

APRIL MEETING

The Minister of Parliament for Dover & Deal

A talk by Charlie Elphicke MP reported by Terry Sutton

Following tradition The Dover Society invited the Member of Parliament to speak at our annual general meeting about life during his first year in the House of Commons.

Charlie Elphicke, MP for Dover and Deal and a member of the society, was our speaker on Monday, April 18th when he told us he has discovered working in the House of Commons was much harder and exhausting than he had expected. He had expected it to be a lot easier than his previous job but found much of the work, often from 8.30 in the morning until 11 at night, sometimes emotionally very draining.

Mr Elphicke, in a witty and chatty talk, spoke of his elation at being elected the MP for Dover, a town known throughout the world.

He added that he was working hard to get a new hospital for Dover, to prevent the port being sold off and to obtain more jobs for the district and



Charlie Elphicke

more money injected into the environment.

He believed progress was being made on the hospital front and his aim was to have a new hospital for Dover in three years time. Another aim was to attract more tourists to the district and to get them to spend more time and money in Dover. "Everyone has

heard of Dover," he added.

Revealing an aspect of his earlier life Mr Elphicke said he came from a family where his parents split up with the result he hardly ever saw his father. "I think I had a right to know my father more than I did," said the MP who has brought in a 10 Minute Bill designed to help children from broken homes to keep in touch with both parents.

Answering a series of questions, he put forward the view that the coalition government would not allow a referendum on the EU, although personally he thought there should be one.