

## *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

## EDITORIAL

Seasonal Greetings to all our readers.

This year, at the request of many members, the Christmas Feast will be held at its old venue, the Dover College Refectory, and we hope to see at least a quarter of our members at this convivial event. If you have not yet booked your places for the Christmas Feast, there is still time to do so. Please contact Joan Liggett, our Social secretary, immediately.

It is always pleasing to have a good response from members for any event and during this year we are pleased to report some of the largest numbers ever for some of our outings, notably the Goodwin Sands trip in June (45 members) and the Montreuil trip in September (52 members), both trips greatly enjoyed by those who attended. However, I would add that trips which attract smaller numbers are often so enjoyable that, in my opinion, it is worth going ahead with plans for an outing, even when numbers are small. A case in point, this year, was the Faversham trip in July (reported in this issue as it was too late for the August Newsletter). Only 14 members applied for this trip and our Social Secretary wondered whether to cancel it. In the event, it turned out to be a fascinating day, with ideal summer weather, visiting Open Houses which are rarely open to the public. Those who went liked the idea of travelling with a small group in a mini-bus and agreed they would have been very disappointed to have missed this unique experience.

The October meeting, being the first gathering of our winter season, usually tackles a serious subject of current interest to members and I am always surprised that it does not attract a larger audience, as each year the content of the evening always proves to be so valuable and interesting. Last year the topic was Local Government and this year it was

Dover's Economic Future, surely a matter of great concern to us all. The evening was divided into two parts; the first part an excellent slide show organised and narrated by Budge Adams showing some of Dover's economic past; the second half of the evening an address by Roger Madge of Dover District Council outlining some of the problems Dover faces and its hopes for the future. In emphasising yet again that tourism is one of these hopes for future expansion, Mr. Madge suggested a catchy, tourist-attracting slogan – Be there, Explore, Enjoy, Remember.

It is a slow process but perhaps, as Mr. Madge anticipates, Dover is becoming more of a tourist attraction and perceptions of the town are changing. This month I picked up a magazine and found in it a travel article on the White Cliffs Countryside, encouraging readers to make Dover their centre for exploring the whole of the district.

The central feature of this issue is the closing of the Marine Station at Dover Western Docks, marking an end of an era in Dover's history, but, we hope, heralding the start of a new one with the opening of a Cruise Liner Terminal. For their memories of the Western Docks and Dover Harbour in the early decades of this century the editor is indebted to three Dover Society members and also to Bob Ratcliffe, the main speaker at the 1994 AGM and a former contributor to the *Newsletter*.

Looking ahead to 1995, the social calendar follows a similar pattern to that of previous years. The January meeting offers two talks on local topics. One of these, on Conservation, is the talk which had to be postponed last January.

February will have the ever-popular Wine and Wisdom evening, with Quizmaster Clive Taylor. There will not be another Newsflash before February so make a note of the date, February 13th, and remember to book your place. As last year, tables will be limited to six contestants.

The Member's Meeting in March will begin with a talk by Keith Parfitt on Dover's Anglo-Saxon Cemetery and after the interval there will be group discussions on items raised by members, including suggestions for future events. These group discussions have proved a popular feature of member's meetings and have provided valuable help to the Social Sub-Committee in planning ahead. From the response at the last meeting of this kind, 1995 includes a London Trip and we would like to find out whether members wish to make this an all-day trip, to include a theatre visit.

Part of the summer programme is still at the planning stage but we can give you most of the dates. We include another trip to the Goodwins for all the members who missed this in 1994 and for those who loved it so much that they want to go again. The date of the trip will be confirmed nearer the time – obviously because of the state of the tides. All other dates are given on the back cover in the full calendar up to September 1995.

We feel that 1994 has been a successful year for the Society. That we have a voice in the community is evident. Our Chairman, in his article in this issue, reflects, with pride, on our response to the Local Government issue and its final outcome. Our Projects Team has been busy as ever; our Planning Committee ever-watchful and involved in local developments. Thanks are due to all the members of sub-committees, Planning, Projects and Social, for their work throughout the year.

May 1995 bring prosperity and success to Dover, to the Dover Society and to all its members.