

8 PLAQUE UPDATE

by Sheila Cope

THE END IS NEARLY IN SIGHT for our Millennium project. The plaque marking the site of public execution has yet to be installed. With agreement of Dover Town Council and the District Council we anticipate that this will be incorporated into a small public area planned for the junction of Bridge Street and London Road. The improvement will be part of the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) and should brighten up a drab corner.

We are grateful to our two local councils who have assisted the Society with practical and financial help and also to Dover Harbour Board, LloydsTSB and an anonymous donor. We have many other groups to thank for their cooperation including all the property owners and in many cases their staff who went out of their way to overcome bureaucracy. Leander Architectural of Buxton who manufactured the plaques and Durrants (builders) of Alfred Road, Dover, who installed them have been very helpful as have Spain Bros. of Russell Street who accepted delivery.

Zeebrugge Bell Plaque

In Newsletter 33 (December '98) there were articles about the origin of the Zeebrugge Bell and its situation on the Town Hall balcony. Our member David Atwood a Dovorian, suggested that the bell should be transferred to a more appropriate and visible situation. The committee felt that although the bell should remain where it is, we should investigate a way of providing more prominent information about it.

Our scheme will involve cleaning and re-letting the two existing information panels. Then, to update information for succeeding generations who may be unfamiliar with the history of the Great War, an oval plaque will be added, at head height and beneath the Bell, larger than

our other plaques and with a black background. It will include coats of arms of Dover and Bruges and the words 'to the lasting friendship of Dover and Zeebrugge' in both English and Flemish. Design and wording has approval of the authorities concerned and of Jon Iveson of Dover Museum. Now we await listed building consent.

Dover Town Council, whose officers organise the annual Zeebrugge commemoration ceremony, and Dover District Council, who are responsible for the Town Hall, both approve our intentions and have offered financial support. We have also had promise of financial help from Zeebrugge and the Society will contribute £250 from our funds. We shall have to raise in addition a minimum of £400 from our members and other sources to complete the work. Contributions will be gratefully received and, of course, acknowledged. Please contact our Treasurer, Mike Weston. It is our aim to complete the work by 23rd April, 2001, St George's Day.

MILLENNIUM HISTORIC PLAQUE TRAIL OF DOVER

The sub-committee dealing with the Historic Plaques project, consisting of Sheila Cope, Jeremy Cope, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston and Barry Late, have completed their work on the Trail guide for the general public and this should be available in April, hopefully in time for the AGM.

The leaflet, which is free, has been produced in an attempt to link the plaques in logical sequence and presents two trails around some of the historic landmarks of Dover.

The first trail starts at the A20 underpass at the site of the discovery of the Bronze Age Boat and includes four plaques; the second starts at the Market Square and covers the other six plaques. The guide gives a brief historical background to each plaque. The Society hopes that each trail will provide the basis for an enjoyable walk.