

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

Summer is here again, with a large section of the Newsletter devoted to pleasurable outings and reviews of concerts and other Festival activities, which have become regular features of the August issue.

The Dover Festival, now in its fourth year, has become an established annual event and this year there were additional, and sometimes simultaneous, VE Day celebrations, which continued until 1 July and culminated in a spectacular fireworks display from the Castle grounds. Many of our members attended the Festival events and some have written reviews of various items from the vast programme on offer.

Society members have enjoyed three summer trips, to Rochester, to the Goodwin Sands and to Greenwich and some are looking forward to the September trip to Arras,

You will remember that last year's trip to Montreuil attracted over forty members and was a great success. If you wish to go to Arras and have not yet booked places please contact Joan Liggett immediately as she needs to know the numbers for the trip to confirm the coach booking. Forms and details were sent out with the April Newsletter and with the June Newflash. If you do not have a form and wish to join this trip telephone Joan as soon as possible.

Joan spends a great deal of time in arranging all our trips and meetings and I am sure all members will join me in giving her our grateful thanks.

In April the Society held its seventh Annual General Meeting, attended, as usual, by about a quarter of the membership. Our Chairman, Jack Woolford, started his Annual Report by saying, "We have had another and even better year" and, from the chronicle of events which followed, we must agree with him. In his thanks to members for their various contributions to the Society, the Newsletter and all those connected with its production and distribution, received lavish praise. It is hoped we may live up to his esteem and expectations.

Membership stands steady at about 400 and the Chairman thanked all members for their support.

Since the AGM there are various developments in the town to report:

The Rolls memorial statue has been installed, with all due pomp and ceremony, in its new position on the Gateway lawns and the event is reported in detail in our centre pages. Congratulations to Budge Adams and the Dover Society! So ends a long battle to achieve this satisfying result.

Congratulations also to Budge for his successful conclusion of the Norwegian connection. Members will be fascinated to read about his trip to Norway to present the certificates and of the subsequent visit of some of his Scandinavian friends to Dover. See pages 91-96.

IMPACT have finished the work at Stembrook/Church Street and at Ladywell and are currently engaged in the projects at the Grand Shaft entrance and at Mill Lane. We are indebted to Linda Wade of IMPACT for her full report on pages 69-72 and also for the item "Working with Schools", pages 97-99 in which we have taken up her suggestion to invite members to try the same competition as the schools. A key project of the IMPACT programme is the major face-lift of the sea front promenade fronting Waterloo Crescent. This is being developed and funded in partnership with Dover Harbour Board, with supporting grant aid from the European Regional Development Fund. Work began on the sea front improvements in July and continues apace as the job has to be finished by the end of the year, because part of the money came from European funding.

The appearance of the site changes daily as the plan takes shape. The main change to the promenade is the creation of new lawns backed by a low evergreen hedge. Between the hedge and the road will be a new footpath, making it easier for visitors to get from their cars to the sea front. There will be two new shelters of a modern design with curved zinc roofs. The new sculpture, Ray Smith's "On the Crest of a Wave" will be installed in the new space on the axis of New Bridge, flanked with six evergreen oaks. The seaward end of New Bridge will be pedestrianised. Next year visitors will be able to enjoy the new promenade. In the

meantime the contractors are trying to keep 55 disruption to a minimum.

We are grateful to John Owen for his dedicated work on our Projects committee, as ever, and we read with interest the end of the saga of the Leopard Bollards.

To Lawrence Gage we extend our deep sympathy as well as our thanks. After all the countless hours of work Lawrence has put in towards the Millennium project for Dover, our application was turned down. One of the committee members, on hearing the news said, "I could have cried". I felt the same and I am sure most of us had the same reaction. As Lawrence says in his Planning Report, "all is not lost", we can try again. It will depend on the Steering Committee to decide the next move. Let us hope something can be salvaged and a new application prepared, even if it is less ambitious and for a smaller project or part of the original. Thank you, Lawrence. You have all our support.

On a brighter note, the Harbour Board reports that it is already expecting seventy-eight cruise ships to call at the new terminal at the Western Docks in 1996 and in the future even more than that. So this is one Dover project that is heading for success. Will there be a viewing point, possibly lounge and/or restaurant where local people and visitors will be able to sit and watch the ships embark? Surely such an addition would be another way to attract day trippers to the town.

Another new project about to be implemented is the Emmaus Community for the homeless at Archcliffe Fort. Terry Sutton gives the details in his article on page 72. Perhaps the Dover Society will be able to help the project. More about this in our next issue.

I have written more than usual in this Editorial. Probably because our page-setter and printer Budge, tells me we can get more in with his changed format. We hope you like it. Thank you to all contributors, particular welcome to new writers. Please keep writing.

A happy summer holiday to all our members.

EDITOR