

THE DOVER SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 7th AGM, April 24 1995 in St. Mary's Parish Centre

APOLOGIES: David Shaw, MP

1. MINUTES of the 6th AGM of April 18 1994 were accepted as correct. There were no MATTERS ARISING.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr Woolford said that members who regularly read our Newsletters would already be fully informed and thanked Editor Merril Lilley, Advertising Manager Bruce Lilley, Printer Budge Adams and, for the first time, Proof-readers May Jones and Pam Taylor. He thanked Terry Sutton as "Acting Press Secretary", and Sheila Cope as Membership Secretary (and raffle organiser) who reported membership no. 590 and current membership of 401. He thanked Treasurer Jennifer Gerrard, not only for meticulously miserly accounting, but for suggesting a contribution of £500 towards the conservation and cataloguing of the Dover Archive. He congratulated Projects officer John Owen on another competitive riverside clean-up by Cadets, aided, as always by Mike McFarnell, and for work on the future of Old Park Barracks as a Regional Sports Centre. Social Secretary Joan Liggett was congratulated on the return of the Xmas Feast, with improved entertainment, to Dover College, and for organising refreshment for so many fund-raising occasions, assisted in various ways by Muriel Goulding. Philomena Kennedy and Clive Taylor. Member Gillian Janoway was congratulated for naming "Sapphire Hoe" and Arthur Goodburn and Ken Wraight were thanked for newsletter distribution and KFAS liaison respectively. The Charter Trustees were thanked for the improvement of the mayor-making which the Society suggested, and Dover District Council for "Tour de France" and "Front Line Britain" invitations. Vice-chairman John Gerrard was praised for his diplomatic promotion of the publication of the Peverley Papers and his crucial part in the relocation of the Rolls Memorial.

The Society's preference for the status quo in Local Government had been endorsed by the Commission as against DDC's preference for unity with Canterbury and Thanet and for the abolition of the County Council. The DoE had been rebuked for reconstituting the Commission to change the result. DDC was congratulated on town centre improvements, for its part in the refurbishment and extension of the Victoria Hospital and for the reappearance of the market in the Market Square, which could be further improved by demolition of the block of banks etc in front of the White Cliffs Experience, into which the Roman Painted House should be incorporated. It was hoped to continue to influence the Local Plan. The Society protested against exclusion from the consultation process on the widening of the A2, and against the threatened closure of the Dover County Court. Secretary Leo Wright had continued dialogue with the National River Authority, with rebukes to Folkestone and District Water Services for over-extraction, and had obtained the use of Dover College Chapel for the Society's 1996 Dover Festival organ recital in aid of the E. Kent Hospice.

Dover Harbour Board had praiseworthily refurbished the Churchill Hotel, rejected an inferior substitute for the Western Docks scheme and was establishing a Cruise Liner Terminal development of the Marine Station in

addition to the successful Marina, and despite the complications of Channel Tunnel competition and anti-nuclear and animal rights activists.

Under Chairman Lawrence Gage the Planning Committee did not persuade the National Trust on the design of the Langdon Cliffs Visitors' Centre, but continued to fight the redevelopment of Farthingloe Village as a Business Park, to improve the dualling of A2 so as to avoid conflict with road proposals for the Old Park Barracks. Reservations on seafront improvements had been expressed and the proposed White Cliffs Business Park factory outlet shopping centre excoriated. The Brewer's Fayre pub on the Guston roundabout had been accepted rather than praised. KwikSave had not yet been persuaded to muralise its Castle St backside nor to replant its weedy "garden". Hoarding and road sign problems on Townwall St and York St, etc had not been resolved. The validity of the one-way system had been queried and free parking suggested to promote shopping in Dover. The Society had been coopted on to all IMPACT committees and was glad to laud the transformation of Snargate St, the restoration of the original portico to the Grand Shaft, the Ladywell and Stembrook car park improvements, the floodlighting of the Western Heights, etc,etc. Mr Gage had been one of the judges for the Promenade Feature competition. immortalising Dover's channel-swimming connections, and had organised the Steering Committee for Dover's Millenium Project which persuaded DDC to endorse the interlinked proposals for a "Celebration of the Sea".

3. PRESENTATION: A presentation was made to Budge Adams in appreciation of his Newsletter and Newsflash printing, illustrating, distributing and writing. for his slide-illustrated talks, for his matchless contributions to the publication of the Peverley Papers, for the Society's badges and brooches, for the design and production of Award Certificates, and, above all for the resiting of the Rolls Statue on its original site, which Philomena Kennedy commemorated with a splendid painting.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mrs Gerrard said that the Society had a satisfactory financial year, although the net surplus was down on 1993-4. Social events were viable overall, but the AGM and other meetings continued to lose money. Administrative costs rose, largely due to the launching of the Millenium Project. The Society made a one-off payment to help rescue the Dover Archives. Members agreed an increase in subscriptions to £6.00 for Individual and £10.00 for Joint Membership to take effect from April 1 1996.

5. ELECTIONS: Officers: Chairman: Mr Jack Woolford; Vice-Chairman: Mr John Gerrard; Co-Vice-Chairman Mr Jeremy Cope; Secretary: Mr Leo Wright; Treasurer: Mrs Jennifer Gerrard; Membership Secretary: Mrs Sheila Cope
: Committee: Editor: Mrs Merril Lilley; Social Secretary: Mrs Joan Liggett; Chairman, Planning Committee: Laurence Gage Chairman, Projects Committee: Mr John Owen; Acting Press Secretary: Mr Terry Sutton
Mr Budge Adams, Mr Adrian Galley, Mr Mike McFarnell (Advisory Member), Mrs Margaret Robson, Mrs Sybil Standing (Archivist), Mr Ken Wraight

7. Any Other Business:

The meeting was then addressed by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Sir Richard Knowles on: "From Wrotham to Dover (Overnight Stop)".