

# PROJECTS : Update

JOHN OWEN, Chairman, Projects Sub-Committee

## The Dover Society's Community Spirit commended

"Dover's street signs for tourists (finger posts) are looking immaculate thanks to repainting by volunteers from the Dover Society". Praise indeed from the District Council Tourism Department and well received by the Society.

Fifteen signs have been refurbished, with gold and white lettering on black. Member volunteers turned out in the early morning on Saturdays and Sundays throughout March, whilst the rest of the town slept on! It was wet and cold and the wind inhibited progress. As the month progressed it had to get better and it did, enabling the volunteers to complete the project on schedule by the end of March.

A project of this kind is not taken on lightly. The council produced the definitive list of signs to be refurbished and, on inspection, it was evident that their conditions varied. Some were in a poor state, requiring much preparatory work, involving wire brushing down to the bare metal. It was decided that the task was within our capabilities. All that was needed was a team of motivated volunteers with a sense of humour and a pride in Dover.

At times we finished early, seeking shelter and a hot drink. On one occasion, in the market square, a sympathetic restaurateur provided hot coffee. It was so cold that, but for his coffee, we might have abandoned that morning's task.

Volunteers Terry, John, Joe, Mike and Jeremy, saw the project through to the end. They also saw some good sunrises!

What had started at the town mayor's posting steering committee in November, which comprised interested Dover groups and involved the Society in the project, ended in April at the occasion of the handing over of the repainted tourist signs. Councillor Gordon Cowan of Dover District Council said, "Members of the Dover Society have been a shining example of civic pride and along with the Town Council we thank them for their fine initiative in volunteering to renew the paint work on the signs. The town of Dover is fortunate to have such a group of local citizens who are dedicated to the improvement and to the heritage of the area".

The District Council met the cost of materials for the project and contributed £100 to the Society's funds.



The Dover Society's community spirit commended by Dover Town Mayor, Cllr Paul Sheldrake



## Operation Beach Clean '98

The annual Dover Cadets community project took place on Sunday 15 March. Organised by the Dover Society, these projects are prompted by the Society's objectives and constitute a local youth response to the need to care for the environment. On this occasion, its ninth year, OPERATION BEACH CLEAN '98 was carried out in partnership with Dover District Council and Dover Harbour Board.

The task was to clear as much litter as possible from Shakespeare Beach in the morning allotted. The project was run on a team basis with groups competing for a silver trophy donated by the Society.



Operation Beach Clean - Sea Cadets at work

Despite a dull morning there was a good turn-out and the rain held off as we got to work. A team of seven or eight Society members also helped, though not competing for the trophy.

Appreciative members of the public commented favourably on the enthusiasm of the young cadets and a timely supply of lemonade was sent across to them from the landlady of the nearby Cinque Port Arms, who rightly judged it to be thirsty work.

Litter collected consisted largely of plastic bottles and

packaging and plastic and metal containers. Between 70 and 80 very large bin liners were filled and a number of larger items were also collected and removed.

Judging the winner proved extremely difficult, TS LYNX Dover sea cadets winning the trophy by a very narrow margin. CCF Dover Grammar School collected the biggest item, an oil drum, and gave the cadets a run for their money.

Society Chairman, Jack Woolford, presented the trophy and framed certificates, expressing his personal pleasure in being out in the open in the company of so many young people, having a go at improving the local environment. He offered his thanks and congratulations on a job well done. Refreshments followed.

Thanks are due to both Dover Harbour Board and Dover District Council for excellent back-up, without which the project would not have taken place.

Bob Day, BBC Radio Kent: commented "It (the beach clean) may not last very long but at least one group of youngsters made the effort".



CCF Dover Grammar School and Sea Cadets