

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

ONCE AGAIN the *Newsletter* begins with a Planning Report, a report of the Annual General Meeting and the Financial Statement for the year.

It also includes a report of the meeting held on 24 March, just too late for inclusion in the last *Newsletter*. As promised, we include a report by Audrey Kirk of the talk by Ken Scott on "The Future of Dover Castle". This is supported by an article by Ivan Green, which he has called "A Pocket Book Story of Dover Castle". Ivan has written this story especially for this issue of the *Newsletter*, so we are fortunate to be able to include this valuable summary of the castle's history, to remind us of the important role the castle has played in the development of the town through the centuries.

A regular feature of the August *Newsletter* is coverage of the Dover Festival, which has now been a feature of the May programme in the town for six years. This year the Festival was entitled "New Horizons" and we are grateful to Sheila Cope and to Donna Sowerby for contributing their excellent reports on some of the events which took place in Festival week.

Hugh Bax has written a delightful account of the first summer outing of 1997, to a Railway, a Castle and a Garden, and also contributed the photographs which accompany the report. Other major summer outings, The Silk Hall, Le Touquet and Buckingham Palace, will be reported in *Newsletter* 30.

The first meeting of the Autumn will be held at St. Mary's Parish Centre on Monday, 20 October. The speaker will not be as advertised in *Newsletter* 28, as Ron Chatburn will be away in October. Instead the speaker will be Robert Bailey, Dover's new Town Clerk. As Mr. Bailey will be talking about the new Town Council and its role, our Chairman, Jack Woolford, considered that this would be an opportune time for members to give their views on the matters raised during the talk and to have the

opportunity to raise other issues. One topic of discussion will be signposting in and out of the town and a questionnaire on signposting which has been designed to collect the views of visitors to the town. As you know we have often held this type of discussion session at the Member's Meeting in March and found it very valuable. We hope members will be able to attend the October meeting and, once again, contribute in a major way to the group discussions. To remind members of the last session of this kind, there is a brief report here of the findings of the March discussion groups.

Also at the October meeting we hope to meet many of our new members. As the Membership Secretary, Sheila Cope, mentions in her report there will be committee members standing at the door and she asks new members to introduce themselves as they arrive. It has been suggested that committee members wear badges so that members can easily identify them. With the membership increasing each year it becomes more difficult to meet and remember everyone. So, new members - and old - please take the opportunity at meetings to chat to others and make new friends. The intervals at meetings, discussion group sessions and more informal summer outings should provide opportunities for members to meet and chat.

All our meetings are, as usual, listed on the back cover programme with details as far as December and dates for the beginning of 1998.

As you picked up your copy of the *Newsletter* this time you may have noticed that it feels thinner. This is because it IS thinner! This issue has 44 pages instead of the customary (until now!) 52 pages - some past issues have even run to 56 pages. The intention is, in future, to produce a slimmer *Newsletter* in order to reduce costs.

The first *Newsletter* appeared in June 1988. Edited by Philomena Kennedy, it comprised five double-sided A4 sheets

and it continued in this format for seven issues. By issue 6 advertisements were included and by issue 7 the size had increased to 44 pages. In September 1990 the first new-look *Newsletter*, number 8, was produced, 44 pages, edited by Philomena, with the page-setting arranged by "Budge" Adams. The early *Newsletters* always had plenty of illustrations by Philomena and these were greatly missed when she gave up the editorship after issue 10.

From *Newsletter* 11 onwards I have edited the *Newsletter*, with Budge doing the page-setting and, I suppose, we have developed a routine of our own for producing it which has worked remarkably well. No one else will realise exactly how many hours Budge puts in when he arranges the pages for each issue and what is involved in the final production. We have two excellent proof readers, May Jones and Pam Taylor, on whom we rely to spot any mistakes.

At the beginning of this year Budge told the committee that, regrettably, he had decided to give up his involvement with the production at the end of this year, with issue 30. This was a great blow to us all, but we fully appreciate all his reasons for resigning. He has a lot of other writing he wants to do and he wants more time to devote to it. When we knew about this we started thinking about the future. Any production without Budge's input will cost a lot more than past issues. Therefore one way of reducing costs will be to reduce the volume to forty-four, or even forty, pages.

We hope readers will find the slimmer *Newsletter* as good as previous ones and resign themselves to the inevitable. With each issue I have tried to do more of the work by submitting copy to Budge ready on disc. The next issue, December 1997, will be the last one in which he will be actively involved but he has promised his help in the future in an advisory capacity, for which I am sure I will be immensely grateful.

THE EDITOR