PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST DOVER SOCIETY AWARDS

United Reformed Church, 4th October 1988

The first Award presentation meeting held by the Dover Society was undoubtedly a great success. Up to a hundred people attended under the chairmanship of John Gerrard. He began by introducing the Society's President, the Right. Hon. the Countess of Guilford, who then presented a framed Award to Mr Stuart Carver, General Manager of Buckland Paper Mill, in recognition of the restoration of the exterior of the mill and of the Clock Tower. Mr Carver expressed his own personal thanks and the thanks of Wiggins Teape at the Society's recognition of their efforts to maintain and improve the appearance of Buckland Mill. Mr Stuart, accompanying Mr Carver, then showed a video-tape which had been made to record the celebrations, which had marked the 100th anniversary of the taking-over of the mill by Wiggins Teape, following the fire of 1887 which had brought paper-making to a standstill. Wiggins Teape had produced the now famous "Conqueror" brand of high-grade paper, originally by the traditional hand process. Nowadays the highly mechanised and computerised machinery produces paper of a higher quality than before - and still employs over 300 workers!

Then followed the presentation of the Award Certificate to the Kent County Council Planning Authority in recognition of the new Magistrates' Court on Pencester Road. The Countess of Guilford presented the Award to Mr Peter Sharman, the architect, who designed the building. Mr Sharman said that he and his planning colleagues were delighted with the Award and pleased that those whose work brought them into contact with the building seemed very satisfied with their environment. Projecting transparencies, he explained how he had overcome the problems of access for both public and defendants, of screening the courtrooms from outside traffic noise, and of ventilation.

After the interval, during which the Social Secretary's wine bar offered very welcome refreshment, the meeting continued with an illustrated talk by Mr Tony Wimble. This was a most informative lecture on "New Buildings in Historic Towns", showing how the old and the new can be reconciled. Mr Wimble also showed instances in Kent where the mingling of old and new has not been altogether a happy arrangement. Mr Wimble pointed out the problems of "façade building", of new uses for old buildings, and how modern buildings, that is buildings using modern construction materials and techniques, can be slotted into vacancies among older, often historic, buildings.

Peter Johnson concluded the evening with votes of thanks to the President, the guests for their illustrative contributions to the evening and to Mr Wimble. He also thanked Philomena Kennedy for her excellent Award certificates - on "Conqueror" paper (!) - which had been beautifully framed and handed to the organisations concerned. Finally he thanked Linda Clackett for providing refreshments, Adrian Galley for his display of photos of architecture in the locality and the Secretary and Treasurer for the arrangements with the Church Hall.

Ken Berry (Committee member)

WIGGINS TEAPE