

12 may be free but access to them is charged at local telephone rates and is time and effort consuming.

Addresses followed on "Sustainable Shopping" and "Kent's Waste Problems Solved" on which, Editor permitting, I shall subsequently report. Meanwhile the MANSTON AIRPORT'S ACTION GROUP REPORT of APRIL 1999 is relevant to DOVER...

"In 1987 Kent International Airport was created on an 8 acre site, leased to Seabourne Aviation. The proposal was for 0.5m passengers and 100,000 tonnes of freight per annum. There was a lot of local opposition and Thanet District Council was less supportive than now. An Environmental Impact map predicted seriously intrusive noise contours particularly to Ramsgate schools (six on the flight path) and hospitals. Manston air corridors were already overcrowded because they are so close to the beacon at Dover, and finding more statutory 5-mile slots between aircraft would be difficult. Stacking would be over Dover, and Ramsgate and St Nicholas would suffer from landing noise."

**STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!**

### **'RAISE'**

#### *Regional Action & Involvement South East*

Although we have not been officially informed, KEAS and the DOVER SOCIETY are invited to join (FREE!) this organisation which aims to create a south-east network of voluntary organisations anticipating the proposed regionalisation of local government; SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency (which already exists); SEERA, the (to be nominated) South East England Regional Assembly; and GOSE (Government Office for the South East: already in Guildford). The Dover Society is very critical of this: see article on SERPLAN on p.5 of April 1999 Newsletter.

However, forewarned is forearmed, so we shall join.

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

### *Reflections on the Zeebrugge Bell*

*At the conclusion of the Town Hall service on St. George's Day, 23rd April, a lady at the back of the crowd shouted- "Don't move the bell". This was, of course, the same sentiment expressed by Dorothy Bushell in her letter to the Dover Express last February, later printed in the April Newsletter. She has since admitted to me that she had never read what I had originally written about why the bell should be moved.*

*Although I can understand the feelings of both these ladies, I could not help but feel, as I came away from the Town Hall that probably more eyes had looked up at the bell in the last five minutes than in the last 12 months.*

*When the Zeebrugge Bell was presented to the people of Dover in 1920 and placed upon the high balcony of the Town Hall, it would have been a most suitable site. The events of the raid and the aftermath had been vividly etched into the minds of everyone in Dover because it had taken place only two years previously. Now, with the passing of time, some 80 years later the situation is very different.*

*I realise now there would be many legal and planning difficulties, as well as the cost, which make the moving of the bell impractical and that a suitable and informative plaque below the present one, which gives little detail and is placed too high, is the best compromise.*

*However, it is a good thing to remember that any monument, war memorial, gravestone, plaque, or, as in the case of the bell, trophy, is part of the fabric of our history. They are like signposts pointing to the past, commemorating a life, an event or a sacrifice. It is important that such signposts can be clearly seen.*

*David Atwood*