

The work of the Planning sub-committee

reported by Jack Woolford, Chairman

Dover is not without good news and the Planning Committee is gratified that many of its suggestions have fructified, thanks to the support of the Executive Committee, Dover Town and District Council officers, some councillors and others. The Society has played a useful part in a number of desirable developments.

Relationships between Dover Town Council and Dover Town Centre Management have greatly improved, witness the financing and joint reorganisation of the Xmas Lights and its splendid prospective Switch-On and the creation of a widely-representative Steering Committee comprising the Dover Society, District and Town Councils, Riverside Watch, River Parish Council, John Mahon's Buckland Flour Mill, (*et al*) to oversee the much needed regeneration of the River Dour. This was celebrated at the Flour Mill on October 3rd by what can only be described as a love-feast. The contribution made by the survey of the river by Dr Paul Bolas, whom we recruited, is immeasurable.

...Having failed, despite encouragement and financial help from Dover Town Council, to create a Buckland Village Association to upgrade that part of our streetscape, the formation of a London Rd. Residents Association (though not without controversy) at the King's Hall on Oct 3rd was doubly welcome. Our own contribution has been to award Certificates of Congratulation to eleven businesses between Bridge Street and Buckland Bridge for spontaneous improvement of their facades. We hope that their displays of our

awards will reward them and encourage emulation.

We congratulate John Mahon of Criccieth Homes, whom we have supported, on receiving permission to preserve and enhance Buckland Flour Mill. Would that other developers would similarly turn Buckland Paper Mill and the St James' Projects from dreams to realities.

We admire the persistence which, after very much public consultation, the Heathfield Avenue Home Zone will materialise next April and which will also see the Town Clock to be erected on the 'Eagle' public house - not to mention the conversion of Maison Dieu House into Dover Town Council's Offices, the erection of a Historic Information Board in Cowgate Cemetery and the creation of a Nature Reserve on Whinless Down. We also trust that the controversy about Rix Scaffolding's premises, with its threats of appeal to the Ombudsman and judicial review, may at length be amicably resolved.

On the other hand we wonder if South Kent College really proposes to demolish the former Girls' Grammar School/School of Art in the Paddock. We question the value of Dover District Council's expensively glossy 'Best Performance Plan', and whilst we thank the Port of Dover for refurbishing the clock at the end of the Prince of Wales' Pier, as we requested, and for consigning Westport to oblivion, we wonder if the Marina will survive the Thirty Year Master Plan's determination to develop the Eastern and Western Docks exclusively for ferries and cargoes.