

## *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, archæology, 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

The last indoor meeting until October was the fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 19th April at St. Mary's Parish Centre. Details of the meeting are given here, together with the Treasurer's annual financial report. After the interval and the raffle the speaker was Martyn Webster on 'Dover's Alien Clerks'.

Having always associated Martyn with the subject of cemeteries we did not know what to expect. We were not disappointed. Anthony Lane reports on Martyn's fascinating talk, which was a fortuitous follow-up to the talk given in March by Martin Lloyd on 'Passports'. Members who missed one or both of these talks can read accounts of them here and see how they complement each other.

By the time the Newsletter appears three of the summer outings will have taken place, the trips to Batemans, to Lydd and to Faversham, all in time to include a mention here, with two of the accounts from new contributors and one from Sheila Cope. As ever all trips were well organised by Joan Liggett and enjoyed by all who participated. We look forward to the August trip to the Bank of England and Tate Modern and the September visit to Lille. Both outings have sufficient numbers to be viable, with a few seats still available for members who have not yet booked. Contact Joan as soon as possible if you wish to join either trip.

Chris Taft contributes his usual WHPS report and is to be congratulated on his Society's work in opening up the Western Heights this summer. The Drop Redoubt and Grand Shaft have been open to the public several times and have attracted large numbers of visitors.

This issue contains two long articles which I had not expected, both resulting from pieces in past Newsletters. The first is by Aubrey Jones who read an article by Derek Leach in Newsletter 44 and then got in touch with us. Derek's article was about the YHA building and the Koettlitz family. Aubrey's wife, Ann, was the youngest daughter of Dr. Maurice Koettlitz and she lived in Charlton House until her father died

in 1960. Aubrey Jones has not completed his research into the life of Reginald Koettlitz but has sent us a fascinating account of the career of the polar explorer.

The second article is from a new member of the Society, Jeane Dutton-Hill, who read the article on Cowgate cemetery in our last issue and discovered that in one of the graves in Cowgate is buried the architect who designed the office building in which she works. He was Arthur Beresford Pite, who married Mary Mowll and is buried with her in the Mowll family vault at Cowgate. We are grateful to both these contributors for their articles and their interest in the Society.

Also in this issue is a report on the first year of Dover Discovery Centre. As I felt the new centre was a great asset to Dover

I asked the Centre Manager, Symeon Hill, to write an account for the Newsletter. This will be of interest to all our readers who use the Centre and perhaps some of our members might like to send in their views for the next issue.

Due to the inclusion of these three fairly lengthy pieces I have reluctantly left out my usual feature of 'Glimpses of the Past', but will make sure it appears in the next issue.

With many thanks, as usual, to all who have contributed to this 50th issue of the Newsletter, to advertisers, distributors and, most of all, writers, with a special welcome to five new contributors.

Please remember, in October, to meet at BIGGIN HALL for this one meeting only!

*Editor*

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## DEADLINE for contributions

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue 51 will be Monday 11th October 2004.

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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