

The Objectives of the Dover Society

founded in 1988.

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archæology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- And commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All Members receive three News-letters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events - talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

Editorial

March 25th is the date of the March Members' Meeting and, incidentally, the date when *Newsletter 25* is expected to go to print, in time for members to receive their copies by 1st April.

It is impossible, therefore, to include in this issue a report of the meeting and of the talk by John Turgoose of Dover Harbour Board on the new Cruise Terminal in the Western Docks, due to be officially opened in June 1996. For members who do not attend the March Meeting, there will be a full report in the *Newsletter* on 1st August, by which time a large number of the expected 97 cruise ships will already have visited the port.

Meanwhile Vice-Chairman John Gerrard, has written a report for this issue of the *Newsletter* and, because it was the first cruise ship to declare Dover its home port, we have chosen for our cover this time a picture of The Black Prince, of Fred Olsen Lines.

Another reason for using the picture of a cruise ship on the cover is the fact that the opening of the Cruise Liner Terminal is the one piece of good news to report in, it seems, an otherwise rather depressing time for Dover.

Anyone reading Lawrence Gage's Planning Report in this issue will be inclined to echo his pessimism. There is no support for the idea of a "Sports Academy" and Ice Sports Centre at the Old Park Barracks site; no chance of submitting the Society's application for millennium funding for a project on Western Heights, which seemed so promising; no sign of the removal of the hoarding at the York Street roundabout; Burlington house remains an eyesore and the Town Grants Scheme is to be discontinued.

However, since the Planning Report was written, several members of the Dover Society Committee recently attended a meeting with six officers of the Dover District Council, for

an open and frank discussion of several items of concern to us all. The Committee feels that our relationship with Dover District Council was strengthened by this meeting, which was part of our on-going dialogue between the Council and ourselves. Among the subjects discussed were Old Park Barracks, Millennium bids, the St. James' Scheme, Western Docks developments, relocation of the miner's statue, maintenance of the Rolls statue and the future of the Town Centre Management Scheme.

Many members of the Dover Society feel that there is tremendous potential for the future development of Dover and that this should be explored and utilised. It is hoped that many of the inventive ideas and schemes which have been proposed will, eventually, reach fruition.

IMPACT finishes its three year programme in Dover at the end of March this year but the team will be staying on at the Castle Street premises for a further two months, before moving on to Folkestone. We appreciate all the work the team has done in Dover and look forward to Julian Owen's speech to the Society at our Annual General Meeting.

The first two meetings of the Society in 1996, the slide show in January and the Wine and Wisdom evening in February, were very popular and successful. The January meeting is reported at length in the main section of this issue on the theme of Old Dover. Many thanks to all the contributors to this section, especially to Dick Whittamore and Nan Wheeler for their fascinating memories of the war years in Dover.

The summer programme is detailed, as usual, on the inside back cover of the *Newsletter*. An application form for the Chatham Dockyard trip is enclosed with this issue but at the time of going to print all the details of the French trip are not yet available. The trip will cost £20 and if you wish to reserve a place, please telephone

Joan Liggett. Application forms for the London trip will be included in *Newsletter* No. 26, due out on 1st August.

There are several other events, the most notable being the Vardon Organ Recital on 18th May in the chapel at Dover College. Admission is free, and programmes, priced £1.50, will be on sale at the door and available from committee members in advance. Proceeds from the concert go to the East Kent Hospice.

For the tour of Buckland Paper Mill on Wednesday 19th June, maximum number 20, names will be collected at the March meeting. It is anticipated that the demand for places will exceed 20 and if this is so a second tour will be arranged. If you miss the chance of this tour on June 19th and would like to join another tour at a later date, please contact Joan Liggett.

The idea of arranging visits in small parties, which was suggested at last year's Members' Meeting, is being explored and will be tried out this summer with a number of venues. These are mentioned in 'Dover Chat', page 216. No dates have yet been fixed. Members will have an opportunity to discuss this scheme at the March meeting in the session after the interval.

The Dover Festival this year has a theme of Spirit of the Sea. The Festival runs from 25 May to 8 June and includes, as usual, a wide range of activities, talks, exhibitions, concerts and workshops. As in previous years, all contributions in the form of articles or reviews relating to the festival will be welcomed. So if you attend any of the Festival events please write about them for our next issue and send your copy to the editor by the end of June.

Finally, two reminders to members. The Annual General Meeting is on 22nd April, 1996, and the Agenda is included with this *Newsletter*. Annual subscriptions are due in April at the new rate, £6 for single and £10 for joint membership.

Best wishes to all our readers and success to all our summer outings and events.

THE EDITOR