

The Tenth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mike Weston

The 10th Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 26th April was attended by a respectable number of 70 - 80 members. AGMs can be drab and boring affairs but this occasion right from the start proved a lively and sociable event.

Our founder Chairman, Jack Woolford, welcomed various prestigious guests amongst whom were Lady Mary Jarrett who was in Dover for the unveiling, on the previous day, of the memorial on the Prince of Wales Pier to her late husband, and our guest speaker, Dr. Arthur Percival from the Faversham Society, who was to present a slide show in the second half of the evening.

Jack in his inimitable way took us through the Society's achievements and contributions to the locality in the past year. These ranged from the visible, such as the memorial to Sir Clifford Jarrett, the monument to the Unknown Warrior, and the painting of the Dover District tourist signposts, to the invisible, but no less important, aspects of the Society's work such as the planning input to the various planning applications lodged with the Dover District Council and advice to John Prescott on the future control of traffic and the modernisation of local government. The Chairman took us through various meetings attended by himself with the Dover Town Council and mentioned the Society's links with the town centre management and the cruise welcome group.

Our chairman continued by revealing that the Society's Millennium project had been agreed in principle, to erect commemorative plaques over the next three years, on buildings in the town and in areas of historical interest around the town which would show local people and visitors the

history attached to these sites.

Election of the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year then took place. It was at this stage that Jack Woolford stood down as Chairman, his place being taken by Jeremy Cope. Jack graciously presented the Society with a gavel - Jeremy commenting that he would now not need to use a spoon (which he had forgotten to bring)!

The Society's President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton spoke of the esteem, admiration and affection in which Jack is held in Dover and praised him for the work he has carried out for Dover in the last ten years. A presentation of a painting (by Philomena Kennedy) was made by the Brigadier to Jack.

A presentation of an old Dover seascape print was made by Brigadier Atherton to "Budge" Adams to mark his retirement from overseeing the publication of the Society's newsletter. Our retiring treasurer, Jennifer Gerrard, in her report to members had made special mention of "Budge's" tremendous financial contribution to the newsletter over the years and now, with his withdrawal from active participation, meeting the real cost of the newsletter is a challenge the Society faces in the coming months and years.

After the interval Dr. Arthur Percival completed the evening with a talk and slide show on conservation from New Zealand through Australia to Malaysia, Singapore and Japan. His slides depicted various buildings from the countries listed and he explained in a fascinating way how these were being looked after and restored (or not) by the various governments and their attitudes towards their heritage of past buildings. He also explained how he with other conservation groups were being, or had been, consulted over how conservation should be taking place. Having served for a number of years on ships trading in Australia and New Zealand, it was particularly nostalgic for me, hearing about and seeing buildings which have been well looked after over the years and maintained in their former glory. Dr Percival obviously had a particular warmth for New Zealand.

At the conclusion of an entertaining evening our new Chairman exhorted us all to go out and try and recruit new members to the Society.