

6 last Society tree visit of the century.

As has become customary, our visits coincided with NATIONAL TREE WEEK, organised each year by the Tree Council, now celebrating its Silver Jubilee. Sponsored by Esso, the theme for 1999 was "Millennium Trees - our past, our

future" and, with the help from member organisations, the Council hopes that more than a million trees will have been planted during the week. Many churches in the Dover area are planting a yew tree as part of the celebrations for the year 2000 AD.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SPRING 2000

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE at the continuing rate of £6 single and £10 joint membership, such a bargain that members have said that if the amount were greater they would remember to pay more promptly! However, it is possible to avoid such concerns by arranging a standing order, as almost one third of members have done. Alternatively, payment at the AGM in April will be much appreciated.

We are pleased that our numbers have reached 400 again and we are grateful to those who have introduced recent new members whom we welcome. They are Mrs. E.Higgins, Mrs. M.Hopper, Mrs. D.Bushell. Mrs. J.Vardon, Mr. J. and Mrs. C.Bevan, Revd. M.Crwldy, Ms. T.George, Mr. K. and Mrs. J.Tranter and Mr. J. and Mrs. N.Clayton.

Death severely affected our membership this year. Not only have we lost our founder, Philomena Kennedy, but also Major R.C. Frisby, Captain Tom Manton, Mrs. Helen Williams, Mr. John Stoddart, Miss Bettine Rogers, Mr. Ernie Baker and Mr. Hugh Bax. Mr. Baker and Mr. Bax were regular attenders at meetings and contributed to the Newsletter. Ernie Baker was also a cheerful distributor. All are now much missed. We send our sympathy to the families of all these late members.

SHEILA R. COPE, Membership Secretary

Launch of the Bronze Age Boat

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Our Chairman Jeremy Cope and a few other members of the Dover Society were among a select band of guests invited to the public "launch of Dover's celebrated Bronze Age Boat".

Our contribution of £1,250 to the trust fund set up to save, restore and preserve the 3,600 year old craft was acknowledged during the ceremony at Dover Museum where the boat is now on view. Dover Bronze Age Boat Trust, of which museum curator Christine Waterman is administrative secretary, has received more than £2.5 million in donations. The major contributor was the Heritage Lottery Fund which provided £1.2 million. Dover Town Council gave £3,000 and Kent County Council another £3,000.

The money has not only saved the boat, discovered in our town centre seven years ago, but also provided an excellent gallery, where the craft now rests on a specially built cradle. The boat is now on loan to Dover District Council for 25 years and the local authority has pledged to ensure it is kept safe in the temperature and humidity controlled glass case in the gallery.

A 12 minute video film at the gallery shows in detail where the boat was discovered by Dover archaeologist Keith Parfitt, how it was sliced into 37 pieces to bring it to the surface and how conservation started before the freeze-drying operation at the Mary Rose Trust at Portsmouth.

The gallery, well worth a visit, offers many other attractions, including a visit to a Bronze Age hut and an opportunity to ring date a tree. There is a wealth of archaeological material, including, on loan from the British Museum, 350 Bronze Age tools recovered from a wreck on the seabed off Langdon Bay.