

*Society 1997. Now, following the annual Remembrance Service at the impressive Railwaymen's War Memorial in the Cruise Terminal, those attending move to the Unknown Warrior plaque where the Society's Chairman, flanked by very smart, uniformed pupils from the Duke of York's Royal Military School, tells the story and places a wreath watched by the many standard bearers of the Royal British Legion and more than a hundred attendees.*



During this period the Newsletter carried a fascinating series of interviews with Budge Adams about his life and memories of Dover.

Worried by drought and with only 27% of average rainfall in 1996, river water levels were at their lowest ever. A meeting at Kearsney Manor was convened, chaired by the MP. Following presentations by the water company and DDC, it was clear that water pricing did not include anything for conservation of the Dour.

### **Entente Cordiale**

*The Society has proved the Entente Cordiale alive and well over the years. In March 96 the Society welcomed L'Association France Grande Bretagne group at the Churchill Hotel and some joined the Society's trip to Cote d'Opale. Back in 1991 the Accueil Organisation and the Welcome to French Cities Association had welcomed a group*

*from The Society and then in May 1996 we welcomed a group from them at the Town Hall. Later the same year five members were invited to Calais for a very interesting day. Members have since attended three of their functions. Subsequently all three societies were welcome to attend each others meetings and excursions. One French family attended the 96 Feast and seven Society members with 28 from Dover Choral Society attended the 1998 New Year dinner of the Association France-Grande Bretagne in Calais with the Choral Society performing. The French link was renewed in 2006 when it was agreed to 'twin' with Les Amis du Chateau in Condette near Boulogne. This group was created in 1993 to further cultural, artistic and historic interests in Condette and around Boulogne. A Society delegation visited in November 2006 and in June 2007 13 members of the Society entertained 47 members of Les Amis to lunch in the Town Hall. Disappointingly, only five members visited Condette in August.*

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## 1997

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There was concern over the neglected state of Bench Street and the Society attended a meeting with DDC, TCM and shopkeepers. This led to a Society meeting suggesting that empty shops should be tidied up, shopkeepers encouraged to take pride, convert some to housing, cheaper parking, discourage more charity shops, unused upper floors of shops should be flats, put murals in empty shops and make use of them as a teenage centre, art gallery etc. Quality housing on the former Castlemount School site was, however, welcomed; the later amendment, however, to include three blocks of flats was opposed, but further revision and tree screening made it acceptable. The possibility of an art trail on the cliffs was resisted. There was no objection to the proposed removal of the 1916 iron walkway on to Admiralty Pier despite its listing, but the application was withdrawn.

Cadets were busy in March at St Martin's Emmaus at Archcliffe Fort restoring living and storage accommodation as well as clearing litter and planting a beech hedge. A silver trophy was presented. Beachwatch 97 involved 13 Society volunteers collecting, (60 sacks full plus large items), identifying and listing all the pollutants on Shakespeare Beach. The neglected state of shrub beds on the A20 at East Cliff contrasted badly with the well maintained DHB seafront. The Department of Transport lacked resources to do anything about it apparently, but agreed to DHB, KCC and the Society doing something. As a result volunteers cleared loads of weeds in two half day sessions.

Sheila Cope, the long serving Membership Secretary, was able to report a record membership of 440 at the AGM where there was talk of the Society 'going on the worldwide web' - whatever that was, some people thought at the time!

Three presentations to the Society were of particular interest. Keith Parfitt of Canterbury Archaeological Trust told us of the biggest dig in Dover for 20 years on the site of a new petrol station in Townwall Street. Remains of hovels possibly occupied by 13th century castle builders had been found with 40,000 pieces of pottery and two skeletons. The second was on future expensive plans for the castle including a hotel and conference centre in the former New Officers' Mess and improved town/castle links. They did not happen! The third presentation was by the new town clerk and Mayor on the first year of Dover Town Council (DTC) since gaining parish council status which the Society had campaigned for (replacing the 1974 Charter Trustees). Friendly relations had been established and Jack Woolford was attending council and committee meetings.

## 1998

The 1998 AGM saw the end of an era when Jack Woolford, Chairman since the founding of the Society ten years earlier, retired and was replaced by Jeremy Cope. President Brigadier Maurice Atherton presented Jack with a Philomena Kennedy painting and the Newsletter Editor wrote, 'The contribution of Jack during his 10 years as Chairman is incalculable. He has fulfilled his role as Chairman with admirable tenacity, strength and aplomb; his controlling presence will be sorely missed.' Jack continued to make a valuable contribution as Chairman of the Planning Committee. Mike Weston took over as Treasurer from Jennifer Gerrard and some chap called Derek Leach joined the Executive.

On the planning front views on the government's Integrated Transport Strategy were submitted - car sharing, better public transport and cycle routes. Objections were made to various plans for mobile phone masts in sensitive locations. 'Why can't companies share and not make them so ugly' was the cry. The return of Woolworth to the town was welcomed provided the GPO facade was retained, but both the Society and DDC lost this one eventually - the old facade did not fit Woolworth's store style. DDC was lobbied about the poor state of London Road beyond Ladywell. Unfortunately, a wish to see Camden Crescent fully restored following war damage came to nothing.

DHB was very active on the development front with plans for a second Cruise Liner Terminal, expansion of the marina, the third phase of De Bradelei Wharf and the purchase of Southern House. Whilst we objected to its proposed demolition of Marine Court on the seafront (which was subsequently withdrawn), its acquisition of Old Park was welcomed, but there were