

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, 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

This time there are more loose-leaf insertions in the Newsletter than ever before, so please check to see that you have them all. They should include the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting on April 28th, a form to enable you to pay your subscriptions by direct debit, and three application forms for summer outings in May, June and July. With regard to the summer outings forms, these are usually included with the April Newsletter and there are no further reminders, so please peruse them carefully and BOOK EARLY, to help your Social Secretary.

All the outings are detailed on the back cover of this issue of the Newsletter, as usual, and are likely to be as popular as ever. May 17th, A Castle, A Railway, and A Garden, will be the first of the trips, followed by a visit to the Craft Centre of Silk, on June 21, and the long-awaited and twice-postponed visit to Le Touquet on July 19th.

It is also proposed to hold a number of mini-trips, that is trips for 20 people or less. In 1996 these included the Coastguard Station (10) , Port Control (10) , Buckland Paper Mill (20) and the Swale Barge Trip (12). Some of these trips will be re-peated in 1997 and, possibly, others added. As in 1996

members will be able to put down their names for these trips at the March meeting. Also, as in 1996, at that time the dates of the trips will not be known so members will be asked to leave telephone numbers and will be contacted nearer the time by Joan Liggett. Members who do not attend the March Meeting and would like to join a mini-trip are invited to contact Joan Liggett to place their names on a waiting list.

The March Meeting, held on the 24th of the month, will this year be too late for a report to be included in *Newsletter* 28. The subject of the talk is "The Future of Dover Castle", by Ken Scott. After hearing the talk, members will, after the interval, have the opportunity, in our regular March brain-storming session, to give their own views on the castle's future. It is then proposed to have a central feature on the castle in *Newsletter* 29. Any members who think they might contribute to this theme with articles or anecdotes are invited to send these to the editor by the deadline in June.

In anticipation of this focus on the castle, this issue has another cover picture by Daniel Brooks Laurent, who contributed his drawing of the factory shops development for the cover of *Newsletter* 27. It is very pleasing to be able to use illustrations like this, contributed by a Dover Society member.

This issue includes reports on the December, January and February meetings, with a central feature on the January meeting, which consisted of two such interesting talks on totally different subjects that they merited separate reporting.

Both talks anticipated the future, with Dover District Council chief executive, John Moir, contemplating forward planning for the town, and Peter Clark, of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, outlining the research on Dover's Bronze Age Boat and looking forward to its return to the town, to be displayed in a new gallery in Dover Museum. It is expected that the Bronze Age Boat, the major discovery of its kind, will be a permanent attraction for visitors from all over the world.

This year the Dover Festival runs from May 17th to May 25th, once again with a wide range of activities, talks, exhibitions, concerts and workshops and with many events taking place in the town, either in the Market Square or in Pencester Gardens. All details will be in the Festival brochure, available soon from the tourist office and other outlets in the town. The article in this *Newsletter* gives a good advance notice of the festivities.

As always may I appeal for articles from our members on any aspect of the Festival which you attend.

Finally, two reminders.

The Annual General Meeting will be on April 28th (Agenda enclosed). The speaker will be Mr. P. Bennett of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust on "The Townwall Street Dig"

Annual subscriptions are due in April at the same rate as last year, £6.00 for single members and £10.00 for joint membership.

Sincere thanks to all our contributors, both regular slots and new writers and illustrators and best wishes to all our readers.

THE EDITOR