

The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archaeology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- and commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton, Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All members receive three Newsletters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events – talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

Editorial

The coming year will see some major events connected to our town, both with planning and leisure.

Dover Town Investment Zone (DTIZ)

The St James/Russell Street development seems to have stalled once again with the late withdrawal of ASDA from the project. Will this ever be completed?

Terminal 2

Dover Harbour Board has started the consultation process on the plans for Terminal 2 at the western end of the harbour. I hope that our views will be taken into consideration when the plans are forwarded to the Secretary of State. More details of the proposals and plans are available at www.doverport.co.uk

Sale of the Port of Dover

The Government has also raised the issue of a change in structure for the major Trust Ports in MTP 2. The major Trust Ports have been asked to review their corporate structure and present any proposals for restructuring by April 2010. The concern is that with the current state of the public finances the Government could exercise its right under the Ports Act 1991 to require full privatisation. They may undertake this without taking notice of local interests and solely to raise cash for the Government should the Trust Ports choose, either not to put forward their own proposals, or argue for preservation

of their current status. All representations had to be made to the Secretary of State, Department of Transport within 42 days from the 11th February 2010.

Sea Change money

On 3rd April 2008 the Culture Secretary named Dover along with Blackpool and Torbay as the coastal towns with most social and economic deprivation. Dover was awarded £3.8 million with the money used for projects such as improving high streets, promenades, harbours or gardens; constructing or converting buildings for use as cultural centres; or enhancing existing galleries, concert/dance halls, theatres and arts centres. None of this money has been spent within the town. It has gone to English Heritage, £2.4 million, on revamping the Keep and Dover Harbour Board, £1 million, on upgrading the sea front esplanade. This development is due to start this year so expect the concrete waves within the next two years. Equal funding for these projects have been provided by KCC, DDC, EH and DHB.

Rolls Celebrations

Following the Bleriot celebrations last year 2010 sees the centenary of Charles S Rolls of Rolls Royce fame. He was the first man to fly to France and back non-stop, for which the Ruinhart Champagne house of France presented him with a silver cup. This celebration will be on the weekend of 5th and 6th June. There should be a fly past by the Rolls Royce spitfire and on the Sunday a display of between 50 and 100 vintage Rolls Royce cars in front of the Rolls

statue on the sea front. It would be helpful if Dover District Council, the event organiser, released some details and advertised the event.

Housing

During March DDC have been holding exhibitions of the proposed new housing scheme at Whitfield. Expect some animosity to these plans from the local residents.

Society Events

Many thanks to the organisers and entertainers, Nicholas Harby and Madeline Mee who made the Christmas Feast such a success. With £80 donated towards the Crabble Corn Mill Trust the Wine and Wisdom night was also a resounding success. Thanks to all involved including Clive Taylor and his quiz team.

Guided Tours of the Maison Dieu Hall

Our Chairman has been involved in meetings with the Mayor of Dover and Jon Iveson covering the restoration of the Maison Dieu. The Mayor said that she would like to see public guided tours of the Maison Dieu and suggested that our members might be prepared to act as guides, perhaps three or four times per year. A few problems exist and the Mayor will be contacting Thanet Leisure, who has the concession there, with the Society informed as to the outcome. It must be stressed this is only the initial planning stage. If anyone would like to be considered as a tour guide, please contact any of the committee.

Editor