

DOVER SOCIETY VISIT TO LILLE 2004

reported by John Husband

WE WERE RECOMMENDED to visit Lille at this time - because Lille is European capital of culture this year and Dover within easy travelling distance. The year begins in October so there is still plenty of time to visit. We managed to fill a full-size coach and it took us a few hours to get there. During the journey it was cloudy and grey but there was plenty of evidence of order and industry on the way. As we entered Lille, modernity gave way to the old world and the streets became narrower. The fascination of the city cannot be conveyed fully here, but the air of activity was so French. We saw textile and fashion shops and media and enterprise was everywhere. Although traffic was busy, thanks to the skill of our driver we arrived quickly at the town centre with its ornate buildings and wide avenues and squares. The crowds were out in force and soon the sun came out. Bamboo sculpture from Australia was being constructed to symbolise the occasion and after a short orienting walk and a delicious meal we went on a coach tour in a little bus fully equipped with a multimedia guide. The coach tour showed us how large the town is, which is twinned with Ashford. There where monuments and open spaces everywhere with motorway junctions and bridges over the river.

When we got back to the centre we went our separate ways to visit places which we had noticed on our tour, in our case an inn called Les Trois Brasseurs which offered an extraordinary selection of beers. All too soon it was over and we had to leave. There is obviously plenty of scope for more extended visits for anybody. A repeat visit could never be boring!

Thanks are due to Joan Liggett for organising and accompanying us on this memorable trip.

John Husband - a notorious Europhile.



The Town Hall



The Church



The Railway Station