

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

Our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, at 7.30pm on Monday 18th April at St. Mary's Parish Centre. I would like to remind members that all nominations for elected posts within the committee and any resolutions must be received by the secretary no later than 14 days before the meeting.

The speaker for that meeting will be our newly elected MP Charlie Elphicke. This will be the last of the winter meetings until October so I hope for the usual good attendance.

Once again, this year the committee has decided to keep the subscriptions at the same level as last year. This offers excellent value considering that the last time the rate was increased was back in 1996, fifteen years ago. If you know of anyone contemplating joining the society and need an application form then please contact Sheila Cope or the editor. There will also be forms available at the meeting.

One of our longest serving and hard working members Jack Woolford has not been well of late, I am sure that all our members hope that he makes a full recovery soon.

The summer outings have now been finalized with the first to take place on 14th June. This will be to the Palace of Westminster please book with Patricia Hooper. The other outing this summer will be on 9th September. This will be to the Geffrye Museum please book with Georgette Rapley. Full details of the

outings are on the inside of the back cover. If any of the members have any ideas, as to future visits to places of interest, then please contact any member of the committee or the editor on 01304 213668.

Owing to the bad weather the Christmas Feast had to be cancelled. It could not be rearranged for an alternative date but it is planned that a feast will take place again this December as usual. That said if the members would like to see a feast style social event take place during the summer months then please let the committee or the editor know.

The latest extension to the Dover cycle system is now completed. It runs along Barton Path, by the river, via Cherry Tree Avenue, Barton Road to Lorne Road. After a month of traffic disruption motorists will be thankful at the end of the works. I am sure it would have been completed quicker but for the short hours worked, start at 8.30am, finish at 3pm with also a lunch break included within that time. With work on gas pipes now taking place along London Road it looks as if the traffic disruption has just moved to a different part of town.

Congratulations to Mike McFarnell for yet another successful Dover Film Festival. This event grows and improves every year, we all look forward to next year's event.

After Pfizer's announcement of closure comes the news from English Heritage that all of their sites are to close on weekdays from the start of November to the end of March. This will have a big effect on staff at Dover Castle and the

knock on effect to the local economy. Visitors will lose a wonderful amenity and schools a valuable learning facility, with over 15,000 children visiting in that period.

In the last issue of the newsletter within the planning report it stated that Patrick Sherratt represents the Dover Society on the Dover Port People's Trust. He is on their Steering Committee but he does not represent the Society and has taken great care to avoid any conflict of interest between the two groups.

Just a reminder to the effect that the society is running a lottery to raise money to help refurbish the Maison Dieu Hall, for as little as £1 your contribution can make a difference. Contact Mike McFarnell or the editor. Entry forms will be available at the meeting.

The society is now conducting guided tours of the Maison Dieu for details please see article in this edition. The guides have an interesting tour lined-up it is well worth a visit.

Another event coming up soon, and growing in numbers, is the annual commemoration of the Zeebrugge Raid. Held on St. Georges Day this will take place in St. James' cemetery 11.20am on Saturday 23rd April. This will then be followed at 12 noon by the ringing of the Zeebrugge bell at the Town Hall.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I must report the death of Mr Barry Smith who was the society's first secretary in 1988.

Editor