

20 everywhere. Why not envisage these spaces as blank canvases? Find ways in which such areas that lower the tone and image of the town could be refreshed. Murals have livened up the subways connecting the promenade and High Street in Dover, and such an example could be mirrored elsewhere in the town, perhaps through competitions for what scene should be depicted - incorporating history and brightening previously unused blank wall space. Murals will last for many years benefiting future generations as well as our own. Similarly, as in Deal and elsewhere along Kent's coast, competitions could be run to introduce modern art and sculpture with a historic or sea-related theme to add to the visual appeal of the town.

A Dover 2000 project could ensure a better understanding of the town through the introduction of a mobile interactional exhibition, similar to that of the 'Jorvik Viking Centre' in York and 'The Oxford Story'. Such a different method of exploring Dover's history could include the theme of looking back two-thousand years into the past - visiting specific events in history -

moving to the present day and beyond, reaching into the future to speculate of what form Dover will take two-thousand years on. Dramatic displays of this form would be invaluable in explaining Dover in its historical context in an exciting way, which would be valuable both now and into the next century.

Essentially, Dover has the foundations on which to build and update its reputation and image into the new millennium. With greater industrial investment thus regenerating money into the community; the creating of new job opportunities through the building of new galleries, museums and exhibitions, coupled with the introduction of sculpture and art designed by locals for locals, will all be immensely beneficial to Dover residents and visitors in the next century. Promotion of its positive aspects would instill confidence among visitors and residents that Dover is and will continue to be a vital part of English history.

The potential use of Dover's historic past remains extensive, why let it go to waste when so much could become of it and so many would benefit.

EMMAUS...

...now fully open

REPORT BY TERRY SUTTON

St. Martin's Emmaus, at Archcliffe Fort, supported by the Dover Society, is now fully open with the number of resident Companions increased to 21. The Companions, with the help of local craftsmen, completed the restoration on the Victorian barrack block in the summer, thus finishing the major work at this Henry VIII fort.

In the year ending June 1999 St. Martin's Emmaus provided nearly 4,500 nights of accommodation at the fort for 84 individuals, with two of the Companions remaining with us for around three years. A major step has been the appointment of a co-ordinator for the workshop at the centre. This has been made possible with the aid of a grant from the South East Development Agency and products for sale are now being made in the workshops and include rocking deck chairs, garden stools, tables and coffee tables, made mainly out of recycled materials. Takings in the shop have increased to over £1000 a week but more customers would be welcome.

Chairman Francis Watts says, "We still rely on public generosity to help pay our way on a day-to-day basis and we are grateful to the many individuals and organisations which continue to help us financially."

Any offers of unwanted items, for repair if necessary, for sale at the shop at the fort, are gratefully received. Just ring 01304 204550 and they will collect.