

I have learned that the connection between the Norwegian 52nd Minelaying Flotilla and Dover District Council is still flourishing.

Your kind gesture in setting up a memorial stone in the town, and now a plaque at the water front is much appreciated.



I therefore would like to present the Dover District Council with a remembrance of times gone by. Commodore Øivind Schou has accepted to represent me at the occasion.

I wish you all the best with the occasion.

Yours sincerely,

HANS K. SVENSHOLT,

REAR ADMIRAL, R.N.N.

FINN-CHRISTIAN continued: It is difficult to mention names... but Donna Sowerby, Denise Ryeland, Bill Newman and J. P. Moir I have had close contact with. Great thanks also to everyone in Dover District Council. I'd like to quote what Hakon Lunde, M.P. said when we arrived home. "I cannot remember to have had such a good tour before".

PREPARING for the MILLENNIUM

by Donna Sowerby,
Arts & Events Manager
for Dover District Council

THE YEAR 2000 OFFERS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY for individuals and organisations to join together and share in a 'once in a lifetime' worldwide celebration. Moreover, as the new Millennium approaches, there is also the potential to shape the future, developing new policies and programmes. The District Council has developed this mission statement for the Millennium: *"The year 2000 offers the unique opportunity for local communities to be a part of this worldwide festival which will aim to unite and inspire people all over the District in celebration of the Millennium"*

The national theme 'Time to Make a Difference' has been adopted by the Government and is aimed at providing a focus for regional and local themes.

The Millennium Commission is offering local authorities many opportunities for greater community

involvement through a range of activities and celebrations, as well as providing financial support through award schemes and grant funding programmes. So far, £1.7 billion has been awarded by the Millennium Commission to community based projects

VISION 2000 a new millennium



DOVER DISTRICT

16 The following selection of projects are currently receiving national endorsement:

- i) The Challenge - UK wide programme of regional activities and events that involve a cross section of the community to leave a lasting social legacy. Projects include 'Oral History', 'Living on the Line' and 'Our Town's Story'.
- ii) Challenge Education Plan - aimed at creating new networks and communities of students, of all ages.
- iii) The Millennium Festival - a programme of national, regional and local celebrations throughout 2000 to link with the Dome.
- iv) Millennium Youth Games - the English Sports Council and BAA plc have joined in partnership to develop a programme of Youth Games events throughout the country in the year 2000.
- v) Millennium Awards - sponsorship of a range of schemes which permit individuals to achieve personal goals and benefit the community.
- vi) Millennium Events - Battle of Britain 60th Anniversary Concert Series and events programme, the Waterwall Spectacular, and participation in 'Newstart' the Christian celebrations taking place throughout 2000.

Time scales vary: some activities have already begun, others will be happening in 1999 and 2000 but all these schemes and projects demand the commitment of both financial and manpower resources to ensure success, community support and recognition.

From its first major circular the Council's own Arts and Events Department has been able to compile a draft directory of events and activities proposed for the whole district. These include exhibitions, parades, concerts, pageants, the production of village history books and calendars, the development of environmental projects, landscaping plans and the establishment of play areas and cycle paths.

In addition, external agencies, such as English Heritage and the National Trust have approached the Council with a view to staging joint activities using their land or property, or for assistance in developing large scale projects such as the New Millennium Dawn over St. Margaret's.

The Arts and Events Department has also undertaken to ascertain the views and aspirations of the local community by consulting with various organisations. To date more than 110 replies have been received. Over 70% of respondents expressed support for a special celebratory programme throughout 1999 and 2000, whilst 60% advocated investment in a major capital project. An open comment box generated hundreds of ideas.

Clubs, societies, Parish and Town Councils, churches and schools were also consulted to determine the level of interest and likely uptake in a grants scheme sponsored by Dover District Council. 95% of people supported such an option.

The Millennium Festival Fund with a £100 million programme (part of the commission's £1.7 billion) is to support local and regional celebrations throughout the UK. There will be two levels of awards, those above £5000 for major projects and those below £5000 for smaller schemes. The larger awards had a deadline of 31 July but application forms for smaller schemes will not be available until the spring of 1999.

Celebration of the Millennium will be far more than one-off celebrations on New Year's Eve 1999 and New Year's Day 2000. Projects will cover the transition from 1999 to 2001. Some, eg. street parties and religious processions, will be fleeting; others, such as tree planting or the erection of a permanent memorial, will be more lasting.

The Council will shortly be creating a joint Member/Officer Working Party to investigate the options available in the Dover area. In the meantime look out for further information and keep thinking of ideas for projects of your own.