

Jack died, aged 92, in 2004. Dover did him proud. His death and his funeral made the front page of the Dover Express and the Mercury. A guard of honour of scouts and St. John Ambulance Brigade members welcomed him to a packed congregation at St. Mary's which

included the Mayor and the Leader of DDC. As the hearse pulled away afterwards the mourners, including those lining the route, applauded. Jack would have liked that and he would appreciate this event today because in addition to all his other qualities he was a showman.

---

## Regeneration . . . Jeremy Cope

---

Since my last report we have been facing up to two significant developments on a national scale that will impact upon us locally. They are government cuts to local authority funding and the Localism Bill, with its aim to give power to the people over their localities. Both matters represent considerable threats to us but at the same time they offer opportunities.

### **First the cuts**

Dover has suffered from a lack of proper control of standards in new buildings, maintenance of old buildings, litter control and anti social behaviour. The great fear is that a lack of funds is the perfect excuse for doing nothing to uphold standards. The Society sees a way forward in the use of volunteers to help monitor lapses and in maintenance work - Cowgate is a good example as is the work of the Western Heights Preservation Society at the Drop Redoubt. However, volunteering on its own is not enough. There must be a positive response and support from local government if volunteers are not to be disheartened. An excellent example of such co-operation is the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership with its volunteers led by its professional staff. Anyone who has worked on the Dour can see what can be done with the right organisation and will.

The Society has responded to the Localism Bill with a submission on the original green paper and the discussion at the meeting held on 17th January reported elsewhere in this issue. The Society awaits a response from District Council on its original submission, a copy of which was sent to them by Charlie Elphicke our MP. Again, possibilities but only if..

### **Matters we are pursuing**

There is a meeting due between Derek Leach and KCC on the ARP post. We are pursuing the matter of upkeep of the planters in Dover Town Centre. Roger Marples has information from Kirk Alexander of White Cliffs Countryside Partnership on the possibilities and problems of the footpath on the north side of the Castle - sounds interesting. We continue to pester DTC about the public toilets and have still to get a response from KCC Highways on plans for Dover's street trees despite reminders. Members of our committee continue to chase property owners about the state of their properties. Sheila and Jim Pople have a promise from Stagecoach to repair a damaged and dangerous signboard on their Pencester Road premises - top marks for persistence.

\* \* \* \* \*