

The October Members' Meeting — TERRY SUTTON

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A PACKED ST. MARY'S PARISH CENTRE heard at our last meeting how to win the Lottery!

Miss Christine Waterman, curator of Dover Museum, explained to around one hundred members the difficult path it is necessary to take to persuade the National Heritage Lottery Fund to part with some of its millions.

Miss Waterman, in a most amusing way, recalled the history of lotteries (going back to Roman times) and the creation of the British National Lottery. She told of the way the money was shared out between the various funds, including the Heritage Fund.

Miss Waterman has carried out a massive amount of work, on behalf of the Dover Bronze Age Boat Trust, to try to persuade the trustees of the Heritage Fund to contribute more than £1 million towards the cost of restoring and displaying the 3,000 year old boat excavated from under Townwall Street. The result of her plea is expected within a few weeks, she reported.

It was an excellent talk and Miss Waterman left is thinking about what

other local causes could benefit from the Heritage Fund.

Guest speaker in the first half of the programme should have been Dover's new Town Centre Co-ordinator Kevin Gubbins but, at the last moment, he had to cry off through illness. Fortunately John Peverley, the author of *Dover's Hidden Fortress*, was among the audience – and he fell prey to the charms of chairman Jack Woolford.

John was a town planner before his retirement and, as such, was able to explain the rationale and the national overview of town centre management in the face of competition by out-of-town trading centres. He did this admirably.

Putting the local angle on Dover's town centre management was Vice-President Terry Sutton who is a director (representing the Dover Society) of the newly established Dover Town Centre Management Company and chairman of its promotion committee.

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## Membership News — Autumn 1996

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We have 426 members at present – twenty more than a year ago. Since we lose about twenty-five members a year we work hard just to stand still and our current number represents an encouraging increase. Thanks to those who have introduced recruits.

I try to ensure that people who join part-way through our membership year are not disadvantaged and provide past *Newsletters* or 'extend' their first year to compensate. We are conscious that young people may be too preoccupied with career and family to pursue an active rôle. Nevertheless, with an eye to the future we greatly value their membership.

We happily welcome: Dr & Mrs Woolhouse, Mr & Mrs E. Court, Mr & Mrs D. Gealer and Mr & Mrs C. Roberts.

SHEILA R. COPE