

editor welcomed the unveiling of the Town Hall in its 'newly cleaned and restored glory'. The roof had been replaced, the Stone Hall repainted, the High Street frontage stonework repaired, new toilets installed, a lift for the disabled and a furniture lift from the basement. Complete renovation would apparently take 10 years and cost up to £10 million. It never happened.

By now the annual pattern of the Society's activities emerged with monthly meetings of some sort from October to April, including the ever popular February Wine and Wisdom evening, presentation of annual awards in October and the Christmas Feast in December. Current local issues were discussed at members only meetings. Several summer outings became the norm, including a trip to France in September.

Lousyberry Wood



Following the disastrous hurricane of 1987, the Society decided to replace the many trees lost from Lousyberry Wood close to the top of

Whitfield Hill. The Project Group with the assistance of some Temple Ewell residents and pupils from the primary school carried out site clearance and preparation, which was followed by the planting of 200 mainly beech trees. A start was made during National Tree Week and continued at weekends during the rest of November and December. The work was fully funded by a KCC grant, sponsors and a 'whip round' of Society members. Subsequently, the Society was presented with the Civic Trust 1990 Community Pride Award. Following the planting, every year thereafter a Sunday in November was devoted to 'aftercare', ensuring that brambles did not smother the saplings.

At the Society's 1990 Awards Evening the renovation of new premises in Dour Street for A R Adams & Sons (Printers) Ltd was recognised. The framed certificate still hangs in their reception area. DDC was also rewarded for their Dover Town Trail interpretation panels sited throughout the town. The Society, Ivan Green and Joe Harman were consulted about the content. Sadly, many of the panels now need replacing. Kingsley Shipping Ltd also received an award for the renovation of their 'Old Brewery' building in Dolphin Passage. At the other extreme the MFI building on the corner of Castle Street and Woolcomber Street was highlighted as an example of what the Society did not want!

1991

In February 1991 the Society held a public meeting entitled 'Save our sewage; rescue our river', to discuss the threat to health from unsatisfactory sewage disposal, polluted beaches as well as the neglected appearance and low level of the river. Representatives from Southern Water, the National River Authority, Friends of the Earth and DDC spoke and a lively discussion followed! A survey of the river from Castle Street to Ladywell was

carried out and Leo Wright took it upon himself to keep a close eye on the water situation for several years.

The home for the new museum in Market Square opened on 11th March 1991 charging 95p for adults and 50p for children. The imposition of entry charges to the Museum to increase DDC income was opposed by The Society but at least it gained the concession of free entry for local residents (lost in 2012 as it apparently contravened EU rules!).

The transport of nuclear waste through the port, which DDC was powerless to stop, was a cause for concern.

March saw another river clean up at Charlton Green with 25 members of 354 Squadron ATC, Dover Boys' Grammar CCF and TS Lynx Sea Cadets taking part who were presented with specially commissioned Dover Society shields.



Lydden Pond

Yet another project commenced in March 1991. In partnership with KCC and Lydden Parish Council work began to reinstate Lydden village pond. The Society planted a willow tree to mark the event. During the next 12 months 25 work sessions totalling 240 man hours were put in. A contractor lined the pond with clay and then the pond bed was manually puddled with straw and clay by volunteers. The project received a Civic Trust Award of £500 and a £450 grant from Shell.

Later the Society and Lydden School were awarded the BBC Radio 1 Country File Award. November 1993 saw the completion of the project when we presented a bench seat to the parish council and the final batch of daffodils was planted. The pond has held water continuously since August 1993. Another job well done.



The disastrous decision to route the A20 extension from the M20 over the cliffs and through the town to the Eastern Docks was a bitter disappointment for the Society, which favoured a route round the back of the town via Swingfield to join the A2 rather than cut off the town from its seafront. Dover has paid a heavy price ever since. More amusement arcades were opposed, listing was sought for the Charlton cemetery chapels and successfully urged restoration of the Elms Vale Road tram shelter. We were also anxious to retain the magnificent railwaymen's war memorial at Marine Station.

About 40 members had a preview of the White Cliffs Experience which the Editor described as 'an exciting architectural addition to the landscape'.

At the 1991 AGM with membership over 300 Sheila Cope became Membership Secretary when Merrill Lilley became Newsletter Editor. Sheila is still doing it after 20 years! In Newsletter 11 Merrill welcomed memories of old Dover. Children's views on Dover, local history

book reviews, a series on Dover's characters and articles by 'ordinary' people involved in 'Working for Dover' appeared in later editions.

The Society was quick to take up DDC's scheme to brighten up empty shop windows by arranging for local charitable bodies to mount window displays. The vacant Dickens corner shop in the Market Square was used for five months.

The condition of some listed buildings, especially the former Royal Victoria Hospital and Castle Hill House, exercised the Planning Committee which lobbied DDC who then agreed to inspect the buildings. The proposed Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel and its associated facilities was supported, but with a plea to make it sympathetic to its location and purpose. Most, if not everybody, would agree that the memorial actually built both honours the airmen who defended Britain and fits well into the landscape.

A May Day Dover Pageant was organised by member Mike McFarnell and eight members took part as Druids. Thereafter, members were 'recruited' for subsequent pageants, culminating in the event to celebrate the centenary of the first Dover Pageant in 1908.



An unusual extra Society event in May was Conviviality and Conundrums held at the

Bay Museum at St. Margaret's. Forty-two members were divided into two groups - in one group each person had a list of questions and individuals in the other group had one or two answers each. Then they had to socialise to get all the answers, thereby getting to know other members better. After refreshments, roles were reversed. For the next three consecutive years Philomena organised a quiz evening at Dover Museum based on its exhibits with members having to scour the building to find the answers. Needless to say, Philomena managed to stretch not only minds and legs, but also stamina and patience.

Astor School joined the Society as a schools member and three pieces appeared in the Newsletter about their outings to Whinless Down, Western Heights and Cowgate Cemetery.

The Society's contribution to the arts in 1991 was a concert by the Kent Concert Orchestra at the Town Hall in September.

At the November meeting Paul Watkins, Leader of the District Council, was urged to embark upon a major marketing initiative to attract retail shops concentrating on Cannon Street. In his talk Paul 'presented an encouraging and positive view of Dover's future' stating, 'It's not all doom and gloom, things are moving forward! Oh dear!'

DHB's Western Docks development proposals that promised 4500 jobs were welcomed. Included were a superstore, hotel and shops in a 10 year plan. To safeguard historic buildings from redevelopment, however, the Society applied for Grade 2 listing of three more buildings: the former Harbour Station, which was successful, the Customs watchhouse and the Clock Tower, which were not.