

The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archaeology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- and commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton, Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All members receive three Newsletters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events – talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

Editorial

Greetings to all our readers and good wishes for the year 2000 in this first issue of the Newsletter in the new Millennium.

Inevitably this issue contains a great deal about the Millennium in general and the Dover Society projects in particular. The centre pages are devoted to accounts and photographs of the fantastic New Year celebrations in Dover on 31st December 1999 and 1st January, 2000, which attracted thousands of spectators to see the processions and the fireworks. Dover District Council is to be congratulated of the unprecedented success of the event. Also, related to Millennium events, are footnotes and reminders from Jae Fowler, Millennium Projects Officer of Dover District Council, of future events and of grants still available for local Millennium projects in the year 2000.

Included in these Millennium reports are two items on the Society's own projects. Sheila Cope gives an update on the Society's Historic Plaques project. Of the three plaques received so far, two have been installed in February at Taswell Street and at the TSB site in Castle Street, while the third, commemorating the discovery of the Bronze Age Boat, is ready for installation as soon as we can gain access to the site at the New Bridge underpass. The result of the Millennium Essay Competition for Dover sixth formers was announced in the last Newsletter. More details and an account of the presentation of the prizes at Dover Grammar School for Girls is included in this issue.

The Society has also decided to participate in the Town Council's Millennium scheme to place historic flagstones around the new bandstand in Pencester Gardens and Terry Sutton gives the details of this project.

The next meeting is the twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Society on Monday, 17th April. The speaker is Donald Sykes on The Zeebrugge Film. The agenda is enclosed as a loose leaf in this edition.

The programme for the summer is detailed on the inside back cover, as usual, and application forms for the outings in May, June

and July are enclosed also. Members are reminded to book early for the outing to Loseley Park and Gardens in May, the Faversham trip in July and the theatre trip to the Marlowe, Canterbury, for their production of West Side Story, also in July. Details of the September trip to France will be given in the August Newsletter.

It was suggested that the Society have a trip to the Goodwin Sands in June. However, as many of you will know, this is a difficult outing to arrange because it is not possible to book several weeks ahead as the organisers wait until June to determine the best days to make the trip when the Spring tides are most favourable. With this factor in mind, if you would like to join such a trip at short notice in June, please send the enclosed form to Joan Liggett and she will add your names to her list and let you know as soon as a date is available.

The winter programme has been a success, with good speakers in October, November and January, the Christmas Feast in December and the Wine and Wisdom evening in February. All these events are reported in this issue.

Articles include one by Ivan Green, in our ongoing series of historical subjects, and, an unexpected and unsolicited piece from a reader in New Zealand, Peter Pascall, who has been researching his ancestors, the Pascalls of Dover, and has written an article for the Newsletter about one of them who was a pilot in Dover 150 years ago.

We also have a report from Melanie Wrigley of the White Cliffs Countryside Project, always a welcome addition, and a report on Dover ferries from a new contributor, Christopher Burrows, of the East Kent Ferry Club.

Once again in the April edition, we have a preview of the Dover Festival events from May 27th to June 4th, from Esme McConnell, Arts Development Officer, Dover District Council. The full Festival programme, entitled 'Art and Soul', will be available from mid-April from all local outlets, libraries and Tourist Information Centres.

With thanks to all our contributors and to our advertisers for their continued support.

Editor

DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 38 will be Monday 12th June 2000.

The Editor welcomes contributions and interesting drawings or photographs. "Paper copy" should be typed at double spacing. Handwritten copy should be clear with wide line spacing. Accurate fully proof-read copy on computer discs is acceptable; please ring 01304 205254 to discuss details.

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