

Membership News – Spring 1997

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AGAIN. Please pay promptly. The correct amount is £6, or £10 for joint members living at the same address who share *Newsletters* and other mailings.

May I recommend a Standing Order as a care-free method of payment? This is an agreement between a member and his/her bank or building society to debit the account annually on 31st March. *The amount cannot be changed without the member's written permission.* If payment is made twice, or the wrong amount is paid, the bank must refund to the members' account the amount wrongly paid. There is a standing order mandate included with this *Newsletter*. If you would like to start paying your subscription by this method please *complete the form and send it to me* at 53 Park Avenue, Dover CT16 1HD and I will check your membership number and forward it to your bank. For those who prefer to pay by other means, however, the Treasurer and I expect to be at the AGM on 28 April.

We have recently welcomed: Mr & Mrs P Willoughby, Mrs P Newman, Mrs A Sly, Mr & Mrs L Bell, Cllr J Husband, Dr & Mrs A Jackson, Mr & Mrs D Moore, Ms D Coumbe & Mr W Lilley and Mr & Mrs M Morgan.

We very much regret the passing of Mr D Eagles, Mr A Tiltman, Mr L Collyer and Mr Bernard Willis during the year 1996/97.

Pfizer Wins Environmental Award TERRY SUTTON

PFIZER, the Sandwich-based pharmaceutical business where many Dover people work, is Kent's top environment company this year.

The company beat off competition from more than fifty other businesses to be named overall winner in Kent County Council's Environment Awards for Kent Businesses. Pfizer, one of the biggest employers in the Dover district with more than 2,800 people, is a research-oriented health care enterprise producing pharmaceutical products used in more than 150 countries worldwide.

Expanding on the salt marshes near Sandwich, the company is to be congratulated for the effort it makes in safeguarding the environment. It even has an Environmental Co-ordinator, Roger Thorn, who heads the environmental department.

Nearly 400 years ago the ground where Pfizer now stands did not even exist. It was covered by the sea. But the sea receded leaving a legacy of salt marsh that continues to influence the nature of the environment of the area.

A Pfizer spokesman said "We are a company striving to be an environmentally

integrated part of the community, to balance our production and research needs with the needs of the surrounding land, water, air and wildlife."

Recent Pfizer achievements at Sandwich include a reduction of forty per cent in water usage, cutting carbon dioxide, sulphur and nitrogen oxide emissions, taking precautions to prevent contamination of the River Stour, and encouraging staff to take responsibility for caring for the environment.

In partnership with Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust the company is also carrying out a bird and wildlife study of land owned by Pfizer, while the company also helps to manage seventy acres of pasture near Sandwich. It is one of the principal sponsors of the Pegwell and Sandwich Bay Local Nature Reserve, the second largest local nature reserve in the country.

It was a happy decision for the Dover district when Pfizer, in 1954, decided to establish themselves at Sandwich.