

# KFAS SPRING CONFERENCE

Malcolm Moore, Chairman, Sittingbourne Society

ON SATURDAY 25 MAY at Borden Grammar School, the Sittingbourne Society hosted the Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies. The theme of the conference was 'The Future of Kent' and the topics were the government's proposed changes in planning laws and procedures and developments in waste management.

Henry Oliver, an expert in planning from the Council for the Protection of Rural England, described the Government's radical proposals for changing the way in which the planning system operates and warned about the resulting weakening of strategic and local plans and the reduction in opportunities for the public to influence the really big decisions which affect so many lives. He urged the conference to keep up the pressure on MPs and Ministers with a view to developing a reform package which enjoyed public support and was more likely to achieve the government's stated objectives.

David Alexander, the Head of Waste management at Kent County Council, explained the problems facing the county in the coming years in dealing with the growing volumes of waste generated. He demonstrated the success being achieved with recycling and the use of modern technologies to cope with the remaining waste streams. He highlighted the costs to the county of dealing with problem wastes such as refrigerators and abandoned cars.

Sandy Bruce-Lockart OBE, the KCC Leader, set out the problems facing the county in the coming years in planning, housing provision and transport and outlined how they could be tackled. He described in particular the problems of dealing with growing volumes of freight

traffic from and to the ports and the Channel Tunnel, the need for better rail facilities and the threat to Cliffe Marshes from the possible building of a major 4 runway airport. He was very critical of government proposals to abolish county structure plans in favour of S.E. regional devolution.

In the afternoon delegates visited some of the town's tourist attractions, the Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum, the Milton Court Hall and Periwinkle Mill.

## Letter to the Editor

*Although I do not belong to the Dover Society I was recently shown a copy of the April edition by a neighbour and I am fascinated by the story of Lieutenant James Hart, by Phil Wybourn-Brown. I have been aware of this grave/memorial for several years, little realising that his remains are actually buried on the field of Waterloo, one of the interesting points made by the author.*

*You may be interested to know of two other graves of Waterloo veterans who are buried in Dover. The first is Colonel Joseph Logan who died on 1st September, 1844, aged 58, and is buried in Cowgate Cemetery. The second is Lieutenant-General Thomas Hutchesson, Royal Artillery, died 28th August, 1857, aged 76, and buried in St. James' Cemetery. (Plot No.24 Grave No. YM13).*

*Unfortunately, Col. Logan's inscription is practically indecipherable and I shall be going to Sessions House, County Hall, to see if they have any record of his epitaph. Lt. Gen. Hutchesson is mentioned in one history I have of the 95th Rifles at Waterloo and I shall be going to the Public Record Office at Kew to see if I can track down his service record.*

*Yours Sincerely,  
Paul Bennett*