



## AWARDS 1990

### SUMMARY

The Dover Society's Awards were presented to:

A. R. ADAMS & SONS, (PRINTERS) LTD. of Dour Street, Dover for the RENOVATION OF THEIR NEW PREMISES with sensitive awareness of their surroundings.

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL for the HISTORIC DOVER TOWN TRAIL display boards.

KINGSLEY SHIPPING LTD., Customs Clearance Agents, Dolphin Passage, Dover for the RESTORATION OF THE OLD BREWERY<sup>1</sup> as their premises.

A Letter of Commendation was sent to:

MR A. C. CAWSEY for the RESTORATIONS AND RENOVATIONS he is making to THE OLD FLOUR MILL, 113 LONDON ROAD, DOVER (formerly known as Mannering's Mill) and for the care of his stretch of the River Dour.

The selection Committee commented with approval on the re-painting and/or restoration of several upper façades on the south-west side of Biggin Street, between Worthington Street and New Street, and the upper façade of 24 Cannon Street — above the Abbey National Building Society — and the attractive colour-scheme of the premises of A. A. Traylor & Co, Builders, in Russell Street.

In addition to the above the following were nominated and also considered:

The premises of Etam, 38 Biggin Street, Dover.

Temple Ewell Nursing Home, Wellington Road, Temple Ewell, Dover.

The Adams premises



Dour Street

<sup>1</sup> In the early 1950's the building now known as 'The Old Brewery' was Alfred Leney & Co's tied house maintenance department and earlier still it was a fodder store. The site of the Phoenix Brewery is now occupied by the multi-storey car park. ED

## AWARDS AND REMINISCENCES

### The Dover Society Awards Meeting.

Monday, 15th October, 1990



The Historic Dover Town Hall Trail Boards

The meeting was opened by our Chairman, Jack Woolford, who introduced Sir Clifford and Lady Mary Jarrett to the audience,

Leo Wright gave a short talk, summarised below, about the subjects put forward for awards. The M F I Building was shown as an example of what we do *not* want.

Councillor Whisker thanked the Dover Society on behalf of the Council and especially praised the officers directly responsible for the research into and production of the panels. She went on to say that much of Dover's Heritage remains hidden and when come upon by accident there was no explanation. Thus the easy-to-follow trail around the Town for Dorvians and visitors alike. The working party was set up two years ago made up of members of the Museum, Planning and Tourist Departments. Schemes in other towns were studied but found wanting and a special high quality design was devised to suit Dover... stove enamelled cast aluminium plate... vandal resistant; this was manufactured in Gillingham. The plastic insert panel was designed in-house and produced by a Dover signmaker. The text was written by Museum staff and checked by local historians Ivan Green and Joe Harman, and by members of the Committee of The Dover Society.

The panels went into production in March 1989 and were erected and launched in April this year. The second trail scheme was for the Western Heights and similar projects are under way for Deal and Sandwich; later the villages will be featured. Cllr. Whisker ended by thanking the Society on behalf of the Council.

Mr Paul Moxon received an award for the refurbishment of the 'Old Brewery' in Dolphin Lane by Kingsley Shipping. It was designed to be in keeping with historic Dover and instead of a shop-front only noticed in passing, there is an inn-sign, "The Old Brewery", visible from each end of the street, so realistic that people have called in for a pint. I must confess that I thought I had discovered a new pub within walking distance..

Mr Moxon's enthusiasm burst through as he explained the restoration at breakneck speed with not a word of reference.

The order in which these awards were presented was of no consequence as they were all of equal merit so, last but not least, came Mr A. F. (Budge) Adams to give a talk on the printing firm started by his father.

50 Mr Adams admitted to being a trifle embarrassed at receiving an Award from a society of which he was a Vice-President but he went on to give an entertaining discourse. He said "I was brought up to accept that I would have responsibilities for the people who worked for us and their dependents, and to the community in which I would live and I am happy to say that my son also accepts these principles".

The business was started in 1888 in Priory Street but in 1903 when in Ladywell it was subject to a compulsory purchase order for the purpose of road widening. £30 did not seem a fair offer and after it had been contested the offer was upped to £50. Budge still has the solicitor's bill, for £12 !!

A. R. Adams (1) entered on a 21 year lease of 37 Castle Street and later bought it. He died in 1928 when Budge was eighteen and with little experience: the result for the business was almost disastrous. Then came the Second World War, with, for Budge, six years service in the R.A.F. and again the firm barely survived. 37 Castle Street remained in use until 1979 when there was a move into the firm's store in Russell Street, next to the Castle Inn. Five years later a final move (so it was thought) was to Southern Television's studio, also in Russell Street. But then the Dover District Council wanted to build a multi-storied car park: this required the demolition of the firm's premises and the Council offered as a replacement a site in Dour Street. This building had possibilities and 'Adams and Son' - the "son" being A.R.A.(2) - saw Dour Street as the home of a 'distinct community' that took pride in itself but was unhappy about the empty offices now fast becoming derelict. Father and son talked interminably and drew sketches on whatever came to hand. They agreed to follow the Street's basic character and at the same time turn the building into a suitable place to house a "viable, prestigious, financial proposition". Budge gave credi to the architect, the builder and all the sub-contractors and finally to his son for the great part he played in the plan's development, and who is, fortunately, over eighteen.

After refreshments it was time for the guest speaker, Sir Clifford Jarrett and his reminiscences, 'A Dovorian remembers'.

Firstly he thanked Mrs Berry for being hostess to him and Lady Mary and said how proud he was to be a Vice-President of The Dover Society. "Dover is backward in putting itself forward". He thought that the community should be more conscious of its merits.

Sir Clifford's father had a photographer's shop next door to what is now Charlton Centre. His father was called up in 1917 and his mother carried on the business until a bomb fell in the garden and the house was rendered unsafe. The 'refugees' went to Canterbury and the family had to split up; the young Clifford went to his grandparents at the 'Jolly Sailor'; this he enjoyed. Alas, he could not go to school as his mother did not pay rates to Canterbury. He did attend school, eventually, where the headmaster stomped around always carrying a cane; this does not seem to have harmed Sir Clifford. He did not mention whether it was used on him.

When the war ended, father Jarrett returned to photography and the shop was repaired. The school attended was St. Mary's, Queen Street. This was a good school; the headmaster was Mr John Wicks and Mr "Archie" Welden, in charge of Form 6, was an exemplary teacher. The next school was the Dover County School for Boys in Frith Road, (The building now houses, horror of horrors . . . girls). At the County School the masters mentioned by name were 'Spud' Slater, a born teacher of English and History, Tom Watt who taught French with an especial interest in French Literature; thirdly, there was the Headmaster, Mr Freddie Whitehouse, who taught Scripture with dramatic interpretations. Sir Clifford won a State Scholarship to Cambridge in 1928 and was there until 1932. With him were eight Old Pharosians. Freddie Whitehouse was invited to dinner at Cambridge by his ex-pupils and when he died, among his effects was found the signed menu.

A Home Office post was the first employment for the triple first graduate; his task was examining petitions from H.M. Prisons. Fortunately he was shortly transferred to the Admiralty; much more congenial. The story of Winston's lampshade caused much laughter. It seems that Mr Churchill had a special lampshade when he was First Lord 1911-13; it was hideous to all but him and when he returned to the Admiralty in 1939 he asked for it back and, what is more, got it. Mr Churchill became Prime Minister and 'that monstrosity' was unceremoniously thrown out. After the war, "Where's my lampshade", said Mr Churchill. With great presence of mind came the reply, "Remember that bomb". "Just as I would have wished—lost by enemy action".

In 1964 Sir Clifford went to the DHSS, a good department but dull and he retired. He had ten years of part-time employment including tobacco research, the Maritime Museum and lastly Chairman of Dover Harbour Board. The Chunnel Cloud loomed but Harold Wilson said "NO" and the danger receded, only to be resurrected in the eighties but without public money being made available.

There were questions from the floor "Why did the Admiralty remain in Bath after the war?" "Because they liked it".

Then a question on the possibility of selling off Dover Harbour Board . . . . not a popular move.

Jack Woolford thanked Sir Clifford for his address and presented Lady Mary with a bouquet.

During the interval there had been a collection for the Louseyberry Wood tree planting and £67 was collected.

It had been a highly successful evening.

SYBIL STANDING

## THE AWARDS - 1990

The awards made annually by the Dover Society are based on the first two objectives of the Society:

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest the public in . . . the architecture of the area.

In traditionally English fashion, the judging is carried out by a lay jury, greatly helped in our case by the trained eye and taste of Philomena Kennedy.

We visit and judge all recent developments which have been nominated by members or members of the public. We also looked at what is *not* welcome; for example the M.F.I. building aggressively beside the pleasant remaining houses of St. James's Street.

**52** The first decision which faced us this year concerned the several projects of the Dover District Council. In one way we were spoilt for choice but, also, to compare the achievements and resources of the Council with those of private individuals is not to compare like with like. We therefore admired the renewal of the Town Hall, the improvements in Pencester Gardens, the face-lift in Castle Street (while retaining doubts about the angled pavements, the number of bollards and the nostalgic lamp-posts) but decided to make an award to the HISTORIC TOWN TRAIL NOTICE BOARDS, because these are a visible link with the Council's decision to foster tourism, as well as being agreeable in themselves and appreciated by visitors.

Another award was made to the OLD BREWERY in Dolphin Lane, the restoration of an attractive stone building, so much richer than what might have replaced it. Our only reservation concerned the olde-world bottle glass windows.

The third award — they are not in any order — was made to ADAMS THE PRINTERS' complete refurbishment of the old Townsend building in Dour Street. With some doubts about the shade of green, we praised the choice of colours whereby the building sympathises with the rows of small houses. We praised the ingenious breaking up of the facade with gables and verandah (with doubts about some windows at the back), the superb wrought-iron gates by the local firm of Danson, and the dedication of the river frontage to a future riverside walk.

Of other nominated sites: Alan Traylor had certainly done well in persuading his neighbours to join in a colour-scheme which produces a harmonious street group.

Alan Cawsey deserves great praise for his progress in restoring Mannering's Mill, and the reach of the River Dour, from the Mill to the 'Old Endeavour', is a model of ecological conservation. Of shops: we welcomed the refurbishment of the upper storeys of various premises on both sides of the pedestrian precinct. At ETAM, despite the bogus gables, the excessively high fascia and the erratically divided frontage, we recognised that it was an improvement on what went before — the old Tesco building.

The New NURSING HOME AT TEMPLE EWELL had also been nominated. We were bound to praise the very ingenious use of an almost impossibly difficult site. The architect had also to contend with adding extensions to a Victorian villa. The pastiche Victorian extension with its patio goes quite well. The brick extension is happily low-rise and inoffensive. The linking courtyard is so varied in texture as to be restless.

In conclusion, we thought that, in the nature of things, there were not and cannot be any marvels of architecture but there is enough innovation and refurbishment going on to justify optimism for the future.

LEO WRIGHT