

The Western Heights Preservation Society

Chris Taft, Publicity Secretary

Success...

The last account published by the Western Heights Preservation Society (WHPS) in this journal reported the successes of the Open Day, but we were not in a position to confirm details further. We are now delighted to be able to report that not only was the day a success, but it exceeded even our most optimistic expectations. Visitor figures were double that of the previous year and even after deductions for expenses the Society funds were given a great boost, to the tune of approximately £2000.

As a result of the Open Day the WHPS has become more widely known not only in Dover, but nationally. The Chief Executive of English Heritage has also expressed his desire to see the WHPS develop its work on the Heights, with their support. This is a fantastic development for the Society, who formed only three years ago, made one of its first aims to become more widely known and to disseminate more information on the Western Heights. English Heritage also recently included the Heights in a television series they produced for the ITV London region, which was presented by Dr. Simon Thurley, their Chief Executive.

Planning...

It is important not to get complacent following our recent success and to use this opportunity to think about what we need to do next. With the onset of winter and the consequential decline in our outdoor ac-

tivities we shall again be working in earnest on our plans for the future. I hope by the next edition of the *Dover Society Newsletter* we shall have developed our plans further.

One of these is to restructure parts of the Society. As we get bigger and start to achieve more, it is realised that we need to be more professional. We are currently expanding our Publicity and Promotions team to help move the group forward. We also hope in the near future to enlarge other teams and create groups responsible for specific activities.

Update...

Our current work is not all about planning. We are continuing with activities mentioned in the last issue of this publication. The project to record memories of the Heights as people who worked, lived and played there remember it is progressing well. Meetings are planned with people who wish to share their stories. Anyone interested in joining this project is encouraged to contact the Publicity and Promotions Chair, Tamsyn Edwards at 8 Astor Avenue, Dover Kent CT17 0AR or e-mail for more details.

The second batch of information sheets, are currently being produced, detailing a brief history of various parts of the Heights and while yet to be completed they are well on course.

Coming Up...

In the coming months, while things invari-

ably slow down for Christmas, the opportunity to get involved remains. Sunday 26th October will probably be the last work day of the year and will be held in the North Lines, providing the WHPS with its first attempt at clearing the heavily overgrown area, a job we have all been wanting to do for some time now.

Join Us...

The Western Heights Preservation Society

is not all about getting your hands dirty clearing trees. It is also about supporting and moving forwards in promoting the Western Heights and help is needed at all levels. For more information or to join please contact the Hon. Secretary, Mr Dave Mallinder at 66 Union Road, Deal Kent CT14 6AR or visit the website and please remember to say where you read about the WHPS.

Philomena Kennedy Art Prize 2003

Sheila Cope

This prize, in memory of our founder member, is awarded annually by the Society to the Lower VI student at Dover Girls' Grammar school who, in the opinion of her peers, has made the greatest contribution to Art during the year.

Elizabeth Savage was presented with her £25 cheque to be spent on art materials by Jeremy and Sheila Cope representing the Society at an informal ceremony on Wednesday 23rd July.

Photographs were taken of Elizabeth in front of Philomena's paintings, donated by Gordon King, which are on permanent display in the School's Castle Avenue entrance hall. Mrs Thompson, head of the VI form described Elizabeth as 'a very worthy winner, passionate about Art and all things connected, including encouraging younger girls to join the Art club which she runs very effectively. Her own work is outstanding'.

New Books

From Riverdale Publications

Derek Leach at 24 Riverdale, River, Dover CT17 0QX (01304 823926)

Our Town, Dover 1945-2000 £12

by Derek Leach and Terry Sutton

From Triangle Publications

Merril Lilley, 5 East Cliff, Dover, Kent CT16 1LX (01304 205 254)

Soldiers of the Castle £10

by G. M. Atherton