

⁶ The Official Launch of "Dover's Hidden Fortress"

----- TERRY SUTTON -----

CIVIC LEADERS WERE OUT IN FORCE for the official launch, at Dover Museum in October, of John Peverley's book, *Dover's Hidden Fortress*, a Dover Society publication now on sale at bookshops for £3.95. By the end of the month more than one hundred copies had been sold.

The Launch, hosted by the Dover Society, was the occasion for the presentation of author-signed copies to representatives of various organisations and to sponsors whose financial help made publication possible.

Making the presentations was Brigadier David Godsall, Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, who revealed he was also sending a copy to the Queen Mother, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle. The Brigadier explained that the Queen Mother was very interested in the rich historical heritage of the Dover area.

The Deputy Constable, the 206th to hold that post, recalled the "constitutional vandalism" to which the Western Heights had been subjected but he hoped the book would help to educate all about Dover's history in a new era of appreciation of the environment.

Presiding at the launch ceremony was our chairman, Jack Woolford, who welcomed guests and made special mention of Dover and Deal MP David Shaw. Jack revealed that it was Mr Shaw who first suggested that a talk given by John Peverley, to the Dover Society, about the Western Heights should be the subject of a book. And it was Mr Shaw who had been the first to offer sponsorship, said our chairman.

Councillor Percy Wilson, Chairman of Dover District Council, on receiving his copy said it was a superb history of one of Dover's many assets.

Dover's Mayor, Councillor Lyn Young, said the book would be of considerable help in answering the many questions she

was asked, as mayor, about the history of Dover. Visitors to the Town Hall from all over the world were interested in the fortifications on the Heights.

The author John Peverley, thanking the Society for its members' interest, suggested the establishment of a trust, backed by volunteers, to restore the Western Heights to the original standards so that the area became a great tourist attraction. Hew hoped the book would go some way to secure funds to help in the restoration.

Mr David Shaw put forward the idea that the book should be publicized through information technology and reported that he is already sending out highlights of Dover's history through the Internet, adding he would be including some of the information contained in *Dover's Hidden Fortress*.

Signed copies of the book were presented to: the Chairman of Dover District Council, Dover's Mayor, representatives of the Tourism Department of the District Council, Julian Owen (IMPACT and Kent County Council), Brian Sutton and Keith Stewkesbury from the Young Offenders Institution on the Heights, and to sponsors David Shaw MP, Dover Harbour Board (John Gerrard), Eurotunnel Services (Michele Fox), George Hammond Shipping (David Ryeland), National Westminster Bank (Barry Holden), Pfizer Ltd (Ann Denby), to authors John Peverley and Kirk Alexander (who added details of the nature reserve at the Heights), to society Vice-Presidents including Lady Mary Jarrett and to Brigadier Godsall himself.