

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, archaeology, 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

As the Dover Society enters its eighth year, there are indications that the future of the town may be viewed with optimism. Many of the plans, hopes and projects which have been discussed and reported in these pages over the last few years are now closer to realisation, some of them already in the process of implementation. Of these the enterprise which is likely to have most impact on the town is the building of the new cruise terminal at Dover Western Docks.

After the final permission for the project had been obtained, it was reported in the national press on 2nd March that work on the project was to start immediately and that the new terminal would be ready for use by the spring of 1996. Presumably, by taking a walk along the Admiralty Pier, now open to the public for its total length, members will be able to watch the gradual growth of this exciting project over the next twelve months. Accordingly, an artist's impression of the departure lounge of the terminal was thought to be a fitting choice for the front cover of Newsletter 22, evoking the image of thousands of cruise passengers sitting there in future years enjoying a view of the White Cliffs of Dover.

Another new project recently given planning permission is the transport and traveller's centre at Whitfield, reported as creating up to 200 jobs in a £14 million complex for freight, coach crews and passengers. Part of Phase 1 of the White Cliffs Business Park development, work is expected to start this June and to finish by May 1996.

Another undertaking, which members will have followed with interest since the public meeting last May, is the setting up of a Steering Committee to plan an application to the Millennium Commission for a grant for Dover's Millennium project. As members will remember, this all began with an idea from Lawrence Gage, the Chairman of our Planning Sub-Committee. Lawrence has, subsequently, become the Chairman of the Steering Committee.

Yet another project with its inception in the Dover Society, due to the suggestion of Budge Adams, is the plan to move the Rolls Memorial statue to a new location outside the Gateway flats. This too is about to be implemented, in time for the Dover Festival in May.

In the meantime, smaller projects in the town are already under way and many are in the process of completion, as part of Impact's work in Dover. Welcome face-lifts for the town are evident in Stembrook, Ladywell and Mill Lane and will be finished this summer. Details of these are included in the Impact report.

Successful Society meetings from November to March are reported in this issue. The Christmas Feast, back in its old venue of Dover College Refectory, was also back to its previous high standard, with plenty of Christmas spirit, a highly successful raffle, entertainment by the Barber Shop Group and excellent food, as usual.

The summer programme is as varied as ever, including trips to Rochester, London, France and the Goodwin Sands. The trip to Rochester will include a two-hour coach tour of Dickens' country and, later in the day, a 90-minute walk "Discovering Rochester", with a courier/guide provided by the City of Rochester Society. The London trip will be to Greenwich and will include entrance to the Maritime Museum and ample time to explore other places in the area. The outing to the Goodwin Sands is, as last year, on a Wednesday in June when one of the lowest tides occurs. Once again, places are limited so it is advisable to book as soon as possible for this trip. For all these trips look for the application forms in this issue of the *Newsletter* and apply early for the outings of your choice.

The September trip to France will be to Arras and forms will appear with the August *Newsletter*. In the meantime places can be reserved by contacting Joan Liggett, our Social Secretary

Also in this issue is included the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting on April 24th. Please try to attend. This is your meeting! The talk this year is by Sir Richard Knowles.

Thanks are due, as ever, to all our contributors of regular reports and of additional reviews and articles. Please remember that reviews of Dover Festival events (May 6th to 21st) will be very welcome for inclusion in Newsletter 23, as Festival news has become a regular feature of our August number.

Best Wishes to all our members.