

upon Ivan Green's Newsletter articles which was launched in October. This was soon followed by a third book researched and written by members Julia and Peter Burville called *White Cliffs of Dover*, which told the story of the community that lived in cave dwellings in the famous cliffs, including some of Peter Burville's ancestors.

The Society did not take kindly to the hotel eventually built on the site of the imposing Marine Court, describing it as of industrial design, concrete blocks, factory-type roofing with a cylindrical attachment resembling an industrial water tower! Plans for the conversion of the closed White Cliffs Experience into the Discovery Centre housing the library and adult education centre with a cafe and theatre were welcomed.

2002

On the planning front plans to dual the A2 from Lydden Hill to Dover, already 25 years behind schedule, were resurrected, but it was not to happen before 2008 - and never has happened despite the desperate need to relieve Townwall Street of lorry congestion and pollution. Welcome news was DDC's Dover Town Centre Conservation Area Character Appraisal - analysing the wealth of listed buildings and the potential for enhancement. Plans for development on the Western Heights were opposed by the Society and rejected by DDC. John Peverley had previously saved the moats in the 1950s from the Borough Council's plan to infill with domestic rubbish! An invitation from DHB to join the Port Consultative Committee was accepted.

The Society joined the campaign 'to save our public loos' which were under threat of closure due to DDC cuts. We also objected to the 45% cut in the museum's budget

with curators reduced from three to one, fewer custodians and the loss of temporary exhibitions. Tourism staff were reduced from five to one. Even the Town Hall was under threat. A good piece of news was that the idea of a riverside walk, first mooted by the New Dover Group 40 years before, had been taken up by KCC and DTC. In despair about some of Dover's eyesores, the Society decided to shame them in a letter to the local newspapers, naming Burlington House, Woolworth, Premier Inn, B&Q, the Townwall St/Bench Street corner, some King Street shops, the derelict Crypt site and rubbish behind shops in Biggin Street. On the other hand De Bradelei Wharf was praised.

2003

A plan to convert Buckland Flour Mill into flats could open up its millpond as part of the riverside walk; however, the application was rejected and when revised and represented there was no public access. The planning brief for Buckland Paper Mill was also released with a mixture of housing and employment plus access to the river hidden for so many years underneath the mill buildings. We waited eagerly to see the site redeveloped, but had to wait until 2011 for a start!

With a new managing director DHB did an about turn on its idea for a Westport outside the present harbour. Instead it proposed a new 30 year masterplan to cope with a doubling of traffic - first maximising use of the Eastern Docks and then redeveloping the Western Docks when necessary.

River Dour Steering Group

The Society asked DTC to finance a survey of the river to identify opportunities for improvement and how best to achieve them. The report raised concerns not only about rubbish but also pollution from upstream.

The river could become a real asset to the town and for tourists. Suggestions for improvement included a riverside walk. Consequently the Society lobbied DDC to form a steering committee (to include DDC, DTC, Town Centre Management, River Parish Council, Temple Ewell Parish Council, the Society, the Environment Agency and Folkestone and Dover Water Company) charged with preparing an improvement action plan for the whole river. As a result, the River Dour Steering Group (RDSG) was formed to coordinate, lobby and fundraise. Progress was bogged down for some time over a constitution that would involve local authorities, a government agency and private companies. This was resolved by not having a constitution at all, but by being a coordinating, lobbying and monitoring group with any work or expenditure being in the hands of the appropriate member organisations. With the Dour gaining 'main river' status from April 2005, the Environment Agency became much more involved, being responsible for the river's biodiversity and for flood risk management, but not for litter clearance. It soon proposed six priority projects and 16 others including a scheme to control litter, need for a river warden, a feasibility study for the removal of obstructions to allow fish to travel the whole length of the Dour, narrowing of some sections to increase the speed of flow and to increase the diversity of flora and fauna. Volunteers were allowed back into the river to clear litter provided they were supervised by WCCP employees after having been stopped by the Environment Agency on health and safety grounds. A substantial grant of £8,500 from People's Place covered the cost of tools and waders for the volunteers, tools, signposts for a somewhat tortuous riverside walk route, information leaflets and interpretation boards. The Society also lobbied DDC as the planning authority for sympathetic development of the river's banks as and when opportunities arose. Later, in 2008,

despite withdrawing from the RDSG, DTC 'adopted' the Charlton Green riverside area with the permission of the owner and proceeded to landscape the area, install seats and to sponsor an interpretation panel for which the Society provided the historical text.

The Group suffered a setback when cuts in WCCP funding threatened the monthly litter clearances by volunteers; however, whilst we tried to find alternative funding for the future, we, together with DTC and River Parish Council, found the money for the 2012/2013 year.

The Society organised a series of three free concerts at Astor College sponsored by DTC and featuring several pianists, including world class Yuri Tykhonenko. These recitals led to the formation of the Dover Music Society to give local young musicians opportunities to perform in public and to attract international artists to Dover. The inaugural concert was held at the Town Hall in 2004 with local pianist Oliver Poole, aged 13, and a Russian violinist performing to great acclaim.

Continuing its campaign to improve the look of London Road, the Society issued certificates of congratulation to 11 businesses between Bridge Street and Buckland Bridge for improvements to their facades. A London Road residents' association was also formed.

2004

The April Newsletter paid tribute to two members following their deaths, Ivan Green, aged 91, and Leo Wright, 88. Leo came to Dover to teach German and French at Dover College. He was a founder member of the Society and its secretary for ten years, taking the lead in our links with Calais, the Dover Festival and concerns about the river and water supply. Ivan came to Dover in the 1960s to