

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 Lyminge 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.

Quality of design must be improved as in the Lowry Centre in Salford, the urban village of Saltaire and Richard Rogers' Channel 4 Headquarters. Resources might be supplemented by a levy on greenfield sites to be recycled into urban areas. The CIVIC TRUST had been deeply involved in IMPACT's urban renewal of Ramsgate (and Dover, with the help of the RAMSGATE and DOVER SOCIETIES). Ashford International Passenger Station had won a Civic Trust award. Thus was its fortieth anniversary celebrated. In the next ten years Britain could set new standards for civilised living in Europe as a whole.

The DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the NATIONAL TRUST, JULIAN PRIDEAUX, impressively enumerated the NT's interests in Kent in Knole and Sissinghurst, Heritage Coast (including the White Cliffs), villages (like Chiddingstone), countryside like Tobs Hill, industrial archæological (like South Foreland Lighthouse) and commemoration (like Chartwell). The key was the Trust's power to declare properties inalienable, although the Lamberhurst Bypass, the A20 route through Dover and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link through Cobham Park and Ashenbank Wood had, at most, "made the best of a bad job". Nevertheless Exmoor ponies on the Langdon Cliffs had re-established rare plants and species.

In the last thirty years tranquillity had been shattered and at current rates would disappear unless development were concentrated in urban areas. Yet promoting public access to its properties was the Trust's function. Park-and-ride facilities and access by walking, cycling or bus must be encouraged and inclusive green transport tickets by train (e.g. to Knole from Charing Cross) were coming. KCC's COMFORT (Countryside Management for Rural Traffic) and the 6,500 mile National Cycle Network would help. There was a Schools Programme linked to the National Curriculum. In partnership with business, local government and environmental agencies, including amenity societies, the National Trust could succeed.

The PRESIDENT of the RAMSGATE SOCIETY, PROFESSOR BRIAN MAY described the RAMSGATE SOCIETY'S RÔLE IN PROTECTING THE LOCAL HERITAGE modelled on the practices of THE SID VALE ASSOCIATION in Sidmouth, the oldest (1846!) amenity society in England, which owned and converted buildings, managed areas of common land and guided visitors around with a "Blue Plaque" scheme. Dating from 1964, the RAMSGATE SOCIETY resolved to halt a sequence of demolition of good buildings by the Town Council. The SOCIETY was now working on Heritage Awareness, Monitoring and Access and a Vision and Image Campaign, combining and reconciling the interests of residents, visitors, businesses, local government officers and councillors and external agencies, all stakeholders in Ramsgate's future. Five projects were planned: EAST KENT HERITAGE, PUGIN CENTRE, PEGWELL BAY NATURE RESERVE AND HERITAGE CENTRE, EAST KENT SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND RAMSGATE TUNNELS.

The RAMSGATE SOCIETY was inspired to undertake organising this Spring Conference by the DOVER SOCIETY's successful Spring Conference on "The Future of East Kent" in 1996. Their friendly rivalry was successful in terms of accommodation, attendance, refreshment, programme and speakers, although we provided better weather for the tours. Perhaps we, in turn, might profit from their analysis of stakeholders in our heritage and the tactics they follow.

J. WOOLFORD