

THE DOVER SOCIETY

Minutes of the 4th AGM in St Mary's Parish Centre April 13th 1992

1. Apologies: The Right Hon the Countess of Guilford
2. The Minutes of the 3rd AGM of April 8th 1991 were accepted as correct. There were no Matters Arising.
3. Chairman's Report: Vice-President Peter Johnson had suggested another "serious" meeting but the Committee did not accept the Chairman's idea for party candidates to answer conservation questions. The elevation to Vice-Presidencies for Philomena Kennedy, Christine Waterman and Martin Wright were welcomed as were Merril Lilley's succession to the Editorship and Sheila Cope's to the Member Secretaryship. VP Budge Adams was thanked for his printing, publishing and postal services, as was also retiring Social Secretary Lin Clackett whose contributions to public meetings, excursions and entertainments had greatly benefitted our finances. Clive Taylor's resignation from the Committee and Adrian Galley's from the Chairmanship of the Planning Committee were regretted.

The Ombudsman had come down in our favour against the Home Office for their second offence of building on the Western Heights without necessary consultations and permissions. The Chairman had been presented to the Princess Royal at the opening of the White Cliffs Experience and David Shaw there suggested publication of John Peverley's address to the 3rd AGM on Saving the Western Heights. Dover Harbour Board and Christine Waterman had offered finance and expertise and it was proposed to add John Peverley's earlier article on the Brick Cliffs of Dover and a supplement by Kirk Alexander, Director of the White Cliffs Countryside Project, on the Future of the Western Heights. David Shaw had suggested and initiated an appeal for contributions to publishing costs and Doug. Welby had provided printing and publishing expertise. It was hoped to publish in midsummer at £2.50 with a suitable signing and military launch.

Projects Committee Chairman John Owen had secured a £250 award from the Civic Trust and British Telecom for the replanting of Lousyberry Wood and a £500 Civic Trust and British Telecom award for the re-creation of Lydden Pond and, advised by Clive Taylor and John Gerrard, had substituted clay for a plastic lining and had got further finance from Shell BP. John suggested that Dover Harbour Board acquire a Lightship as a tourist attraction and would organise our contribution to the Dover Pageant.

Last year we had made Awards to Paul Koralek, architect of the White Cliffs Experience, to Christine Waterman and her staff for the design and displays at the new Dover Museum, to Dover District Council for the refurbishment of the shops in Cannon Street and to the designer of the refurbishment of the Tram Shelter in Elms Vale Road. We made commendations to Kent County Council for the Refuse Transfer Station at Whitfield and to those responsible for cleaning and maintenance of the River Dour in the Mannerings Watermill area.

Our Social Programme had added Col. Nevill's Kent Concert orchestra to our list of concert givers and included a visit to Calais where we were hosted by Calais Accueil in response to our hospitality to them in Dover last year. Our Members meeting had been illustrated and addressed by Budge

Adams, Our visits to Wye College and to Finchcocks and our Xmas Feast were all successful. Our second Conundrums and Conviviality evening, again conceived and achieved by Philomena Kennedy and Budge Adams was also very successful.

We regretted the delay in implementing the improvement to the Riverside Walk made possible by an anonymous donor. Our Planning Committee under Adrian Galley had contributed to the Local Plan, and had blessed the Lydden/TMG McLaren proposals for the Race Track and Factory. Adrian's initiative for the renaissance of the Shopping Centre particularly merited commendation. We had continued to oppose more Amusement arcades but wished to have done more to assist the St Margaret's Bay Conservation Trust prevent demolition of the Granville Hotel. We had supported both the proposed Battle of Britain and Hellfire Corner memorials and were pleased to note Southern Water's new commitment to a £20 million clean-up of the beaches for which we had campaigned last year. We had been happy to play our part, along with David Shaw, in furthering Sister Ambrose's efforts to preserve the river and the lakes at Kearsney from excessive pumping. We had supported the Dover Transport Museum's search for new quarters and were delighted to learn that Dover Harbour Board was to re-house it.

New Membership Secretary Sheila Cope continued to report increased membership. She and her husband Jeremy profitably organised our raffles. Mr Woolford paid tribute to Secretary Leo Wright's invaluable work, notably for concerts and the visit to France. We continued good relations with Dover District Council and our debt to Dover Harbour Board for help with our meetings and projects was compounded by their new plans for the concept of a massive new tourist centred marina and other seafront developments, in which our collaboration had been sought by Bill Fawcett, their Property Development Manager. We have done our utmost to persuade the Minister of Transport that if Dover Harbour Board is to be privatised, the most stringent safeguards that Dover Harbour Board's commitment to the town as well as to the port must be safeguarded. Delays to the Channel Tunnel and the High Speed Rail link offered a longer breathing space for Dover's readjustment to international transport changes, although not to the completion of the Single European Market. The Dover Society would continue to try to maintain a balance between economic lifelines on the one hand and a civilised environment on the other.

4. Treasurer's Report: Mr Berry's audited balance sheet recording a healthy surplus was received with acclamation.

5. Elections: Vice-Presidents: Philomena Kennedy, Christine Waterman, Mr Martin Wright: Officers: Chairman: Jack Woolford, Vice-Chairman: John Gerrard, Secretary: Leo Wright, Treasurer: Ken Berry, Membership Secretary: Sheila Cope, Committee: Editor: Mrs Merril Lilley, Social Secretary: vacant, Chairman, Planning Committee: vacant, Chairman, Projects Committee: John Owen, Press Secretary: Sybil Standing: Budge Adams, Jeremy Cope, Phyllis Dobbins, Adrian Galley, Philomena Kennedy, Mike McFarnell (Advisory Member), Margaret Robson, Ken Wright.

7. There being no items of Any Other Business, the meeting was addressed by The Lord Rees on "Reflections on Dover" after the service of refreshments.