

- 8 significantly to the economic value of the developments whilst at the same time pleasing the eye. We do, of course, look out for things to praise and for example have recently written in support of the elegant replacement of railings proposed at No. 3 Castle Street, Dover.

BURLINGTON HOUSE

This dreadful eyesore has been the subject of yet another recent planning application to convert it from offices into flats. It is difficult to imagine that anyone would want to pay good money to live in such a dreadful place, however changed. We continue to oppose any development of this block and look forward to its eventual conversion into hard-core!

SECURITY SHUTTERS

If used extensively at night these can have the effect of making a town centre seem characterless and unfriendly.

Visitors are likely to draw the conclusion that it is a lawless place and as such to be avoided. Sadly, however, the inescapable fact is that windows are regularly broken at night and shopkeepers feel threatened. Whilst the installation of CCTV has had a major and beneficial effect on shop security this problem seems set to continue and if any members have ideas of resolving this problem satisfactorily we would be pleased to hear from them.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

The sub-committee members are only too painfully aware that in the main they are a bunch of amateurs who wish to deal positively and constructively with planning applications. For this reason the sub-committee needs all the professional help it can get. If there are any suitable qualified members out there who would like to offer their services we should be delighted to hear from them.

St. Martin's Emmaus at Archcliffe Fort

THE ST. MARTIN'S EMMAUS CENTRE at Archcliffe Fort, Dover continues to grow – with the support of the Dover Society. The trustees of St. Martin's Emmaus report fund-raising is more than half-way towards the revised target of £400,000. Revised – downwards – as a result of Bernard Edwards of Reeves and Neylan persuading the tax collector that £50,000 in VAT should not have been paid.

Trustees' chairman, chartered accountant Francis Watts, says they have received or been promised a total of £213,000, leaving £187,000 still to be raised.

In September four new rooms in the small accommodation block were handed over by the builders, so the centre is now able to accommodate six resident "Companions" and there's also a small room kept for those who just turn up but are not able to be provided with a permanent home.

Contracts are being placed for the repair of the roof and outside walls of the main block – the biggest single commitment of about £67,000 – where it is planned to bring on stream three or four rooms at a time. Eventually the trustees expect to accommodate twenty-five Companions.

The shop at Archcliffe Fort is now selling items that the Companions have collected and repaired. Items are still required for the shop and many members of the Dover Society have supported the centre with gifts of unwanted items that can be sold to make the centre self-supporting.

The community at Archcliffe can be contacted with offers of help or unwanted items, on Dover 204550 where the co-ordinator Kendall Beasley will arrange collection.

TERRY SUTTON

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