever left without a *Newsletter* because you have given your copy to a prospective new member, just ring the Editor for a replacement. We want people to know about the Dover Society and to participate in its activities. If any members have ideas on how this may be achieved please write to the Editor and make your ideas known. Any formal proposals must, of course, be sent to the Secretary early in March of any year, i.e. twenty-eight days before the AGM.

It has been suggested that it would be useful and informative to indicate membership numbers as well as names of people contributing material for the *Newsletter* and we have followed this procedure in this issue. Most of the *Newsletter* content is supplied by our own members with occasional outside contributions. If you would like to write reports, reviews or articles for future issues, please contact the Editor. New writers are always welcome.