

The Dover Society

Minutes of the 167th meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 12th June 2003 in the Parish Room of St Paul's Church Dover.

- 1) Present; Mr & Mrs Cope; Mrs Gordon; Dr Hale; Mr Leach; Mrs Liggett Mr McFarnell; Mr Naylor; Mr Sutton (chmn); Capt. Weston; Mr Woolford.
- 2) Apologies: Mrs Lilley.
- 3) Minutes.

The minutes of the 166th meeting which had been circulated were agreed after minor amendment.
- 4) Matters arising.

Mr Woolford said that a letter had been sent to Mrs Morris by Mr Leo Wright ref.; 'Twinning.'
- 5) Chairman
 - a) Mr Sutton said that he had received an invitation from the President Brig. Atherton for the E/C to attend for drinks at Digges Place on Sunday 6th July. Eight members said that they would attend.
 - b) A letter had been sent to the DTC asking that consideration be given to the idea that the mayor make an appeal to the citizens for funds to boost the £10,000 allocated for the Christmas lights. To date there has been no response but Mr Sutton pointed out that there had been an election and changes to the Committees.
 - c) Another possible project. The DTC's new cabinet has decided to put the management of Dover Town Hall into private hands. An idea floated is that voluntary organisations might care to conduct tours of the Maison Dieu for visitors. Is the Dover Society interested?.
 - d) Finally Messrs Sutton and Woolford attended DHB's annual consultative meeting where there was an interesting idea that a toll be imposed on vehicles entering the Docks with the proceeds going to support the infrastructure and amenities of Dover. Watch this space.
- 6) Secretary:

Mr Naylor said that a letter had been received from Dover Rotary Club in connection with the Hospital Fete after discussion it was agreed that although we would not be running a stall a fund raising effort would be made at one of the outings.
He also announced that a copy of the Ramsgate Society's quarterly Newsletter had been received and was available. Mr Leach asked to see.
- 7) Treasurer:

Capt. Weston distributed the monthly financial statement and drew attention to:-

 - a) £204 had been collected in subs. £12 had been refunded to those members who through bank error had their direct debit drawn from their accounts twice.
 - b) Two donations of £1 and £16.66 plus a grant of £100 from the DTC has settled the sum out standing for the bike presented to the Pianist at the recent concert.
 - c) Our sub of £5 has been paid to the Western Heights Preservation Society.
 - d) The final account for the AGM shows a profit of £8.65
 - e) All members who booked for the aborted trip to Hever Castle have had their money refunded £126 in total.
- 8) Membership Secretary:

Mrs Cope said that there were four new members:- Mr John Eyers: M/s Mary Job: Park Avenue: Mr Steve Franks, Deal (Newsletter Assist. Editor): Mrs Muriel Mellanby, Waterloo Crescent. This brought the total number of members to 432 But there may be a fall out as not all existing members have paid their subs.

9) Projects:

Mrs Gordon said that the recording of details of the graves at Cowgate was continuing. She also reported that there had been changes in the Admin. at the Unitarian Chapel a possible result could be that the building would go into a Trust. There was a discussion on the arrangements for the Heritage Day in September and the possibility of the Cowgate being included in a walking tour.

Mr Martyn Webster would be carrying out his tour of Cemeteries on 5 July. Money, £500, was to be provided by the Countryside Commission for the erection of a vandleproof notice setting out the history of the cemetery but it was considered that a further sum of £500 would be required. It was agreed that the sum of £100 be donated by the Society.

River Watch:- Mr Cope reported that Mr Paul Bolas an expert on river life would produce a survey covering all aspects of the river Dour. He went on to propose that the District Council should set up a steering committee of all interested parties with the intention of reaching planned targets for the river. After a long discussion it was agreed that Mr Cope should encourage the setting up of such a committee.

He completed his report by proposing that a letter be sent to Mr James Summerfield thanking him for his services and wishing him well in his retirement. Agreed.

10) Planning & Local Govt.

Mr Woolford distributed the minutes of the 72nd meeting of the planning committee. He reported that the AGM of the Kent Local Amenity Societies held in Faversham had been a huge success. He reported at length about the meeting of the DTC with its new members and their lack of knowledge of the existing protocol.

After some discussion it was proposed that Mr Woolford should represent the Society on the Christmas Lights S/C. Agreed.

11) Social Secretary.

Mrs Liggett reported that the trip to Hever Castle had been cancelled for lack of support. The Pocohantas outing was still on but with changes to the original arrangements and could possibly result in a loss. More takers were required for the St Peter's village trip and the trip to France was still open for bookings. The Christmas feast would be on 13 December and the entertainment would be provided by Nicholas Harby and M/s Luckhurst. It was confirmed that a piano would be available.

12) Editor.

In the absence of Mrs Lilley, Mrs Liggett said that the order for the reprint of Collected Memories of the Century had been placed. After some discussion it was agreed that the Binders for the Newsletter would be Red with Gold Letters.

B. Adams Papers

Mr Leach said there was little to report on this front except that the number of slides have now passed the 1,000 mark.

13) Web Site

Mr McFarnell reported that there was a significant number of 'hits' being made and that he would like the E-Mail addresses of the E/C members for display on the Site.

14) A.O.B.

Two points raised at the AGM as suggestions were discussed and the Secretary was asked to write to the member about parking in Conaught park and moving the Band Stand from Pencester Gardens to the sea front.

There was a discussion about publicising the Western Heights by opening up some of the attractions eg the Grand Shaft Mr Leach to write.

The Dover library is advertised for sale by KCC it was considered that morally it was the property of the people of Dover and a campaign should be initiated to stop the sale.

Finally it was reported that there was the possibility of a repeat concert in September no details yet.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.55