

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 Newsletters 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

THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER incorporates a new feature, a centre four page pull-out section. On the first of these pages is the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting on 27 April. The other three pages contain information about the summer outings and three booking slips for the trips in May, June and July. As usual, there will be no further reminders of these trips, so please read these pages carefully and book early to help your Social Secretary, Joan Liggett.

The summer trips are likely to be as popular as ever. The first one, in May, will be guided by Dick and Dorothy Bolton and, as it provides a follow-up to their talk last November, promises to be an interesting tour of the churches of Romney Marsh. In June there is a guided tour of Ramsgate, led by Brian May and his wife, Brenda, of the Ramsgate Society, who gave a talk to the Society on January 1998. The July trip explores the town of Calais and, after lunch at Escalles, the Marble and Geological Centre at nearby Rinxent.

There is no booking slip for the trip on the sailing barge "Mirosa", as numbers are restricted to 12, so if you are interested in this trip, please telephone Joan Liggett.

The Agenda is for the Tenth Annual General Meeting, so this is something of an anniversary too. The speaker this year is Arthur Percival. His talk is entitled, "Conservation: From New Zealand to Japan via Sydney and Penang".

When you read the Agenda you will notice two major changes in the list for Election of Officers. Mr. Jack Woolford is retiring as Chairman to be succeeded by Mr. Jeremy Cope, and Mrs. Jennifer Gerrard is retiring as Treasurer, her place to be taken by Captain M. H. Weston. The contribution Jack has made to the Society during his ten years in office is incalculable; he has fulfilled his role as Chairman with admirable tenacity, strength and aplomb and at future meetings his

controlling presence will be sorely missed. Jennifer has held the post of Treasurer for three years, has performed her task admirably and she will also be greatly missed by the committee. However, we are sure they have worthy successors.

From the Agenda list, you will also notice that there are vacancies for the post of Chairman of the Planning Committee (created by Jeremy's move to the Chairmanship), for an Archivist and for two more committee members.

The tenth year of the Society seems to be an occasion for "Retiritus", with A.F. "Budge" Adams giving up his job as page-setter at the same time. Budge has already given us his "farewell" in Newsletter 30 and the impact this will have on the Society is reinforced by the letter from Philomena Kennedy in this issue. However, he stays in the background as adviser and friend and has written an article for the current issue, called "In the Beginning", a reflection, I surmise, of the way in which he may feel after his release from the thralldom of the thrice-yearly Newsletter!

In the meantime I have been grappling with my computer and, with the aid of James Adams, of Adams the Printers, hope to keep up the standards of previous Newsletters, although, as Philomena has been quick to point out in her letter, our printing costs will have increased substantially. We have been fortunate in obtaining the support of a few more advertisers and always welcome support in this way. If any new member would like to place an advertisement in the Newsletter, please contact Bruce Lilley on Dover 205 254 for more information.

Since our last publication we have to report successful meetings each month, the Christmas Feast at Dover College Refectory, the two talks at the January meeting and the Wine and Wisdom in February. The last of these, the Wine

and Wisdom evening, hosted by Clive Taylor, did not attract quite as many people as in previous years, having only nine tables. However, those who did attend found the questions as challenging as ever, the Dingbats as intriguing and the Ploughman's and Wine in the interval even more appetising. The winning team, as usual, walked off with their engraved tumblers, a prize coveted by all regular participants. We are grateful to Clive Taylor and his team for their annual undertaking of this event. They do the job so well. Thanks also to Joan Liggett and her team for the organisation.

Our centre section this time focuses on River, with a review of Douglas Welby's excellent new book, "Reflections of River", and a letter and two articles connected with the area. I have chosen an illustration from the book for our front cover.

We thank Lisa Webb, of Dover District Council Tourism Department, for her detailed advance information on this year's Dover Festival, 23-30 May, entitled "Coastal Landscapes". A full programme of events will be available from the usual outlets from 1 April. Please consider writing to the Newsletter with your reports and opinions of any Festival events which you attend. Maybe you will visit H.M.S. Brave, back in Dover after its Atlantic voyage; go on a seashore Safari; fly a kite on the Heights; or walk to Deal and return by fishing boat.

With the plans to build a second Cruise Terminal and the festival theme of "Coastal Landscapes", the next Newsletter will, inevitably, contain much about Dover's association with the sea. If any member can contribute related articles the Editor will be pleased to receive them.

Sincere thanks to all our contributors and advertisers and best wishes to all our readers.

THE EDITOR