

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, archæology, 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

Bushy Rough/Bushy Ruff

In the July edition 'The Battle of Coxhill Bridge' in the third paragraph, as on the OS Map of 1907, the original spelling Bushy Rough is used. By 1922 the OS spelling was then Bushy Ruff. I hope this clarifies the point.

Union Road/Street

On page 40 the caption should read, Kingsford Windmill Brewery, Union Road, Dover 1865 and not Union Street, this runs from Snargate Street towards the Clock Tower. Thanks to 'Jim' Green for spotting my error.

Old Buckland Mill Site

Buckland Mill closed in 2000 with the first planning application lodged in 2006. In October the doors swung open on the latest addition to the "Mill" site a new Co-op shop, open 7 am to 10 pm daily. A car park is provided on site with a pedestrian entrance at the bottom of Crabble Hill.

Dover - Bus and Cycle Lane

The new 'temporary' bus and cycle lane along Maison Dieu Road was imposed on Dover by Kent Highway Services without consultation. This highly controversial scheme proved to be poorly thought out, dangerous and a complete waste of time and money. With growing criticism from people living or working in the town, and unanimous opposition from Dover Town Council, within two weeks of it opening, on 14th September, Kent County Council was forced to abandon the scheme. A KCC spokesman, blamed post-lockdown traffic levels, Operation Stack and TAP as the reasons why it did not work. He did not however apportion any blame on the poor planning and design of this scheme.

Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens

Upgrading work continues at both locations. The fountain lake paving has been repaired and the old damaged railings removed. Pathways to the café and car park have been resurfaced.

The yew tree ellipse shape and railings to Kearsney Court are completed. Planting of shrubs and perennials has begun and the grand and bench borders have been prepared. Benches are now installed by the lily pond and summer house pathways. Bridge crossing points have been installed to the opened-up culverts within Kearsney Abbey. Next year gardening and planting work at both Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens will include finishing the grand border and orchard.

Alan Lee, Editor

Greetings From The Chairman

Derek Leach

Dear Members,
I hope that you are keeping well, safe and sane in these difficult times! I thought that you would like to hear what has been happening in the Society since March and lockdown.

The work of the Society has continued as far as we were able in the circumstances. Our AGM in April had to be cancelled, although you received the text of my annual report in the March Newsletter and the financial report in the July Newsletter. The Executive, Planning and Refurbishment committees have been meeting online and reports on activities which are in this copy of the Newsletter. Work on the River Dour and Cowgate Cemetery work parties were able to resume.

In addition to the AGM cancellation there were other casualties. With the closure of the Town Hall we could not organise guided tours at all, nor organise Dover's Heritage Open Days in September. The summer outings and the Society holiday in Exmouth were also cancelled, although we hope to resurrect them in 2021. Whilst we planned our normal winter activities, we have had to cancel our October and November open meetings because of the Covid restrictions and their impact on holding meetings in St. Mary's hall. Similarly, with the Town Hall still closed and not taking bookings we have cancelled our usual Christmas Feast. The

Dover Society usually lays a wreath at the Zeebrugge Raid Memorial at the St. James' Cemetery remembrance service on St George's Day, but it was cancelled. At the time of writing it is not known whether Dover's November Remembrance Service will be possible. The usual very well attended service at the former Marine Station, including the Society laying a wreath at its plaque to the Unknown Warrior's return in November 1920 - the centenary this year - will be symbolic, attended by only 6 representatives.

One bright ray of sunshine is that the National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded the Maison Dieu (Town Hall) project the grant of £4,270,500 as requested. This means that with the funding being provided by Dover District Council, Dover Town Council and The Dover Society work on delivering this long-awaited scheme can start. The downside is that the Town Hall will be closed to the public for some two years, probably from September 2021 once contracts for the work are in place.

Whilst at the time of writing it is unclear what sort of Christmas will be possible this year, I sincerely hope that we shall all be able to celebrate with our families and friends.

Very best wishes for Christmas and a much brighter New Year.