

## *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 and arts events.

## Editorial

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In every August issue of the Newsletter the report of the Annual General Meeting takes precedence. The ninth AGM of the Dover Society took place on April 22nd this year and is reported by Leo Wright, our Secretary, and this report is followed by a financial statement from our Treasurer, Jennifer Gerrard. We propose, in future, to include a financial statement in all August issues.

The work of the Planning Sub-Committee is, for the first time, reported by Jeremy Cope, who has taken over the chairmanship after the resignation of Lawrence Gage. Society members will be aware of the work Lawrence did for the Society, having read his detailed reports in every issue of the *Newsletter* since April 1993. As the current planning report makes plain, it is rare to find a person with Lawrence's enthusiasm, energy and breadth of vision. That his plans for a Millennium project for Dover failed to materialise has been a source of great disappointment to all of us. He will be greatly missed by the committee.

Ken Wright has also resigned from the committee, deciding to take a rest after serving on it since 1988 (we hope to see you back, Ken!). His place has been taken by Mike Sartin, who has agreed to take over the job of archivist from Sybil Standing, who had problems in storing all the materials after she moved house. Sybil has become secretary for the Planning Sub-Committee.

At the AGM our chairman, Jack Woolford, thanked all the members of the committee for their work throughout the year and also all other members of the Society who help committee members in various ways. This may be an opportune moment to invite further help from members. The most recent version of the application form for membership of the Society provides a section for new members to volunteer their services under the headings of Social Events, Projects, Clearance Work, Photography, Writing

reports, reviews and articles and Survey Work. However members of several years standing may not be aware of this. Help is welcome in a variety of ways. For instance, Joan Liggett, our Social Secretary, has a small team of helpers on occasions for food and table preparation at some of our indoor meetings. John Owen, our Projects organiser, needs volunteers for several events each year. The *Newsletter* uses regular writers, proof-readers and distributors. If you would like to offer help in any Society activities, please let me know or contact the appropriate committee member.

Another regular feature of the August *Newsletter* is a report and reviews of the Dover Festival. Thanks to Donna Sowerby for her contribution and our regrets that we did not receive as many reviews as in previous years for what has become a fortnight of delight in Dover's calendar. Thanks to Sheila Cope for her, as ever, masterly reviews of Mark Frost's talk and the museum exhibition.

We have included in full Julian Owen's message to the Dover Society, and indeed to Dover, on the eve of the departure of the IMPACT team to pastures new - in Folkestone. The rewarding, visible records of their work in Dover, in Snargate Street and York Street, at the Grand Shaft, New Bridge, the Promenade, car parks and elsewhere, will be a lasting reminder of their stay here.

We have never before had so many summer outings and events. In May the Society hosted the annual day conference of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, attended by about ninety people, who heard speeches in St. Mary's Parish Centre in the morning and then proceeded, after a memorable lunch, to tours of Eastern and Western Docks in the afternoon. Also in May, the Society sponsored and organised the Vardon Organ Recital, reported here by our chairman.

In June there were trips to Chatham Dock Yard, the Coastguard Station, Port Control and Buckland Paper Mill. Reports on all these trips and meetings constitute

the main section of this Newsletter. These are, after all, our main summer events and I know several members who are never able to attend indoor evening meetings but look forward to joining our summer outings. There are more to come, the tour of the Côte D'Opale, 17th July, and the trip to Kew Gardens, 14th September.

Listing these trips prompts me to end the editorial with another message to members. Planning and organising the social calendar takes a great deal of time. Please help Joan Liggett and the Social Committee by filling in application forms for trips carefully and legibly and booking places in plenty of time in advance.

One more explanation is needed regarding the organisation of small party visits. In *Newsletter* 25 both the Editorial and the Dover Chat page gave details of these visits and explained how places would be filled in 1996. The visits were for parties of ten or twelve people and the Society has 230 members. As this was a new venture and there were so few places - although at this stage there were no dates available - it was decided, for this year, to consult members and collect names at the March Meeting. This was done and all three visits ( Port Control, Coastguard Station, and Swale Barge Trip) were booked, if not over-booked, at this meeting. We realise this may not be an ideal way to collect names for small party visits and in 1997 we will explore other methods. As the trips are for small numbers of people and the dates often fixed at fairly short notice, it would not be practical to list them on the back cover in the main programme of events.

For members who missed the trips, or did not read the references to them in *Newsletter* 25, I hope this will suffice. If there are to be repeats of these visits in 1997, details will be given in April 1997. PLEASE READ YOUR NEWSLETTER.

Best Wishes to all our readers. The next meeting, in the Autumn, will be on 21st October, at St. Mary's Parish Centre.

EDITOR