

Jack Woolford

Patrick Sherratt

There are few people who have been as devoted to the town of Dover as Jack Woolford and it is appropriate that he has been recognised for his contribution to our town and is to receive the status of Honorary Freeman of Dover.

I know that many members of the Society have worked on committees or on other activities with Jack. It was as a Planning Committee member that I first saw Jack at work for the many causes that he has championed. Immediately I could see a man who epitomised the saying *the pen is mightier than the sword* as he tirelessly corresponded with councils etc. pressing home the cause for which he was fighting.

Jack, now 93 years old, was born in Hartlepool, gained a State Scholarship to Cambridge and graduated with First Class Honours in History. After spending six years in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, he came to Kent and Dover, where he was an Adult Education Tutor in History for the Universities of Kent and Oxford until he retired.

He was passionate for Dover and became involved with many



activities, in particular from 1964 as Chairman of the New Dover Group. In 1988 at the start of The Dover Society he became Chairman and remained so for ten years.

He achieved many successes a list which would be far too long for inclusion in this article, but the

following are of significance:

New Dover Group:

- * *Helped to preserve Kearsney Abbey from housing development.*
- * *Initiated archaeological excavations in York Street, preserving the Roman remains of Dover for future generations.*
- * *Pioneered the concept of the Riverside Walk.*
- * *Forefront of the campaign for a Dover bypass (Jubilee Way).*
- * *Dover History Exhibition in the Town Hall.*

Dover Society:

- * *Worked to promote higher standards of planning and safeguard buildings of quality within Dover*
- * *Successful appeal in 1990 to the Ombudsman condemning the action by the Home Office in breach of rules governing Listed Buildings (Western Heights).*
- * *Successful plea to Highways Agency to widen the road at junction of*

Crabble Hill.

- * *Attends Dover Town Council Planning Meetings. Where his wisdom and knowledge is accepted at planning application discussion.*
- * *Supported fund raising for trees for Dover town centre.*

Jack has also been active with the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies where again he has championed

Dover. At one time, he was chairman and at present, he is the Honorary Secretary.

I am sure the above shows what a committed man Jack is and many would have achieved greatness if they had only delivered half of what Jack has achieved and so from all at the Dover Society.

CONGRATULATIONS JACK.

Royston Joseph Tant

Alan Lee

The third person to be honoured, although not a member of the Dover Society, still warrants a mention in our Society newsletter. Royston, better known to many as Bob, was born in Battersea, London. He first came to Dover in 1946 whilst doing his National Service. It was then that he first met his wife to be, Eileen. They married in Dover in 1951 but went to live in London. In 1953 they returned and set up home in Dover.

Bob has worked for the people of Dover for almost 30 years. He was a councillor on Dover District Council, formed in 1974, and was one of the original members when Dover Town Council was formed in 1996.

He was the Mayor of Dover in 1982 and again in 1988, the same year he



was Speaker of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports.

During his time as a councillor he took a great deal of interest in the care and housing problems of the elderly, working closely with the Royal British Legion.

At one time employed by the East Kent Road Car Company he was, for many years, a union representative for the Transport and General Workers Union.

He is a trustee of the Roman Painted House, but recently has relinquished his posts as a trustee of the St. Edmund of Abington Trust and of Dover Municipal Charities.

He is a man with a wealth of knowledge who has always tried to help others. His award as a Freeman of Dover is a fitting tribute to Bob.