

## 1992

At the 1992 AGM Planning Committee Chairman Adrian Galley retired after four years and was replaced by Ken Wraight. Lin Clackett retired as social secretary and was replaced by Joan Liggett who began her long and much appreciated tenure.

The vexed problem of absentee shop landlords and empty floors above (despite 75% grants available to renovate upper floors) caused frustration, whilst we were saddened by the loss of the distinguished Co-op facade in Biggin Street amid concern about the architecture of its replacement shops.

The first Festival of Dover in May gave the town a boost with a varied programme of heritage, music (from jazz to the Snowdown male voice choir), poetry, films, exhibitions, talks, concerts, children's workshops and a Teddy Bears' picnic at Kearsney Abbey. The Society contributed guided walks. This successful venture became an annual event.

### **Impact Scheme**

Strong links were formed with the KCC/DDC Impact Scheme following its presentation to the October 1992 meeting. Each body would contribute £400,000 a year for 3 years to make high quality improvements to streets and public spaces and to encourage investment in buildings, especially historic buildings. Needless to say, members came up with many suggestions, but priorities were Snargate Street, York St./Townwall St corner and Bench St/New Bridge. The actual projects chosen were the Grand Shaft entrance, the Leisure Centre car park, Army Careers Office (below Mote's Bulwark), repaving of Bench Street, Snargate Street paving, lighting and buildings facelift, New Bridge, the seafront, the Dour and Priory Station. Reproductions

of the leopard bollards were installed in the Stembrook area upgrading and in the Oswald Street passage. Notice was taken of The Society's reservations regarding planned seafront improvements and support was given to a revised application for new lighting, lawns, hedging, paving and shelters. The Society was represented by Lawrence Gage on the group considering a seafront artwork and he later helped judge the 80 entries for the sculpture. The winner was Ray Smith with his 'Channel Swimmers on the Crest of a Wave', which was put in place in December 1995. Impact finished in Dover in March 1996 after 3 years of improvements. The 1996 AGM heard from the Impact speaker that the seafront scheme in partnership with DHB had been completed and DHB's plan to continue with the rest of the promenade was welcomed (although it never happened). New Bridge and York Street corner were also completed. Victoria Crescent was still in progress and the highway safety scheme for Castle Hill was also awaited. The Town Centre Management scheme was to carry on as a thriving town centre was seen as essential to attract investment; Jeremy Cope represented the Society on the TCM Board until it folded in 2008.



Following the Museum's Words and Pictures children's competition, three children's poems about Dover were printed in the Newsletter, including 'Dover in the Night':

Roads and traffic  
 swirling around like a whirlwind  
 in the dark.  
 Car shadows on the pavement.  
 The sea and the beach  
 have purple sunset upon them.  
 Visitors staying in seafront hotels.  
 Cliffs gloating over the sunset.  
 Shop windows reflecting from the  
 car light.  
 Streets are bare, gradually it comes  
 silent except for the sea  
 Sucking on the pebbles and the  
 humming of the rocks.

*By Alison Hawkins, Age 10,  
 Langdon County Primary School*

Following objections to DHB's plans for a petrol station next to Marine Court, it was withdrawn. DHB was, however, back in the good books with assistance given in the recovery of the Bronze Age Boat when it provided a large mobile crane to lift the pieces, storage facilities in Cambridge Terrace and a 7000 gallon water tank.

The Society submitted a scheme for improved access to the River Dour and an extension of the riverside walk.

Another litter clearance was organised during Environment Week when cadets invited by the Society cleared rubbish from behind Pencester Road shops.

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At the 1993 AGM Brigadier Atherton was elected President following the death of the Countess of Guilford. Lawrence Gage became Planning Committee Chairman; after 5 years as Treasurer Ken Berry stepped down and was replaced by Jennifer Gerrard whilst Jenny Olpin became Press and Publicity Officer and Bruce Lilley Advertising Manager. Having resigned from the

Executive, Philomena Kennedy was made a Vice President. Issues considered during the year were submissions to the new Local Plan, the future of Marine Station and Dover Patrol Memorial, Royal Victoria Hospital Housing Scheme, architecture of the new Co-op in Biggin St., quality of shop fronts and problems with the proposed Whitfield village by-pass to Sandwich (A256).

The proposed sewage treatment facility at Broomfield Bank - Eurotunnel's vacated car park site off Folkestone Road - proved controversial. The Society preferred the Shakespeare Cliff platform site which, however, proved impractical. The new facility would be a massive underground box which would be landscaped and unseen apart from an access road. It would discharge into the sea via a 2.5 km long outfall from Shakespeare Beach, meeting EC regulations but with primary treatment only. The project would take three 3 years and cost £24m.



During 1993 Environment Week restoration of Dover's 'leopard bollards' by the Society began in various parts of the town. St. Mary's School pupils assisted a team of four in removing old paint down to the bare metal, priming and painting the bollards black and finally gilding the leopards' heads and bollard tops. After sessions every Saturday from March to May the job was finished and Joe Harman's dream realised. The annual