

controversial inquest on 187 of the 193 people who died when the Herald of Free Enterprise capsized off Zeebrugge in 1987. On the other hand, the most convivial has to be the talk on beer by the Head Brewer of Shepherd Neame, helped considerably by all the free samples! 'Who Hung the Monkey' was surely the strangest title when Jack Woolford told the story of his home town of Hartlepool. Finally, the prize for the longest talk goes to Budge Adams when he took us on a walk from Shakespeare Cliff to Langdon Bay, which ended at 10.45pm!

2012



The 2012 AGM saw the election of an Executive Committee without Jack Woolford for the first time since the Society was formed in 1988. Failing health meant that he played little part in Society affairs during 2011 and at 94 the time had come for him to retire. Jack, with Philomena Kennedy and Peter Johnson, were the founding fathers of the Society which had been the centre of Jack's life ever since. The Chairman paid tribute to his outstanding contribution and added that we would miss his enthusiasm, wisdom, experience, wit, command of the English language - plus the champagne on his many birthdays! A presentation of a kindle was made by the President later. Jack remains a Vice President.

Yet more Society historic plaques were being considered with the first in memory

of Doctor Koettlitz to be placed on the newly restored Charlton House.

Despite poor weather during the summer, the vision and hard work of member Mike McFarnell was well rewarded when thousands of Dovorians and others enjoyed the fantastic Military Tattoo at Connaught Barracks to help celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. The Olympic Torch arrived in July and, despite the rain, huge crowds thronged the seafront to see it, the entertainment and the fireworks display.

and finally...

At the 2012 AGM when introducing his annual report Chairman, Derek Leach, said, 'When asked, "What is The Society for?" I always summarise our objectives by saying that we care about Dover's past, its present and its future. To do this we have to react and comment upon what is going on around us both locally and nationally, but we are also proactive by taking the initiative ourselves or by influencing others. A common thread running through our efforts...is making the best of what Dover already has. As usual, time will only allow me to give you the headlines of all the activities carried out on your behalf, but underlying them all is the continual and dedicated bread and butter work that goes on year in and year out by a relatively small number of members. All taken together makes The Dover Society what I hope, indeed I know it is: a force for good in Dover, a force to be reckoned with and a force respected.'

Long may it continue.