

# THE TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 17th 2000

REPORTED BY LESLEY GORDON

Chairman Jeremy Cope was delighted to welcome our President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton, his wife, Wendy, and three vice presidents, to the twelfth annual general meeting, in St Mary's Parish Centre.

As is the custom, members stood in silence, in memory of those who had died during the year including Philomena Kennedy, a founder member of the society.

A slightly smaller audience than the previous year heard the Chairman report on what had been a very busy year for the society and town, with the opening of The Bronze Age Boat gallery at the museum and the Millennium celebrations.

A plaque in memory of Philomena Kennedy would be installed in St. Mary's Churchyard, once details had been agreed with the vicar and other schemes - of which, more later - were well under way.

Membership had been maintained, and now stood at 407. He owed thanks to the committee and sub-committee members for all their hard work. Two long standing committee members were retiring: Sybil Standing, active since the formation of the society, and John Owen, the current projects manager, both responsible for formidable work. He was grateful to Maurice Atherton for practical, not just figurehead, support and to the other committee members, who, between them, produced the magazine, and organised events of tangible benefit to members. There had been no French guests at the 1999 Christmas Feast, but an outing was being arranged this year. Speakers had been booked for the coming year by Jack Woolford - a big undertaking.

The society's big project had been the Millennium plaques. Four were now in place with more to come. A Heritage flagstone had been subscribed to by the committee members for a place in the special pathway to surround the new bandstand in Pencester Gardens. He invited members to make donations towards a second flagstone. The town, he said, suffered from a lack of money. He cited the problem of the Bench Street underpass closure, where the eventual demolition of a dangerous building had left an ugly eyesore.

Dover District Council needed better resources and powers to improve the town. KCC no longer intended replacing street trees, and the District Council were asking Town and Parish Councils to help with funding. He asked members of the society to speak with committee members on any other matters of concern. The Society needed to know.

Mike Weston, treasurer, presented copies of end of year accounts. At last, the millennium project was under way, with four plaques installed, and paid for. This had resulted in last year's £611 surplus becoming a deficit of £184. Donations of £80 had been forthcoming, leaving a net cost of £678. However, grants had been promised by the local authorities, which would restore a surplus. Six further plaques would be provided, funded in the same way.

Continuing, he noted that social events had all contributed to the society's funds, as had meetings, to a lesser extent. He was grateful to the arrangers and supporters of both. The Newsletter, at about £800 three times a year, now outstripped membership income, and new advertisers and sponsors were being sought. Pfizer had sponsored half the cost of the December issue, with adverts bringing in £544. It was fortunate that costs could be kept to a minimum by the use of volunteers for delivery.

Donations had been made to Crabble Corn Mill and to Dover College, from the quiz and Christmas Feast. The Millennium essay competition for schools had been funded from the publication fund. He thanked donors of raffle prizes and supporters of functions - all were necessary for the society to survive. The Finance report, and Accounts were approved by the meeting and the treasurer was thanked for his hard work, by the chairman.

The Society's editor, Merril Lilley, paid tribute to readers, distributors, advertisers, and most of all, the writers, for assisting with the Newsletters. The level of advertising had been difficult to maintain, and new contributors of articles were always very welcome, especially when submitted well in

advance of deadlines. She made a special plea for new advertisers and sponsors, as three had been lost for the coming year.

The schools essay competition (see newsletters 36 & 37), had been won by Dover Grammar School For Girls, where she, the Chairman and Maurice Atherton had been most warmly welcomed. She drew attention to the publication, sometime this year, of "A Centenary Of Dover Memories". The articles for the book had been gleaned from past newsletters, but if other members wished to contribute they could still do so.

Joan Liggett, Social Secretary, reminded members that details of this year's events were to be found in the current edition of the newsletter, although the Hovercraft trip, to the Goodwin Sands, had had to be cancelled, due to the company's operational requirements. She thanked all her helpers and supporters of social events, and sought ideas for future events - a trip on the paddle steamer Waverley, perhaps?

John Owen, Projects Manager, was able to report a very successful hospitality tent at the Dover Pageant, where a number of members had paraded, in costume, in the Pageant itself. He had greatly valued the support he had received from his sub-committee, but now, after eleven years, was stepping down. He felt sure those participating, over the years, in litter collecting, signposting, tree planting, dredging ponds etc., had greatly benefited the community.

A lighter look than usual at the Planning sub-committee's activities was taken by its chairman, Jack Woolford, who had turned his report into an alphabetical poem (although the Chairman had forbidden a musical setting!) His verse covered, amongst other things, The Buckland Village Project, Godwyn Path, St. James' Project, Buckland Mill, and the proposed Watersports Centre, ending with the Zebrugge Bell.

A more detailed report on the Millennium Plaques Project, was given by Terry Sutton. Jeremy and Sheila Cope had proved hard working leaders of the 'Plaques' sub-committee, so that four were now in place, at Taswell Street (first aerial bomb), Lloyds/TSB, in Castle Street (last shell), Bench Street underpass (Bronze Age Boat), and Market Square, flank wall of Barclay's Bank (Instruments of Punishment). Others yet to come include, Camden Crescent (Charles Dickens) and Tower Hamlets/High St. crossroads (Site of Gallows!). There would be a further six in all. He repeated the Society's thanks to all those supporting the project, by grants and donations.

At this point, the President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton made a presentation to the two retiring committee members, remarking that societies such as ours do not run on thin air, and expressing regret, but grateful thanks to two outstanding members of the Society. He presented each with a framed picture of a sea front scene, as a memento, from the Society.

The election of the committee passed, without dissent, as follows;

### OFFICERS.

Chairman	Mr. Jeremy Cope
Vice-Chairman	Mr. Derek Leach
Vice-chairman and Press Secretary	Mr. Terry Sutton
Secretary	Mr. Leo Wright
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS.</b>	
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Sheila Cope
Editor	Mrs. Merril Lilley
Social Secretary	Mrs. Joan Liggett
Chairman Planning Committee	Mr. Jack Woolford
Archivist	Mr. 'Budge' Adams

together with Mr. M. McFarnell, Mrs. L. Gordon, Mr. H. Gordon,  
Dr. Glyn Hale and two new members, Mr. B. Late, and Mrs A. Wood.  
It was also agreed that Mr. M Bayley would serve on the planning committee.