

The Annual General Meeting

14th APRIL 2003

reported by Merril Lilley

The fifteenth Annual General Meeting was held on 14th April at St. Mary's Parish Centre and was well attended.

The Chairman, Terry Sutton, began by listing apologies for absence and regretting the loss of members who had died during the past year. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and there were no matters arising.

The Chairman said that the executive committee had been very busy throughout the year. The committee took an active role in objecting to the initial cost-cutting proposals of Dover District Council, chiefly relating to the planned closure of Dover Museum and the removal of the fountain from the Market Square.

The last of the Society's blue plaques was put in place on the wall of The Eagle public house and our chairman welcomed the Honorary Recorder who unveiled it. On the same day Terry and Derek Leach represented the Society at the Cinque Ports' Speakers' ceremonies in Dover, which included walking in procession through the town.

He said that members of the committee, on behalf of the Society, had attended civic and other functions, including several exhibitions. Members were on duty at the Unitarian Church open day and we had been asked to spearhead this year's heritage open days. He added that we were considering town walks and had asked Dover District Council to open the Grand Shaft free of charge during the three days from September 12th to the 15th.

There had been talks with Dover Town Council about the future of Christmas lights and it was possible that the Town Council would take over the organisation of this task.

At our regular meetings throughout the year there had been interesting speakers on subjects ranging from Dover Castle garrisons to

caves in the White Cliffs and from local government to the age of chivalry; a varied programme organised by our stalwart Jack Woolford.

In conclusion the Chairman paid tribute to the hard work of the committee and their excellent attendance at monthly meetings, Jack Woolford who chaired the planning committee, Bill Naylor the secretary, Joan Liggett who always seemed to make a profit on outings and functions, Newsletter editor, Merril Lilley, treasurer, Mike Weston, membership secretary, Sheila Cope, and ex-chairman, Jeremy Cope, who had helped steer him through troubled waters.

The treasurer then presented the end-of-year accounts. He said we had had a year of consolidation. He talked of the support for Society outings and social events, thanked Joan Liggett for her organisation and urged members to help her by booking early for trips. He reported that raffles were held at meetings and said that often the proceeds from these made a difference to an event running at a loss, or making a profit.

Speaking of the Newsletter, for which we should be justly proud, he said that production costs averaged between £750 and £800 per issue and therefore the cost of production outstripped income from subscriptions. However, this was helped by sponsorship and advertising. This year we received £500 from Pfizers and advertising brought in £504. He thanked Merril Lilley, editor, and her husband, Bruce, advertising manager, for their dedication and commitment.

He spoke of administration costs such as photocopying, postage and telephone bills, saying that these were down significantly on last year. Much of this was due to members of the committee finding ways of minimising costs. Some members of the Society claim no expenses, thereby subsidising it. Costs

which showed a marked increase from the previous year included hire of a room for committee meetings and affiliation fees, registration with the Civic Trust and insurance taken out through the Trust.

He mentioned donations made by the Society to various organisations and ended, on an optimistic note, with details of interest received on accounts and money gained from the Inland Revenue in the form of Gift Aid, which already amounted to £381.83 for the financial year 2000/2001. He urged members who had not completed 'Gift Aid' forms to do so and thus benefit the Society.

Next the Chairman called upon other mem-

bers of the committee for their reports. Jack Woolford spoke for the planning committee, focusing on all the positive results of the year, Jeremy Cope and Lesley Gordon for the project team working at Cowgate Cemetery on clearance work and deciphering grave-stones, Merril Lilley on the newsletter and Derek Leach on the Budge Adams collection and memorial.

The elections were rapidly dealt with, as there were no objections and all the officers were re-elected en bloc.

After the interval the speaker was Bob Goldfield from Dover Harbour Board. His talk is reported by Jack Woolford.

The Annual Accounts

Mike Weston

An extract from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st. March 2003

The following extract from our accounts represents the statement of financial activities and the balance sheet. The supporting notes to the accounts are not reproduced due to lack of space. However, the complete accounts are available for inspection upon request to our Treasurer, Capt. Mike Weston [telephone 01304 202059].

CURRENT ASSETS	2003	2002
Society Badges	£63	£69
Debtors and Prepayments	£212	£1,525
Cash at bank and in Hand	£13,782	£11,838
Sub-Total	£14,057	£13,432
CREDITORS: Amounts falling <u>(£1,146)</u> due within one year + subs in advance		<u>(£1,008)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	£12,911	£12,424
NET ASSETS	£12,911	£12,424
FUNDS	£12,911	£12,424