

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, archaeology, 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, Pincham, 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

SEASONAL GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS.

As in previous years, we hope to see about a quarter of our membership at the Christmas Feast at Dover College Refectory on 14th December.

1996 has been another good year for the Society, with even more events and outings than any previous year, as far as I know. This has been due mainly to the addition to the programme of various small party trips, ranging from a visit to the Coast guard Station to a trip by barge on the River Swale. These trips have been for twelve members only. Many thanks to Joan Liggett for all the work and meticulous organisation involved. The venture has been so successful that it is hoped to continue the idea in future years. The Swale Barge Trip, the July trip to France and the September trip to Kew Gardens are all reported in this issue.

After five months of summer outings and trips, the Autumn season started with a flourish for the Society with two events on one day. The 21st October saw the launch of the Dover Society publication "The Hidden Fortress" by John Peverley at 3 p.m. at Dover Museum, followed by the first meeting at St. Mary's Parish Centre at 7.30 p.m. The evening was planned in two halves with two talks, the first speaker to be Kevin Gubbins on Town Centre Management. the second Christine Waterman of Dover Museum on lottery funding, with special reference to the museum's bid for lottery money to house and maintain the Bronze Age Boat in its home town.

Unfortunately plans were changed. Kevin Gubbins was ill. John Peverley (here for the book launch) and Terry Sutton were recruited to do a "double act" of a question and answer session on the chosen subject of Town centre Management, with which they coped admirably. There was time before the interval to give members a brief resume of the findings of the recent Dover Society survey of shops in Dover, which is reported in detail in this *Newsletter*. After the interval Christine Waterman gave her talk on the history of lotteries in general, narrowing to the U.K. and finally to Dover, finishing with a detailed account of the harrowing experience of submitting a lottery application. It is hoped that the Bronze Age Boat will be back at home in Dover in 1997.

The November meeting was a Museum Quiz, with the first half of the evening following the pattern of previous years and the second half consisting of a Trivia Quiz of 100 questions. Prizes to the two winning teams were vouchers for the museum shop.

The survey of shops in the town centre, carried out by six members of the Society, took place in October. The questionnaire was designed by the Editor, who also collated the findings. Since the results have been made public the report has attracted some media attention, being reported in the local press and on Radio Kent. As with any survey, and perhaps with any press report, one must be wary of generalisations or misinterpretation of results. Although the findings were encouraging, those who read closely the details of the report will observe that only 45% of those interviewed were reporting significant benefits to trade or business when the cruise ships are in port. Nevertheless, it was felt that the undertaking was worth while and, it is hoped, will be useful to the Cruise Welcome Committee in future planning.

The main feature of this issue is, once again, concerned with the Cruise Terminal. There are no editorial apologies for returning to the subject, as this must be one of the most important developments for Dover in recent years. This time we have an article by James Overton, Tourism Marketing Manager for Dover District Council, then the findings of the Society survey, an article by one of our members, Dorothy Bolton, who is a Blue Badge Guide, the latest report from the Cruise Welcome Committee and, finally some thoughts of Keith Southey, of Dover Harbour Board. These five items comprise our central feature. I hope that members will find it interesting reading and that it may spark off even more suggestions for enhancing the future of Dover as a cruise stop.

Our advance programme is detailed, as usual, on the back cover of the *Newsletter*. Note the dates of the January talks, the February Wine and Wisdom, hosted by Clive Taylor, and the March Member's Meeting, all held at St. Mary's Parish Centre.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue, whether regular reports, occasional articles or first-time offerings. Particular thanks to Ivan Green for his article on "Dover Bells". It was a welcome addition as we have not had an article from Ivan for some time. Special mention must be made of Budge Adams, our indefatigable page-setter and printer, who agreed to the "Interview with Budge" feature. Budge keeps telling me he is giving up this job, but when the next *Newsletter* comes along he is still doing the same fantastic work. I know he is writing his autobiography and it was this that prompted me to ask for the interview to be included in this issue. I hope that this is Part One and that there will be more to follow.

Wishing all our readers a prosperous New Year.

EDITOR