

126 The photo copier and fax machine are also in this office, as are the coffee machine and stationery cupboard. Sometimes there seems to be a hundred people in our room. Visitors waiting in the Reception area of the office to see the Centre Manager often look quite bemused.

We have a good team at The White Cliffs Experience, the secret of which is that we all respect the value of each other's jobs. We get on well – at work and socially. We're always very busy but do have time to laugh too.

Next time you are visiting the Centre, when you come out of the World War II Street you will pass the office: do pop your head in and say "Hello" Δ

The Society's A.G.M. 1992

Margaret Robson

Before the Chairman officially opened the meeting, a letter was read from our president, the Countess of Guildford, who wrote of her great regard for the Society and its aims, her enjoyment of the Newsletter and her sad regrets that illness all too often intruded into her life, rendering her less active in fulfilling commitments dear to her. The letter was warmly received and it was unanimously agreed that a tribute should be sent to her.

Mr. Jack Woolford then opened the meeting, regretting the absence of Mr. Peter Johnson, due to ill-health. The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the guest speakers, Lord Rees, David Shaw M.P. and John Moir of Dover District Council. He announced, with pleasure, the appointment of three new vice-presidents, Philomena Kennedy, Christine Waterman and Martin Wright. The recent edition of the Newsletter was praised for its content and appearance. Two resignations were noted with regret; of Lin Clackett (fortunately only temporary) and Adrian Galley, who was forced by circumstances to relinquish his post as Chairman of the Planning Committee, a job he had performed with great commitment and diplomacy. Both were thanked for their services on behalf of the Society.

The Chairman reported that, for the second time, the Society had had to call in the Ombudsman over the Ministry of Defence's evasion of planning regulations. On each occasion the Society had sought the help of Dover's M.P., in the first case Lord Rees and in the second, David Shaw: both had responded magnificently.

It had been agreed that John Peverley's address on the Western Heights should be published in booklet form sometime in the future, with a possible launching ceremony at W. H. Smith's with the author present.

John Owen was complimented on his successful projects; the replanting of Lousyberry Wood and the restoration of Lydden Pond, both of which had won awards, from the Civic Trust, British Telecom and Shell BP.

The Chairman expressed the Society's pleasure in presenting Awards in October 1991 to Paul Koralek, Architect of the White Cliffs Experience; to Ivor Heal and the Museum Staff; to Dover District Council for the restoration of two shops in Cannon Street; to

Antony Reed , for the refurbishment of the Old Tram Shelter at Elms Vale and to Mrs. Pauline Gould for the St. Margaret's Bay Museum. In addition there were two special commendations for the two riparian owners of the reach of the River Dour above Mannerings Mill and for the K.C.C. Refuse Transfer Station. He also mentioned (en passant, of course) his meeting with the Princess Royal at the opening of the White Cliffs Experience.

The Chairman then announced that Southern Water are to spend £15 million on cleaning up their beaches and he expressed his pleasure in being able to support Sister Ambrosia's fight to save the river and lake at Kearsney Manor from excessive pumping.

The proposals for the Wellington Dock Marina had met with approval, balancing economic lifelines on the one hand with the enhancement and preservation of a civilised environment on the other.

The social year had been most successful, proving both entertaining and informative, thanks to the inspired work of Lin Clackett. There were three outings to look forward to this summer.

Lastly, the Chairman thanked the Treasurer, Ken Berry and the Secretary, Leo Wright, not only for his secretarial skills but for his organisation of musical events and the trip to Calais in September 1991.

He then introduced the first speaker, Lord Rees, who spoke movingly of his long association with Dover, recalling the declaration of his successful campaign by Ian Gill, from the balcony of Dover Town Hall, when the great responsibility of the task of matching the endeavours of past generations who had represented Dover from the twelfth century onwards first dawned on him.

Whom did he personally remember? George Wyndham, a distinguished Parliamentarian at the turn of the century; Lord Astor, John Arbuthnot, David Ennalls, Rhys Davis of Thanet, a brilliant sportsman who had lost an arm in the war; George Johnson, his first constituency secretary ; Bill Castle of the Conservative Club; Fred Cleary for his projects in St. Margaret's; the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports, her Majesty the Queen Mother and Robert Menzies, the latter of whom always managed to time his visits to coincide with County Cricket Week!

He remembered when the Ferry Service consisted of one boat belonging to Townsend and how he had sat on debates on two Channel Tunnel proposals. He expressed his belief that the more communication that existed between Kent and the continent the better future for all and that the task before us was to preserve the past without prejudicing the future. To find the Dover Society in such good heart filled him with much gladness, for Dover was dear to both him and his wife. If he had in any way contributed to its well-being, he concluded, it would be reward indeed.

After an interval for refreshments, a raffle and recruiting for the Pageant, the Right Honourable David Shaw began his address on a jovial note on the rewards of an MP in heaven being excellent but no-one as yet had claimed them!

He congratulated the Dover Society on its tenacity and success over the Western Heights affair, saving them from any further disfigurement. He looked forward to the publication of the Peverley papers.

128 The Wellington Docks project would, Mr. Shaw believed, bring town and port together. He saw Dover moving away from its long-held defensive role to that of a welcoming one to incomers. Tourism and leisure he rated highly in this transformation. English Heritage were reviewing plans for the refurbishment of the Officer's Quarters in the Castle as a five-star hotel. This was a project he had supported from the beginning and he said it should bring with it 100 jobs.

Speaking of his awareness of his responsibilities as Dover's MP he added slyly that equally he was not unaware of the elevation in office of his predecessors, on which note of humour, he concluded.

Finally, Mr. John Moir, of Dover District Council, spoke of the Council's continuing support of the White Cliffs Countryside Project. The Western Heights continued to be a problem area. Various proposals had been made but times were difficult. Fortunately the attitude to the environment had changed for the better. He said the Harbour Board proposals for the Western Docks were all he had hoped they would be. He had taken his management board up to Shakespeare Cliff so that they could see and understand just what to expect. The A20 problems had demanded difficult decisions and there was an unpleasant year ahead for all.

Car parking was another essential requirement if tourism increased. Superstores, while solving some problems, created others. The demise of Sainsburys could, however serve to bring back the small shop. The Cannon Street Award should set the standard.

He spoke of the East Kent Initiative; the Task Force to tackle unemployment; plans for the transition period when the tunnel opened, which would involve government departments and the private sector; industrial diversification which was regarded as essential. He said that they knew they would not get everything right and expected criticism. He could trust the Dover Society to provide considered and well-balanced opinions. He hoped the Society would continue to grow in numbers for it had a vision of Dover and was participating in bringing that vision to fruition.

After thanking all who had taken part in the evening's business, especially the guest speakers, the Chairman brought the 1992 A.G.M. to a close. Δ

Wines & Spirits

OR, to be more accurate, Wine and Spirit.

— Jean Pearce

WINE making in England and Wales has had quite a chequered history since the grape was first grown on southern slopes by the Romans many years ago. Delightful crisp white wines graced many a table until the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries when wine-making was forbidden. From then until after the '39-'45 war there have been several attempts to begin again, but various setbacks thwarted most of them.

This potted history was imparted to 32 of us by our hostess, Mrs Wilkinson, of St. Nicholas Vineyard at Ash on a sunny day in May.