

teach technology at Archers Court and was well known for pupils building go-karts, telescopes and hovercraft. Many of us knew him for his many illustrated lectures on local history. As a cofounder of the Film Festival, he presented his 'Then and Now' photographs of Dover every year. Ivan produced 23 books between 1935 and 2001, including teaching aids for technical students. His Book of Dover was the first about Dover for 50 years and Dover and the Monarchy was his last in 2001.

At the 2004 AGM Derek Leach was elected Chairman with Jeremy Cope Vice Chairman.

A new initiative was an attempt to soften the look of the pedestrian precinct with a number of trees. Society members contributed £1,000 and DTC £1,500. Only one trader contributed to the appeal to businesses. Progress was slow because of siting problems. Eventually, sites were agreed that did not obstruct the view of CCTV cameras, but it proved impossible to overcome the problem of interfering with underground utility services and the only solution was to put the trees in planters. By 2006 after three years of frustration all ten trees were planted, but sadly most were soon vandalised although eventually replaced by DDC.

The closure by the National Trust of Langdon Cliffs at night due to antisocial behaviour was vehemently opposed to no avail. Having opposed the original site for a new watersports centre, the new site was welcomed. The Society participated in the consultations over the wish list compiled by the Dover Pride consortium, (comprising KCC, DDC, SE England Development Agency, DHB, Government of the SE and the East Kent Partnership), but was highly sceptical about whether it would all happen - port expansion, new

businesses, more and better housing, shops, restaurants, hotels, more tourism improvement, A2 dualling, high speed rail link to Dover and a rail link to the docks. Whilst the Dover Chamber of Commerce was talking about a five star hotel and conference centre on the Western Heights, the Planning Committee discussed the Aylesham expansion plan, Phase 2 of the White Cliffs Business Park and the St. James' area redevelopment scheme, which was to be dominated by an ASDA supermarket - what an enticing view of Dover for the millions of travellers passing through Townwall Street!

2005

2005 was celebrated as Britain's Year of the Sea to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The Queen and the Duke visited the port and a new Lord Warden, Admiral the Lord Boyce, was installed. It was not all good news - the former cinema in Castle Street was empty once again following the closure of Snoops nightclub. More shops had closed down and B&Q were relocating to Whitfield, but at least Netto had taken over the Co-op supermarket at Charlton Green.

At the 2005 AGM the Planning Committee report was rather like the curate's egg, welcoming the move of DTC into Maison Dieu House, the town centre trees in place, Dover in Bloom, extra marina berths and a second cruise terminal, but regretting no progress on the watersports centre, Buckland Paper Mill site, St. James' area redevelopment, the derelict Army Recruiting Centre, the loss of shops, postponement again of A2 dualling, Townwall Street traffic problems and the enormous cost of demolishing Burlington House! There was also concern over the many applications to convert buildings into flats particularly one bedroom flats in Folkestone Road.

Heritage Open Days



Every year Heritage Open Days are organised when places of historic interest not normally open to the public are opened free of charge for up to four days in September. The Unitarian Church in Adrian Street had participated since 2000 - the only Dover property to do so and in 2003 the Society was asked to help staff it, which it did, but also included a guided walk round nearby Cowgate Cemetery. This taster led to a new project for the Society with Derek Leach encouraging other properties to participate in future years by taking on the administration involved and the local and national publicity. This resulted in five properties opening their doors in 2005: St. Edmund's Chapel, Maison Dieu House complete with town regalia, Archcliffe Fort, the Grand Shaft and the Unitarian Church. This has continued every year since with one or two new venues added each year (St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Bell Tower, Town Hall, Roman Painted House and St. Radigund's Abbey) now totalling 10. This acts as a shop window for Dover with visitors from near and far.

Once again the Society was inundated with consultation documents - the South East Plan, Kent and Medway Structure Plan, Local Development Framework, DTC's Five Year Plan, St. James' area scheme (now known as Dover Town Investment Zone or DTIZ), White Cliffs Business Park Phase 2 etc. The Dover Pride partners were employing consultants to produce a

Dover master plan to feed into the Local Development Framework. The Society was quite clear on its priorities - extending the high speed rail link to Dover, a rail link to the docks, dualling of the A2, improvement of Townwall Street and upgrading of Dover Priory station, not to mention the need for jobs by the thousand to stimulate everything else! DDC sought views on the number of houses to be built in the District between 2006 and 2026 - 5900, 7900 or 9900.

To celebrate the 400th anniversary of Dover Harbour Board in 2006 we suggested that they should erect (once again) a bandstand in Granville Gardens.

A brainstorming meeting wanted better access to the Bleriot Memorial in time for the centenary of the first flight across the Channel in 1909, a new exit road from the Eastern Docks to ease congestion and a lorry holding area on the M20/A20 to keep traffic moving in Townwall Street at peak times, port expansion, docks rail link, new water supplies, a hospital and a higher education centre. No grand schemes were felt to be needed merely to make the most of what Dover already had.

2006

At the 2006 AGM Sheila Cope took a well earned rest after many years as 'Queen of the Raffle' held at every Society meeting, but retained her Membership Secretary role, reporting a record membership of 444. Another record was very worrying - Dover had 500 houses and 50 shops empty. The closure of Connaught Barracks meant the end of a military presence in Dover except for the Deputy Constable still living in Constable's Tower and the Society was concerned about the future of Fort Burgoyne within the site. The AGM heard how the Chairman's role extended beyond charring meetings of the