

34 *Letters to the Editor*

HANDS OFF OUR BELL

LETTER 1 FROM (MRS.) DOROTHY BUSHELL (A PROUD IF ANCIENT DOVORIAN)

I am distressed by the suggestion that our Zeebrugge Bell should be re-sited where it may be more easily seen.

May I remind all critics who have the arrogance to suggest it is in the wrong place, that the people who chose the site were more immediately concerned with its rightful setting and significance than people today. Bells are intended to be

heard! Who will hear it from the end of the Prince of Wales Pier? Apart from gulls?

I had the privilege, in 1961, of being the first Lady Mayor of Dover to ring it. The real significance of it is the commemoration service which took place in St. James Cemetery afterwards. Let us not forget our heroes in their resting place.

LETTER 2 FROM M. E. BODIAM (MEMBER)

It is certainly true that the present site of the Zeebrugge Bell, being so high above eye level, means the bell is hardly noticed and easily missed.

The objective, then, should be to ensure its location is more obvious. Relocation, as suggested, will raise many problems, not least of which is vandalism, mentioned by Derek Leach, and, try as I may, I cannot think of any site which makes the bell easily visible without making it vulnerable, unless large expenditure was made.

So, returning to its present site, which, if nothing else, is very safe, we must do something to make visitors and locals alike glance upwards to the bell and be made aware of its location, the small plaque which explains the reason for the bell is beyond reach and sight and this is where the main problem lies.

A new plaque (rather than moving the old one with possible damage to the wall) and sited at eye level beneath the bell, would, I am sure, satisfy everyone who wants the bell to be appreciated.

Newsletter Binders

With the co-operation of Members we will be able to supply "Cordex" Binders for the *Newsletter*. The burgundy coloured binders have a capacity for 13 copies and are lettered on the spine "The Dover Society Newsletter" in gilt foil.

The minimum order we can place is 100 and a list is being compiled of those who would like to have one. (At the moment we have fifteen names). When the list has, say, eighty names the binders will be placed on order. The cost, (likely to be a few pence more than last time's figure of £3.00) does not include postage for out-of-town members.

To add your name to the list write a note to the Secretary, Leo Wright, at "Beechwood", Green Lane, Dover CT16 3AR.