

MEMBERSHIP NEWS SUMMER 2002

Each day another batch of subscription drops through our letterbox and it seems as though by the end of June the aim of gathering in almost all our core funding will be achieved. My thanks to all those who have cheerfully paid up. We have also had a most encouraging response from members who have been able to sign our Gift Aid forms; the financial value of these declarations should become apparent on next year's financial statement at the A.G.M. Our steady flow of new members continues. We welcome Mr G. Stupple, Mrs S. Chesters, Mr J. Hewitt MBE, Mrs A. Groombridge, Mr D. Groombridge, Mrs L. Kingsnorth.

Sheila R Cope

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

WE ARE PLEASED BY the transformation of the "Elephant" into "Elle" on the Market Square and with the refurbishments in Castle Street, of the Drug Clinic (by Dover Municipal Charity) and of Cross's Stationers. In Biggin St, White's Drapery is renovated and on London Road HERS is improving the former Youden's Estate Agents premises, the Highways Agency has significantly improved pedestrian facilities without narrowing the road and the "Eagle" pub is restored. More improvements (eg in Ladywell) are in train and Dover Town Council is very much to be congratulated for transferring the proposed new Town Clock from the Bridge St. to the Tower Hamlets corner of the High St. Dover's image is improving. It remains to be seen if the reorganisations of the District Council and the Harbour Board will make palpable differences.

The same applies to 'Dover First Impressions', to improve the image of

Dover to visitors from the Harbour, the A2 and A20, which Dover Chamber of Commerce, the Town and District Councils and the Harbour Board are jointly promoting. Unfortunately the Pilot Project of Pumpkin Planting (*sic*) by schools violates health and safety requirements and cannot afford the necessary scaffolding. More feasible would be imitation of 'Deal in Bloom' on Dover's sea-front.

It also applies to the South Coast Multi-Modal Study for Transport Solutions for the South Coast (from Southampton to Margate) by road, rail, bus, car, cycle and walking over the next 15 years at a cost of £2b. This includes the dualling of A2 from Lydden to Dover which is already 25 years behind schedule. 'Seamless transport interchange facilities' (*sic*) at Dover are utopian.

On the other hand we are happy to endorse the District's Dover Town Centre Conservation Area Character Appraisal. It most admirably documents Dover's origins and development, describes and analyses the wealth of listed buildings and sets out the potential for enhancement. Whether the renaming of the Community Strategy Regeneration Board to 'Making the Difference' will make any difference is another matter.