

After initial greetings, Councillor Tant and the Town Sergeant guided the Dover Society representatives (Chairman, Vice-President Lillian Kay, Sybil Standing and Terry Sutton) and their guests to the Mayor's Parlour where the municipal regalia were displayed and expounded in what can best be described as a trialogue. Councillor and Town Sergeant, with interruptions from Terry Sutton, (and interpolations in schoolboy French from the Chairman) explained some of the mysteries of District and Town/Parish Councils and, even more entertainingly, those of the Cinque Ports. These, of course, owed their existence to Anglo-French hostilities, both before and after

the Norman Conquest, and Terry's jesting reminders of French raids on Sandwich and English rule in Calais were deftly translated (by Mme Lefebvre) and greeted with friendly laughter.

The occasion concluded with a brief address by the Mayor of Dover and the service of refreshments, after which Cllr. Tant discussed with Mme Lefebvre earlier frustrated attempts from this side to promote Dover-Calais friendship, with twin promises to do better. The next episode will be the meeting and lunch with some of today's guests on our trip later this month (July) to the Côte d'Opale. This, too, has been organised by Leo Wright. <>

Excavations

at the corner of

Townwall Street and Woolcomber Street

----- KEITH PARFITT

FOLLOWING THE DEMOLITION of the petrol filling station off Townwall Street, members of the Canterbury Archæological Trust have spent some eighteen weeks on the site prior to the building of a new filling station. The work is being funded by BP Oil UK Ltd.

The site lies within the bounds of the former Burlington Hotel, destroyed during the last war. Centuries earlier the area formed an important region of the mediæval town. Lying within the ancient parish of St. James this site seems to have been situated in the fishermen's quarter of the old town.

A complex series of mainly timber buildings with trodden chalk floors has been excavated; their remains are hard to find. The pottery that is being found with them is mostly Norman in date, c. A.D. 1150 - 1200 and it would seem that there was then a thriving community in

this area. On the hill above the site, the great Keep of Dover Castle would have been under construction at exactly this time.

The excavations are due to be completed in early July but many more months of work on the very large number of artefacts recovered will be required. When that study and all the background research is completed it will be possible to produce a major new volume on the history of Mediæval Dover. It is already clear that there is a very interesting story to be told concerning a little-known part of this ancient town.