

repair and paint the Townwall Street hoardings. DDC has now granted permission for these to be repainted now and turned into the Town Art Gallery with a common theme and ideas from the Town Team.

A four day Italian market was run and it's success means it will return in 2014. A Minchen (German) style market is also planned for the 18th, 19th and 20th July 2014. Hopefully this will tie in with the Dover Music Festival over the same weekend.

The Town Team ran Make It Happen when two people each received £2,000 to help start their own business. A course will also be run over a twelve week period then at the end one person will be awarded £2,000 and two others £1,000 each.

At a presentation held in the Refectory at Dover College £700 was raised. There is about £10,000 still held in the bank. This has remained fairly constant since the beginning, thanks to some excellent housekeeping and fund raising.

It is recognised that the town centre, in fact all town centres, are struggling for customers. By encouraging more events throughout the town e.g. Maggie's Melody Makers putting on musical events in empty shops, which should help to attract more people into the town.

The Town Team are a close knit group and all get on with one another and are confident that over the long term the centre of Dover can only improve and attract more people.

## A Lifetime Reporting on Dover

A talk by Graham Tutthill reported by Terry Sutton

On the eve of his retirement after 48 years as a journalist, Dover Mercury chief reporter Graham Tutthill was one of our speakers at the well-attended November meeting at St Mary's parish centre. He told us of the big changes in newspaper production during his career, from typewriters to computers and on to multimedia origination. He spoke of the other changes he had witnessed from the time he joined the Dover Express (and remained for eight years) when there were four collieries and when reporters covered all the various courts held in Dover, including County Courts. Now most of those courts are no longer here.

Graham, born at the Royal Victoria Hospital and educated at Shatterlocks, Barton, and Dover Grammar schools, began his career with work experience on the Dover Express before joining the East Kent Mercury at Deal - which later became part of the Kent Messenger Group - and then the Dover Mercury. While employed by the Dover Express he became involved in the Dover hospital radio service.

Using a PowerPoint presentation he screened photographs of some of the stories he had covered, notably the fatal fire at The Crypt, the Dover hovercraft crash when four died and the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster when 193 died.

He covered all the inquests for his newspaper. He regretted that no longer were there any newspaper offices in Dover and explained he was currently working from his home. He had always tried to ensure that every successful Channel swimmer got a mention and, during the height of the immigrant arrivals, had worked to calm the situation by giving a positive message when others were expressing negative views.

Graham spoke of the many disparate organisations and people working for the good of the town and suggested it needed someone to bring them all together.

His audience heard that Graham, as part of his work, should that evening be enjoying a night on board one of the cruise liners visiting Dover that day. So, by keeping his Dover Society date, he was missing out on a gala dinner and on-board first class entertainment.

Questioned about his future, after retirement, Graham said he was not going to be rushed into anything. But one of his duties would be to continue playing the organ at his church, a task undertaken for the last 50 years.

Graham has been replaced by Victoria Chessum, a 21-year-old who has just graduated from university.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS - SPRING 2014

**Sheila R. Cope Membership Secretary**

### SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AGAIN

One of the reasons why our subscriptions are such good value and we are able to maintain them at £10 for two members living at the same address or £6 for a single person, is that as a charity our payments are eligible for Gift Aid. Tax-paying members may sign up for this, ensuring that 25% of their contributions can be claimed back from HMRC for the Society's benefit. However there are some valued and long-standing members who joined before we introduced Gift Aid and who pay by standing order and have therefore never needed to sign an up-to-date application form. If you suspect that you could fall into this category please help the Society by signing up now. Just let me have a completed application form that includes a positive signed Gift Aid declaration from the back of this Newsletter. You will be helping the Society at no inconvenience to you.

We number 465 at present and have been pleased to add: Ms C Bond, Mr B & Mrs V Clark, Mrs C Faraone, Ms J Graeme, Mrs D Harber, Mr J. Richards, Mr L Melville, Ms J Stavrietsky, Miss K Taylor, Ms M White and Mrs P Wood.

As usual at this time of year we send our condolences to the families and friends of:- our late Vice-President Miss Lilian Kay, Mrs Jean Walkden, Mrs Muriel Goulding (who self-effacingly provided refreshments at meetings), Miss Marjorie Bullock and Mr Charles Nelson.