

3. Dover's Empty Shops

The following ideas were mooted :- tidy up first; encourage shopkeepers to take pride in their shop fronts; colourful murals; reduction of rents; reversion to housing; more factory shops in town centre; encourage " living over the shop"; provide more cheap parking; discourage further charity shops; use empty shops for other purposes, eg. information centre, teenager centre, art gallery.

4. Suggestions for meetings.

Talks on Scottish Power, AVO, WCCP and its French equivalent, Dover Parish Council, Churches of Dover, French Chamber of Commerce, Cruising from Dover, future plans for railway, port and town.

Editor

PLAQUE TO UNKNOWN WARRIOR UNVEILED AT CRUISE LINER TERMINAL

TERY SUTTON

The Dover Society was praised for its initiative in providing the plaque that now marks the spot where, in 1920, the body of World War One's Unknown Warrior was landed in his homeland.

The praise came from the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Charles Guthrie (the man in charge of the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force), when he unveiled the plaque in a pleasant ceremony at the old Marine Station in May.

Other senior Army officers joined with the Mayor, Councillor Lyn Young, representatives of Dover Harbour Board and of the Dover Society, to watch the unveiling ceremony in the reception centre of the new cruise liner terminal.

The plaque will be seen by thousands of people boarding the growing number of cruise liners calling at the port.

Our vice-chairman, John Gerrard, opening the proceedings, introduced Alistair Lawton of Deal, the deputy chairman of Dover Harbour Board. Mr. Lawton welcomed guests and pointed out that two members of the Society present that day were alive in Dover when the Unknown Warrior was landed at Dover in November 1920 - Miss Lilian Kay and "Budge Adams".

Our chairman, Jack Woolford, explained to the visitors that the Dover Society aimed to be a constructive organisation and, among other duties, commemorated historic events. Mr. Woolford said it was David Atwood, a Society member, who came forward with the idea of the plaque for the Unknown Warrior and the executive committee gladly took it up. Mr. Woolford thanked Dover Harbour Board for its assistance and generosity in carrying through the project to its fruition.

The plaque recorded a unique occasion in Dover's history, said Mr. Woolford.

Sir Charles Guthrie recalled that 908,000 servicemen from the British Empire were killed in World War One. Wars continued, he said, with 31 major conflicts in progress in the world at the present time. Memories of those who died in war should make men redouble their efforts to bring about world wide peace.

10 Sir Charles also thanked the town of Dover for its continuing links with the military, links that went back hundreds of years before the Crusaders, and thanked the Dover Society for its great efforts.

The Reverend Graham Batten, vicar of St. Mary's and honorary chaplain to Dover Harbour Board, led prayers at the ceremony and a representative of the Royal British Legion laid a wreath before the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille by a member of the Parachute Regiment stationed at Dover.

It is understood that a plaque is to be unveiled at Victoria Station, London, to mark the anniversary of the arrival there of the Unknown Warrior, by special train from Dover, en route to Westminster Abbey.

Revels in Ramsgate

32nd K.F.A.S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RECALLED BY JACK WOOLFORD

On Saturday 10 May 1997 the RAMSGATE SOCIETY handsomely hosted more than 100 participants at the 32nd AGM of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies. The DOVER SOCIETY was well represented, supplying as it does the KFAS Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary and sending, in addition, three of its Committee and two of its members.

After welcome from the Mayor of Ramsgate, the meeting stood in tribute to former President Professor Bryan Keith-Lucas and former Membership Secretary Mrs Joan Harvey. The Chairman gave examples of the Federation's assistance to its member societies including the DOVER SOCIETY in connection with the proposed Public Art Trail along the White Cliffs. He also outlined the Federation's work on the Survey of the resuscitated Kent County Council's Services, on the Petitions to Commons and Lords Select Committees on the Channel High Speed Rail Link, on the proposed Lympinge Theme Park and on the threat of 87,000 new houses in Kent...etc...etc.

K.F.A.S. SPRING CONFERENCE

“PRIDE OF PLACE”

The Place of Heritage in Regeneration

The DIRECTOR the CIVIC TRUST, MICHAEL GWILLIAM, welcomed the return of civic pride, instancing examples from Piccadilly Circus, Windsor Castle, the Manchester Ship Canal, Birmingham and Leeds. What was essential, he said, was the involvement of local people in "community management" of the urban environment. Regeneration must be sustainable, involving better use of resources, less travel, more recycling and less pollution. The car and the lorry must be used more sensibly and sensitively. There must be investment in alternatives that felt and looked good.