

MEMBERS' MEETING

On 19th November over 50 members of the Dover Society gathered for the third annual members' meeting, a brief survey of past achievements and suggestions for the future.

Our Chairman, Mr Jack Woolford, welcomed all new members, in particular Mr Bill Breeze, who had been the Treasurer of our predecessor, the New Dover Group; he then shewed us a few of his beautiful slides of new and improved buildings in the town, and we enjoyed again Adams' new printing works in Dour Street, and the Phoenix Brewery revitalised by Kingsley Shipping Ltd.

Following this, we heard reports from Adrian Galley, our Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee, John Owen, Chairman of the Projects Committee and Leo Wright, who reported on 'Music and Sewage'!

PLANNING.

Adrian emphasised that we must lead local opinion; with the land pressures of the E.E.C. for developments in our town and villages we must be in the forefront with good decisions, and make a strong stand for their implementation, taking care that the statements made are adhered to. His review included:

INDUSTRIAL ZONING.

TOURISM — (visitor zone centred on the Market Square and including Castle Street and King Street).

DESIGN — aiming for the best quality architecture - Leo's being an improve[^]-ment on B and Q! -

HOUSING — no more on fresh green land, a growth in town in-filling.

SHOPPING — Frontages in main areas should be retail outlets, not Building Societies, etc., open space and recreation areas must be safeguarded, and playground facilities for young children.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS — sewage and waste water disposal.

PROJECTS

John, of the Projects Committee, stated their aim to identify needs, and follow up with action, practical or persuasive. He reviewed past successes: the OPERATION TIDY 90, which had a good press review; the survey of the WESTERN HEIGHTS, which was helpful in the subsequent management plan, and the survey of the RIVER between Castle Street and Ladywell. The committee presses the general question of the River Dour, but efforts are limited in terms of proper river management; however we press on now with the practical actions which are within our abilities, our finances, and our manpower. The committee tries to be self-financing, and thanked members for £67 collected towards tree-planting at the previous meeting. The immediate project is the tree planting at LOUSEYBERRY WOOD, Temple Ewell; steady planting on private land, with the goodwill of the owner. The clearing

78 and planting has been done by our volunteers, who have been backed admirably by the children of Temple Ewell School. It is hoped to complete the planting in the next three weekends before the frost sets in. There have been various setbacks, but the happy band continues with quiet persistence, pursuing meanwhile any grants or sponsorship available. Future ideas included the possibility of using an empty shop window to launch the 1991 initiative.

MUSIC AND SEWAGE

Leo reminded us of the PRIMAVERA Concert and has booked 20th April 1991 for another musical event. We are again discussing financial assistance from Eurotunnel who were put off by adverse local publicity after this year's concert.

He then reviewed the less pleasant problem of SEWAGE DISPOSAL, noting the unpleasant state of Shakespeare Beach. Our Chairman chaired a public meeting in Deal on this important subject, there was one in Folkestone on 3rd December, and we are arranging one here on 4th February, 1991 to put pressure on Southern Water. Councillor Williams told us that it was hoped eventually to have a treatment works locally, meanwhile the sewage disposal pipes may be lengthened. Dover and Folkestone are likely to share a sewage disposal or treatment plant.

Anxiety was expressed about the transport of NUCLEAR WASTE through the port. We were told that the District Council has no power to prevent this, but can vet with the possibility of injury to public health. Later in the evening John Gerrard gave us a spirited account of the meticulous care taken by Dover Harbour Board on this problem, of their liaison with the Fire Brigade and the Police, and the difference between Barrow-in-Furness and Dover.

After this we enjoyed much-needed refreshment and chat, and finally spent some time mulling over various points and raising others.

Mrs Palmer pointed out the LOSS OF STREET SIGNS, particularly on the remains of ancient lanes such as Dolphin Lane and Dieu Stone Lane. Mrs Berry commented on the Catch 22 situation — could we REVIVE THE SHOPS in King Street and Cannon Street before the Heritage Centre opened, or do we rely on the first visitors to force a revival?

Mr Gerrard commented on Eurotunnel's lack of consideration — a cooling tower 40 feet higher than necessary, various engineering faults, and a high ambient noise level.

The necessity for a local CAMPSITE was discussed and the possibility of putting an orchestra in the gallery of the Stone Hall for a concert. Miss Kennedy made a strong attack on the 95p charge for adults, 50p for children, suggested for entry to the new MUSEUM; Councillor Williams defended this, citing the amount visitors would add to the local coffers, thus reducing the Community Charge, but Mrs Palmer pointed that she would not be able to 'pop in' regularly with her children, a privilege thus being denied to our next generation. Philomena Kennedy also asked if Dover would be cut off from its seafront by THE NEW A20. Councillor Williams replied that there would be an underpass at Bench Street and John Gerrard said that he thought there would be a crossing at East Cliff.

Finally Mr Munt offered warm congratulations on the most attractive format, appearance, and content of the NEWSLETTER, and this comment was warmly endorsed by all present.

LILLIAN KAY