

# AWARDS CEREMONY AT VICTORIA CRESCENT

Comments from Terry Sutton and Jeremy Cope

IN OCTOBER, residents and property owners in Victoria Crescent received a big pat-on-the-back from local authorities as a result of an initiative by the Dover Society. The public congratulations came from Dover's mayor, Margaret Samsum; Jim Rees, Chairman of Dover District Council's planning committee, and from the Dover Society. We also read, with pleasure, in the Dover Express, John Moir's commendation of the refurbishment.

Victoria Crescent was built around 1838 by a wealthy Dover paper maker, the crescent relieving the straight line of High Street properties by an attractive sweep of terraced houses. Once the terrace, still fronted by a garden, was even more of a crescent but later the horns were demolished to allow for road widening.

Resident, John Shanahan persuaded the owners to get together to refurbish the exterior of their properties. IMPACT had already completed work on the garden and their work was complemented by the repainting of most of the house fronts in a style that has lent the crescent a pleasing unity of appearance.

To mark the success of the project the Dover Society decided that the residents deserved the award. During an interval between showers on Saturday 23rd at 11am, in front of the Crescent, the mayor presented the certificate to Mrs. Shanahan of Number 8 who represented the residents. The citation

congratulates the residents "on the refurbishment of the exterior of their houses in a harmonised and integrated style which displays the coherent character of the Crescent. The work of renovation of the facades is a fine example of self-help and co-operation".

Two shrubs, donated by the Society, were planted in the Crescent garden by Councillor Rees. Both the Mayor and Councillor Rees commended the residents for their achievement and for the example they had set, in particular for the new Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS). The Mayor remarked that a HERS scheme was to be carried out further up the main street and said that the Victoria Crescent refurbishment demonstrated how a local community could achieve improvements on their own initiative, adding, "Community effort and participation are essential if we are to improve the quality of the town's environment". Councillor Rees, talking of the HERS project, said he feared it would fail without the partnership aspect; there had been great progress in parts of Dover but that High Street and London Road end of the main street needed more work to bring the area up to standard.

Our thanks to Budge Adams for producing the certificates and to the Rev. Norman Setchell who made the United Reform Church available to us had we needed it.

## *Photos for the Future* - AN EXHIBITION AT DOVER MUSEUM

An exhibition of winning photographs from The History Channel's millennium project, "Photos for the Future", was held at Dover Museum from 6th September to 21st September. Dover was chosen as the first of twelve regional venues for the exhibition, running from autumn 1999 to March 2000.

Entrants to the project were asked to send in personal photographs that capture a significant aspect of life in the 20th century, for any of the six categories as follows: family, play, work, war, technology and your town.

Entries were received from all age groups, including a number from schools which were able to enter under a special initiative. The best entries have been displayed on the History channel website (at [www.thehistorychannel.co.uk](http://www.thehistorychannel.co.uk)) and many have been made into short television programmes to be shown on the channel.