

ZEEBRUGGE DAY CEREMONY 2006



Derek Leach laying the Dover Society wreath at the Zeebrugge Day Ceremony on St George's Day

markers: retention of the Wellington Dock, perhaps as a fresh water reservoir for the Dour; conservation of the Customs Watch Tower and what remains of the North and South Piers if Granville Dock and Tidal Basin are infilled; public access to the Prince of Wales Pier and Shakespeare Beach; public access to the beach and bathing water if the Marina should be resited alongside the Prince of Wales Pier. We have accepted the need for a "buffer zone" (lorry park?) on the A20 between Dover and Folkestone, but await the precise location in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Anything to cut traffic gridlock.

Long-awaited supermarket Netto, with its three other shops, is actually materializing and we are told to expect that St James will follow within a year and that the Buckland Mill and B&Q projects are still alive. Shakespeare Tunnel may yet be speeded up, and there is even a rumour

that the bus station will be relocated to the Discovery Centre. Another rumour that the Dover in Bloom planters would, because of the water shortage, be replaced by windsocks or kites and the hanging baskets filled with artificial flowers was happily vetoed by Dover's Town and Environment Committee. Whether or not the Maison Dieu House pigeons should be culled or coned by recorded hawk squawks remains to be decided.

The Society has protested against N T Rix Scaffolding's application for retrospective planning consent for a decade or more's breaches of planning regulations. In the interests of employment there may well be a compromise, with stringent conditions attached. The location of the skate park, now in Pencerster Gardens, which is to be enlarged and modernized, remains in dispute between the Town and District Councils. Dover continues to be exciting.