

The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archaeology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- and commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton, Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All members receive three Newsletters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events – talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

Editorial

The first thing I must do is to remind all members that the date of the Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 26th April. All members are reminded that any nominations for elected posts within the committee and any resolutions for the meeting must be received by the secretary Beverly Hall no later than 14 days before the date of the AGM.

As usual we, as a society, are on the lookout for volunteers to take an interest in various sub-committees. Also needed is help at our society meetings, with projects, at events and submitting articles and reports for the newsletter.

Organized by Dover Town Council, April 23rd, St George's Day, will see the centenary of the Zeebrugge Raid commemorated. At 9.30am coaches depart from outside Age Concern, Maison Dieu car park to St James' Cemetery where the service and wreath laying will take place at 10.30am. Coaches will return to the Market Square for, at 11.30, the parade to the Maison Dieu/Town Hall led by the Royal Marines and at 12 noon the ringing of the Zeebrugge Bell and short service.

At 12.30pm Tea, coffee and biscuits will be offered at Biggin Hall, behind the Town Council offices.

Following restoration and cleaning at the Loughborough bell foundry of John Taylor & Co the Zeebrugge Bell has returned to Dover. Cllr Neil Rix, the Town Mayor of Dover, Cllr Sue Chandler, the Chairman of Dover District Council, and Tony Yelverton, Managing Director of Hipperson Builders, the project contractors who also completed conservation work to the bell housing and tower, welcomed the return.

HM The King of the Belgians, Albert I, presented The Zeebrugge Bell to the people of Dover, as a souvenir of the Zeebrugge harbour naval raid on St George's Day 23rd April 1918.

Later in the day, at 3pm there is the launch of the Royal Marines Heritage Trails, Deal, at the open green space behind Deal Castle.

The Royal Marines played a pivotal role in the raid on Zeebrugge with many of them trained at the Royal Marines Depot in Deal.

Alan Lee - Editor