

Members may be familiar with the old St. James Hotel. Failure to rebuild after the fire some years back has left a semi-derelict and rather sad site. Concern was expressed to DDC that a risk now existed, particularly to children, with the lack of proper boarding-up.

## FINALLY

Have members seen, in recent issues of the *Dover Express* and *KM Extra* the reminder of ideas of a cable car from the St.

James Street area to the Castle/ It seems good sense to try a guide people into the Castle via the Town and in the process galvanise tourism. English Heritage are right to be sensitive about the impact on the Castle and the cliffs but provided their integrity is maintained, is it right to pickle in aspic? The events laid on at the Castle are artificial re-creations but no-one thinks they are out of place. A time for a rethink on a direct link from Town to Castle? Have you any ideas, please?

# PROJECTS : Update

JOHN OWEN, Chairman, Projects sub-Committee

## "OPERATION CONSERVATION 97" at ARCHCLIFFE FORT

The eighth annual Dover Cadets Voluntary Community Project took place on Sunday 9th March when the cadets turned out to lend a hand at the fort where ST. MARTIN EMMAUS TRUST have been restoring the living accommodation and the storage buildings.

A christian organisation, EMMAUS provides accommodation and work for its 'companions' who have fallen on hard times and need help to get back on their feet. They re-cycle household goods for sale at the fort and in their High Street shop.

ARCHCLIFFE FORT is an important local ancient monument on the A20 overlooking the sea. As yet little or no restoration of the basic Henry VIII fabric has been attempted and the site until now has remained closed to the public

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The working party – and supporters – at the entrance to the Fort

6 **OPERATION CONSERVATION 97** was devised by the Dover Society as an opportunity for some minor conservation work, once again using volunteers from Dover's cadet units. The plan was to remove unsightly litter and to plant a ten metre beech hedge to enhance the environment.

On the day it was decided to start with the hedge, which was fortunate as owing to the nature of the ground much hard work was necessary before it was sufficiently well prepared to receive the bare-root saplings. Fed, staked and watered they have been given as good a start as most. Growth will be slow initially but the second year should see them 'take off' and then the shelters may be removed.

Overheard whilst hard at it: "What's this we are planting?" asked Emma Markham.

"A beech" was the reply. "We already have a beach down there" says Emma, pointing seaward. Such was the good humour of the cadets in spite of the difficult going.

Of interest during a respite were the goats Bertie (Billie) Dandelion (White) and Burdock (no Horns) and Hamish (a soay ram) and of the five cats, Wilbur is perhaps the most friendly.

EMMAUS provided excellent refreshment in the form of hot soup and delicious baked potatoes, all of which was well received.

354 Squadron ATC were clear winners and were presented with a silver trophy by Terry Sutton, EMMAUS trustee and a Dover Society vice-president and with a framed certificate by Kendall Beasley, resident co-ordinator of EMMAUS at Archcliffe Fort

