

## *The Objectives of the Dover Society*

*founded in 1988.*

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture
- to interest and inform the public in the geography, history, archaeology, natural history and architecture of the area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- and commitment to the belief that a good environment is a good investment.

The area we cover comprises the parishes or wards of Barton, Buckland, Castle, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Maxton, Pineham, Priory, River, St. Radigund's, Town & Pier and Tower Hamlets.

All members receive three Newsletters a year and in each year the Committee organises about ten interesting events – talks, tours, visits, Members' Meetings and usually a Christmas Feast.

The Society gives Awards for improvements to the area, monitors planning proposals and supports, joins in or initiates civic projects and arts events.

## Editorial

On 16th April the Dover Society held its thirteen Annual General Meeting. There were several changes to the executive committee, with the appointment of a new Vice-President, Jack Woolford, a new Chairman, Terry Sutton, a new Secretary, William Naylor, and a new Projects Co-ordinator, Hugh Gordon. The retiring Chairman and Secretary, Jeremy Cope and Leo Wright, remain on the committee and are joined by a new member, Tessa George. All the details of the meeting are reported here by Lesley Gordon, who has also described the talk which followed the interval, 'General Elections in Dover 200 years ago' by the Rev. Michael Hinton.

This issue also includes reports of the March meeting and of the first of the summer outings to the London Eye in May. Our date of going to press is too late to include an account of the very successful trip from Gravesend to Chelsea on the MV Pochahontas in June, so this will appear in the next Newsletter.

We are grateful to all members who have happily adapted to our new system for booking trips and events. After a short initial period of some confusion over the booking of the first trip of the summer the idea seems to be working. The editor apologises for the fact that the last Newsletter gave two different times for the pick-up points for that trip. There was a change of departure time the day before we went to press and only one entry was altered.

Please remember to look at the two back pages of every Newsletter to check on forthcoming events. In this issue there are two proposed trips in September, one to London and one to Zeebrugge and Bruges. Members will need to book direct with Joan Liggett for either of these.

We have up-dated our page of Websites. Some members have suggested new ones. If you have any to add to the list get in touch with me or with Mike McFarnell. Also Mike would like your comments on the Dover Society site.

The next indoor meeting of the Society, at St. Mary's Parish Centre, will be on Monday, 15th October, at 7.30pm. Forms for outings or events will be available at all indoor meetings.

This issue does not carry our usual historical article by Ivan Green. This was to have been an account of Dover in the reign of James I,

continuing Ivan's series. However, since the publication of the last Newsletter it has been decided to publish a book of Ivan's articles, which he has presented to the Society as a gift. It will include some of his articles on the Romans and the Tudors, which have already been printed in past Newsletters, but also many more, covering all the monarchs from 1066 to 1688, and will be called '*Dover and the Monarchy. From Conquest to Glorious Revolution*'. The committee extends its thanks to Ivan for his generous gift.

This is not the only new book by a Society member. Look out for one by Joe Harman and another by Peter Burville. Full details appear on page 21.

Two very interesting, unsolicited articles turned up in time for this issue, both by writers who are new to us, F.G. Thomas and John Foot. The latter has written an account of an adventure experienced by one of our members in 1963 - which makes a gripping and graphic tale! The article by F.G. Thomas is about the six months of the wettest winter in Dover for decades. The weather always makes a fascinating topic.

Many members will remember the Society's preoccupation with water supply ten years ago, with St. Mary's Hall packed to capacity to hear speakers from the Environment Agency, the National Rivers Authority, Friends of the Earth and our local

water supply company. In five Newsletters following that Leo Wright kept us informed of other meetings he attended with Sister Ambrose, supporting her argument for more water in Kearsney Manor lake. It was suggested that it would be possible to compensate a shortfall there by carefully controlled extraction, the repair of wasteful leaks and reservoir storage at Broad Oak. What happened to the last suggestion? No doubt in 2001 we have deplored the volume of Dour water flowing, unhindered, to the sea!

Derek Leach has written of the St. George's Day service and the museum exhibition on the Zeebrugge Raid. Sheila Cope also wrote of her impressions of the exhibition. The St. George's Day events coincided with the installation of another Society plaque, which Sheila reports. Derek went on the most recent cemetery walk, led by Martyn Webster (see page 24). It seems he is becoming our regular reporter on '*Grave Matters*'.

The March meeting is reported by Jack Woolford and Maurice Wilson and the trip on the London Eye by Elizabeth Senyard, all Society members. Many thanks to all our contributors, old and new, to all our advertisers (and welcome to two new ones) and to our hard-working distributors.

*Editor*

## DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 42 will be Monday 8th October 2001.

The Editor welcomes contributions and interesting drawings or photographs. "Paper copy" should be typed at double spacing. Handwritten copy should be clear with wide line spacing. Accurate fully proof-read copy on computer discs is acceptable; please ring 01304 205254 to discuss details.

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