

The work of the

# PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Report by

JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

Has the regeneration of Dover turned a corner? As regular readers (if any) must know, we incline towards gentle scepticism in outlook. However, we are (at long last) to have the High Speed Rail Link (2009 despite the short comings of the Shakespeare Tunnel), the refurbishment of Dover Priory is in hand, and the redevelopment of Buckland Paper Mill (including our proposed Site Museum) is guaranteed by Christie Homes and SEEDA. We have the new Netto, Frozen Food and Pet shops on the old Coop Site (now "Castleton") and the resurrection of Snoops from dereliction by J.D. Wetherspoon. Although the River Dour Steering Group has been abolished, the Environment Agency is in charge and Dover Town Council's £20,000, although not available (as we suggested) to

the White Cliffs Countryside Project, will continue to fund specific projects. The Skate Pavilion reconstruction in Pengeceter Gardens is under way, the Sea Sports Centre will be built, Tesco may generate its own electricity from two wind turbines and the War Memorial pigeons have been (so far) banished. Archery will come to Dover, certainly for a tournament in 2007 if not for the 2012 Olympics. Work has started on the refurbishment of the Churchill Club into flats. The plans for the White Cliffs Business Park Phase II ... The possibilities, for housing and/or a new S. Kent College campus or Buckland Hospital on the Connaught Barracks site are breathtaking.

BUT! Perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised by the threat of a Waste Recovery Station at Whitfield on the WCBP: it has been in the pipeline for years and all we can do (and have done) is play Nimby with Tilmanstone and Richborough, basically on the ground that it would deter other business investment from Phase II. Contrariwise, the Open Prison threat at Connaught Barracks was a bombshell and we have done all we can in support of the almost unanimous protest. Fingers again crossed, expecting the worst!

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by

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## Magic Again

I regrettably missed the intervening recital, but at the end of my report on its predecessor (Newsletter 55) I wondered how Robert Poole could match the three (incredibly free) of 2005. Part of the answer came on October 7th in an expectantly packed Connaught Hall, where the Dover Music Society again combined the promotion of young talent with established masters. The

young talent was Sasha Gracheva from Moscow. Her beautiful and elegant gown belied the fact that she is, incredibly, only *eleven* years old and a *composer* as well as a *pianist*. Shades of Mozart? Certainly she is a pianistic prodigy with lightning fingers and prodigious memory. Pausing only shyly to acknowledge enthusiastic applause, she gave us a recital of no less than thirteen Russian