

APRIL MEETING

Dover Harbour Board

A report by Alan Lee on a talk by Bob Goldfield

The April meeting hosted the Port of Dover's Chief Executive Bob Goldfield who started by giving the audience a potted history of his life and an account of how he arrived at Dover.

He described the plans for the new £300 million Ferry Terminal 2 at Western Docks as an historic opportunity to regenerate the area and hopefully create over 2,600 East Kent jobs. "This project presents an excellent opportunity to kick-start the regeneration of Dover specifically but it also represents an employment boost for East Kent," he said.

At the Western Docks, once the port's commercial hub, four ferry berths are proposed together with a relocation of the port's 400-berth marina to a location off the promenade. A development of restaurants, shops, offices and a hotel are also proposed around the marina. These are needed because capacity is running out at the eastern end where there is a

ferry arrival or departure every ten minutes.

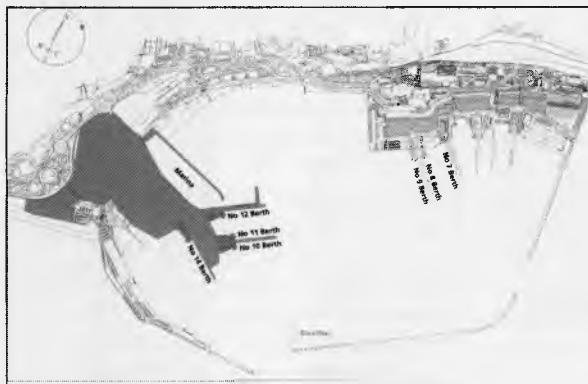
The record for lorries using the port in one day, on 12th December 2006, is 9,878 and that of coaches, on 7th December 2007, is 1,514.

Bob pointed out that the traffic flow is expected to grow substantially over the next 30 years and that to do nothing is not an option, plus there is a significant opportunity to aid regeneration by developing the waterfront area.

Sadly the Granville Dock is to be filled in and the end of the Prince of Wales Pier will go, both of which will be a great loss. The Wellington Dock, although to become land-locked, will present opportunities for more retail facilities, offices, a hotel, and along the landward side, residential development.

The development of this area with the marina is planned to start as soon as possible following consultations, preparation of detailed plans and obtaining the necessary approvals. This is because the relocation of parts of the existing marina is necessary to allow the Terminal 2 development to commence.

Other issues of particular concern were the availability of car parking and the provision of boat yard services. The preliminary layout drawing shows a multi-storey car park located in the landward area of the



Preliminary berth layout

current Prince of Wales Pier. It is intended that this car park would also serve the needs of the marina, other leisure users and possibly some commercial users. In regard to boat yard facilities, the need to provide for these is understood.

The Board will continue to support angling from at least one of the piers. The Prince of Wales Pier currently has easy access for disabled anglers. They are trying to find an alternative in the new development and are considering providing for angling from the new structure, which will form the eastern pier of the proposed new marina.

The next steps are to refine the plans and produce a draft Harbour Revision Order and planning applications towards the end of 2007. Bob pointed out that the proposals were affordable and deliverable within the Board's resources and he would like to see Terminal 2 completed and



Bob Goldfield, DHB and Derek Leach

operational before he retires in January 2013.

Overall, although regretting the loss of some historic parts of the harbour, the mood of most, although not all, seemed to be optimistic. We shall watch the development with great interest.

Many thanks to Mr Bob Goldfield for his most enlightening talk.

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Dover Music Society

Kotov Memorial Recital
by Jack Woolford

More and more magic...

In our March Issue (Newsletter No. 58) Robert Poole, creator of the Dover Music Society, announced that "internationally famous and outstanding cellist ... regarded by many as the best in the world", Nina Kotova (who now has Jacqueline Du Pre's legendary Stradivarius) would perform in Dover Town Hall on Friday March 30. This more than answered my query in Dec 2006 (No. 57): Robert, what next?

As the excellent programme notes explained and as the tall and beautifully robed Nina herself announced (in perfect English), her father, Ivan Kotov was a virtuoso double-bassist but was persecuted to death in the then-Soviet Union. The recital was fittingly dedicated to his memory.

Suitably it started with the profound Mozart Adagio in B Minor, followed, even