

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

SEASONAL GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

ONCE AGAIN OUR CHRISTMAS FEAST will be held at Dover College Refectory, on Saturday 13th December, and we hope for a good attendance. Application forms for this event went to distributors in the second week in November. If, by any chance, you did not receive a form and wish to attend the Feast, it will not be too late to ring Joan Liggett when you read this announcement in this *Newsletter*, due out on 1st December.

1997 summer outings have had the usual success, with trips to Tenterden Steam Railway, Bodiam Castle, Dixter Gardens, to David Evans Craft Centre of Silk and Silk Hall, to Le Touquet, to Buckingham Palace, to Fordwich, and also small-group trips on the Swale and to Buckland Paper Mill. Thanks are due to our Social Secretary, Joan Liggett, who works so hard to organise all these outings.

The first meeting of the Autumn, at St. Mary's Parish Centre, on 20th October, was a Members' Meeting, addressed by the new Town Clerk and by the Mayor of Dover. Members were very interested to hear all the details of the functioning of the new Town Council, which has been in existence now for just over a year, and to sort out for themselves the various procedures and responsibilities of the Council and its role in Local Government.

After the interval, members divided, as usual, into discussion groups. The first half of the meeting is reported here by our Chairman, Jack Woolford, while the Editor has collated the findings of the group discussions. The Committee invited the Head Boys and Girls of all the local secondary schools to attend this meeting. Unfortunately only one school, St. Edmunds', took up the invitation, sending two representatives. They were pleased they had attended the meeting and it is hoped to include some of their views in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

The discussion groups, as usual, proved very valuable. One of the main discussions, of most interest to members, was the possibility of a link

between the town and the castle. Everyone holds a view on this topic. Two members in particular had detailed suggestions and had written to Jeremy Cope in advance of the meeting. Barry Shepherd was in favour of a glass lift and Barry Smith's idea was to use an old tunnel which runs from Moat Bulwark at East Cliff up to the castle and could possibly house an inclined escalator. Members also discussed sign-posting in Dover, the Art Trail, the Internet and Dover's provision of attractions and facilities for young people. (See page 8).

The November meeting consisted of two talks on local attractions, one about the Churches of Romney Marsh by members Dick and Dorothy Bolton and the other, by Matthew Shepherd of the White Cliffs Countryside Project, was about the newest piece of the United Kingdom, Samphire Hoe.

Details of future meetings are given, as usual on the back cover of the Newsletter. On January 19 there will be two talks, one by Mr. C. Wade on the Saxon Shore Way and one by Mr. Mike Dawson on Planning for Dover. February brings our ever-popular Wise and Wisdom Evening with Clive Taylor. In March we have two speakers talking about Dover, Lilian Kay and Jon Iveson. In April the Annual General Meeting will be on the 27th of the month, giving plenty of time for members who wish to submit any proposals. All winter meetings are held at St. Mary's Parish Centre.

This issue includes a report from John Gerrard of Dover Harbour Board which gives us a welcome and heartening update on the Board's future plans.

It reveals that the second phase of the De Bradelei's Wharf factory shops is due to open at the end of November and that new shops will sell glass, china-ware, kitchen goods and other household items.

The Harbour Board hopes to extend the number of yacht berths yet again in 1998 and is also considering a major investment in a second cruise terminal.

In addition there are plans for a new modern hotel on the Marine Court site on the seafront and for the development of the

Old Park Barracks site if the Board decides to purchase it. (see pp 25-26). All these are exciting new projects for Dover.

Excursions are, as usual, planned for every month in the summer, but as these are at the planning stage details will be given in the April Newsletter. It is hoped that one outing will be led by Dick and Dorothy Bolton to the Churches on the Marsh, the subject of one of the November talks.

Members have been kind enough to comment that the new-look *Newsletter*, reduced to 44 pages, was as good as previous issues. It is intended that future publications will keep to this length. As already stated in earlier issues, Newsletter 30 is the last one to benefit from the invaluable work of 'Budge' Adams. We will miss him greatly but he has promised to keep an eye on us and to give us help and advice when we need it. I have left it to him to say his own farewell to readers and this follows the Editorial.

'Budge' has an idea which has been under discussion between us for some time and this is to start a 'Local History' branch of the Society, which would meet three or four times a year. It is visualised that it would be a fairly small group of members interested in the subject. In the beginning 'Budge' would lead the group and, of course, we would have to decide on the chair, the venue, procedure and organisation. If you would be interested in joining such a group, please let us know by telephoning either myself on Dover 205254 or 'Budge' on Dover 208008, so that we can get some idea of the size of the group which would be involved. Should there be enough response, more information will be available in the next *Newsletter*.

Once again thanks to all our contributors and a thank you to all our advertisers for their support, which is a valuable aid to the production of the *Newsletter*. You will notice that we have lost some advertisers this time and gained others. As always new contributors and new advertisers are always very welcome.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

EDITOR