

Historic Plaques Update

from Sheila Cope



PROGRESS! In my last article I reported that we hoped to have two plaques erected by the end of 1999. Now in mid-February 2000 we do indeed have two plaques although not the ones we had anticipated. A report of the "unveilings" or installations appear opposite and it seems appropriate that we commemorated the first aerial bomb and the last enemy shell in the same week.

We are particularly grateful to Mr & Mrs Wicks of Taswell Street who have now accepted responsibility for our first plaque, fixed on a pillar at the corner of their garden. Other good news is that we have been awarded £750 towards the total cost of plaques by Dover District Council's Millennium Grant Scheme, but there is a condition:- the project must be completed by August 2000 - a real challenge. Including financial help already promised by Dover Town Council the Society itself will need to finance approximately one third of the total cost of each plaque. We were pleased to receive £30 from LloydsTSB, recipients of the "last shell" plaque. Perhaps the most encouraging gift, however, was £50 from an anonymous Society member. I trust the donor will read this and accept our heartfelt thanks.

Closure of the underpass slope about 10 days before we were due to fix the Bronze Age Boat plaque caused great disappointment. Of course we shall proceed when we can. Our next installation is likely to be "instruments of punishment" (illustrated) since Barclays have now given permission and the plaque is ordered. We are still pursuing Listed Building consent for the "Zeebrugge" plaque on the Old Market Hall, now Museum.

We trust that, now that there are plaques for people to see, the erection of the remainder will proceed more smoothly and that we shall be able to meet our deadline.

FLAGSTONE PATH OF HISTORY

By Terry Sutton

At the last monthly committee meeting, our executive committee decided to back Dover Town Council's scheme to surround the Pencerster Gardens Pavilion with flagstones commemorating historic events associated with the town.

The plan is to create a flagstone path to and around the Millennium bandstand and stage, now under construction. Each of the one hundred flagstones will carry the date of an historic local event and will cost £100 plus the expense of adding the name of the sponsor. Thus the cost to the Society of sponsoring one flagstone will be £145, i.e. the £100 plus an additional £45 for adding fifteen letters, 'The Dover Society'. No decision has yet been taken on our choice of an important date to mark our flagstone.

Our Treasurer, Mike Weston, quite rightly, warned that the coffers of the Society are not bottomless and that an expense of £145 will be a blow to our finances. After one committee member then offered to meet ten per cent of the cost, it was decided to make an appeal to the wider membership for a contribution towards this worthwhile project. Any balance will be met by Society funds, or, if too much comes in, we could contribute two flagstones!

FOOTNOTE

Any member wishing to make a contribution to the Dover Society's flagstone, or flagstones, please send it to the Treasurer, Mike Weston, at 71 Castle Avenue, Dover, CT16 1EZ. Any amount will be welcome.