

THE DOVER SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at St Mary's Parish Centre on 28th April 1997

1. The Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting were accepted as correct. There were no matters arising.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS:

The meeting stood to mark respect for deceased members, Mr L. Collyer, Mr D. Eagles, Mr J. Marsh, Mr A. Tiltman and Mr B. Willis.

At 440 our membership for a community of this size was high, but Membership Secretary Sheila Cope said that fifteen new members for thirty lost warned against complacency. The *Newsletter* was a great ambassador. Thanks are due to those who paid their subscriptions on time, seventy-one opting for banker's orders, which was very helpful.

Although it had taken five years to produce, John Peverley's book, "Dover's Hidden Fortress" had been successfully launched and a reprint was possible. We now had a Town Council which welcomed us to meetings, invited and considered our views. The shopping Survey to measure the impact of the Cruise Liner Terminal, conceived by Merrill Lilley, was so successful the Town Centre Management requested a repeat in much greater detail.

We responded to the KCC Survey of Local Government, to the District Council Economic Development Strategy, to the threatened reduction of Public Library Services and to the housing of Junior Doctors at Buckland Hospital.

We were pleased to be on the winning side in the Factory Shops controversy and congratulated D.H.B. and De Bradelei for the expansive success of the town here in Dover and not at Whitfield. Thanks to sound finances we had contributed to conservation of the Dover Archive, to Crabble Corn Mill Trust and to the East Kent Hospice.

We had congratulated Pfizer and the White Cliffs Countryside Project for environmental conservation, London Fancy Box Co. for its staff training award and B&Q for its improvement in riverside landscaping. With Lady Mary Jarrett's help we planned a memorial to the late Sir Clifford on the Prince of Wales Pier and, with that of Dover Harbour Board, to place a memorial plaque to mark the landing of the Unknown Warrior's coffin in 1921 within the Cruise Liner Terminal.

We suggested mooring the Royal Yacht "Britannia" as a Conference/Exhibition Centre, etc, and contemplated going on Internet. We applauded refurbishment of the White Cliffs Experience and the prospective opening of Samphire Hoe as a worthy addition to Dover's amenities. Our reservations about the proposed Public Art Trail of statues and drinking fountains, etc, along the top of the White Cliffs from Dover to Deal, had been seriously noted by White Cliffs Countryside Touring Operation.

We mounted a display in a shop window on the Market Square and organises a clean-up and tree planting at the Emmaus at Archcliffe. We were trying to produce a foot and cycle path through the town centre, principally on the river bank. We had had another successful year of outing and meetings, noticeably including contacts with Calais.

We regretted the continuous postponement of the Stena/P&O merger decision, Dover District Council's refusal to site the Miner's Statue in Aylesham or Tilmanstone, and inability to guarantee the restoration of the Farthingloe site. We regretted that more of the harbour was to be reclaimed for lorry parking and the disappearance of the Slipway.

Our Planning Committee had examined every possible suggestion to meet the water shortage but had no solution to the problem of empty shops. We thanked Terry Sutton for generous coverage in the *Dover Express* but continued to lament its continuing failure to report important local musical events.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

4. ELECTIONS:

Officers:

Chairman	Mr Jack Woolford
Vice-Chairman:	Mr John Gerrard
Co-Vice-Chairman:	Mr Jeremy Cope
Hon. Secretary:	Mr Leo Wright
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs Jennifer Gerrard

Committee:

Membership Secretary:	Mrs Sheila R. Cope
Editor:	Mrs Merril Lilley
Chairman, Planning Committee:	Mr Jeremy Cope
Chairman: Projects Committee:	Mr John Owen
Press Secretary:	Mr Terry Sutton
Archivist:	Mr Mike Sartin
	Mr 'Budge' Adams
	Mr Adrian Gelley
	Mr Mike McFarnell
	Mrs Margaret Robson
	Capt. Mike Weston

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Awards were presented to LAWRENCE GAGE and (in absentia) to KEITH WRAIGHT for services to the Planning Committee.

After the interval for refreshment the meeting was addressed by Mr Keith Parfitt on "The Townwall Street Dig".