

THE DOVER SOCIETY

Minutes of the FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at St. Mary's Parish Centre on
26 April 1993

Before the meeting began members stood in tribute to our
deceased President, the Rt. Hon. the Countess of Guilford.

1. Apologies: Peter Johnson, David Shaw, MP.
2. The Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting were accepted as correct. There were no matters arising.
3. The Constitution was amended to delete "St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe" from Para 2, the St. Margaret's Bay Society having assumed that responsibility. Para 4 was amended to: "The annual subscription for members and their partners shall be as determined by the Executive Committee from time to time . . ."
4. The Chairman reported a good year for both the Society and the Town. On the positive side we had IMPACT and the redevelopment of the Western Docks as well as the recovery from recession. On the negative side we had further delay to the opening of the Channel Tunnel. Within the Committee there had been strong doubts on the text, viability, finance and distribution of the proposed publication of the Peverley papers on the Western Heights but the diplomatic skills of the Vice-Chairman and Secretary had produced an agreed solution, acceptable to John Peverley, that Vice-President and Curator of the Dover Museum, Miss Christine Waterman, be invited to re-edit. The good offices of the Secretary had produced additional sponsorship of £1000 from a Eurotunnel subsidiary and Hammonds had donated £100, so that the printing costs were comfortably covered. The Vice-Chairman and the Secretary were thanked for assuming additional responsibilities during the Chairman's temporary disablement. Very close contact had been made with the KCC's IMPACT, with representation on its consultative Forum. A Members' Meeting, structured by Merrill Lilley, had produced many suggestions for serious consideration. The Ramsgate Society had usefully advised on their experience with IMPACT. A contribution had been made to the Crabble Mill Trust and a submission made on the Local Plan. Matters as diverse as the re-location of the Rolls statue on the seafront, the future of the Marine Station and Dover Patrol Memorials, Victoria Hospital housing, the architecture of the new Co-op, Castle Hill House hoarding, on the quality of shop fronts and on the new chimneys at Buckland Paper Mill had been considered. On roads there had been sharp correspondence with the Department of Transport via David Shaw and on water and sewage treatment problems with Folkestone & District Water Company and Southern Water Services.

New Social Secretary Joan Liggett had organised successful trips to local vineyards, to Chatham Dockyard and to Saint-Omer. Various Guided Walks had excited only modest response despite characteristically meticulous organisation by Philomena Kennedy, and critical comments to Roger Madge of DDC had been made on publicity for Dover Festival. The Xmas Feast had been criticised for inadequate service and unseasonable entertainment. The greatest event of the year had been the Dickens Evening, making possible handsome contributions both to the Split Charity and to St. Martin's Housing Association. Clive Taylor had organised another lucrative Wine & Wisdom and our membership had mounted

from 328 to 378. Under the good editorship of Merrill Lilley and printing and publishing expert Budge Adams, the *Newsletter* continued to be the best in Kent. Bruce Lilley had become Advertising Manager. Projects Chairman John Owen had continued good work with Lydden Pond, another Dour Scour and the replanting of Lousyberry Wood. Residual funds from the River Dour Society were received via David Elms. Relations with DHB remained excellent despite our determination to prevent the petrol station on the seafront and our mixed feelings about the proposed superstore in the redevelopment of the Western Docks. DHB had offered £700 towards the cost of the Peverley Publication, had rehoused the Transport Museum and had kindly hosted our Committee at Cambridge Terrace for more than four years. Keith Parfitt was congratulated on the discovery of the Bronze Age boat, which compensated for some of the chaos inflicted by the construction of the new A20. Chief Executive John Moir had forecast that an enlarged Dover District Council would survive the impending death of the Kent County Council in the forthcoming reorganisation of local government. Continuous dialogue with Dover District Council was friendly but not uncritical.

Phyllis Dobbins was thanked for her outspoken services and the resignation of our second Treasurer, Ken Berry, was lamented. His place was to be filled by Jennifer Gerrard, wife of our Vice-Chairman. Jenny Olpin was to succeed Archivist Sybil Standing as Press Officer and Paul Youden would be Publicity Adviser. Architect Lawrence Gage had succeeded Ken Wraight as Chairman of the Planning Committee. Founder and first Editor Philomena Kennedy's resignation from the Committee was deeply regretted. She would continue to organise Conundrums and Conviviality. A presentation was made and Miss Kennedy addressed the meeting. President Brigadier Maurice Atherton, nominated by Peter Johnson to succeed the Countess of Guilford, also addressed the meeting.

5. Treasurer's report: Retiring Treasurer Ken Berry presented detailed audited accounts, showing healthy balances for various events and funds, with a total surplus of £3403.84.

6. Elections: Officers:
- Chairman: Mr Jack Woolford
 - Vice-Chairman: Mr John Gerrard
 - Secretary: Mr Leo Wright
 - Treasurer: Mrs Jennifer Gerrard
- Committee:
- Membership Secretary: Mrs Sheila Cope
 - Editor: Mrs Merrill Lilley
 - Social Secretary: Mrs Joan Liggett
 - Chairman, Planning Committee: Mr Lawrence Gage
 - Chairman, Projects Committee: Mr John Owen
 - Press Secretary: Mrs Jenny Olpin
 - Mr 'Budge' Adams
 - Mr Jeremy Cope
 - Mr Adrian Galley
 - Mr Mike McFarnell (Advisory Member)
 - Mrs Margaret Robson
 - Mr Ken Wraight
 - Mr Paul Youden (Advisory Member)

After service of refreshments the meeting was addressed by Mr Bill Fawcus, of Dover Harbour Board, on the WESTERN DOCKS DEVELOPMENT.