

# SOCIETY MEETINGS

## March 2004 Meeting

### BUCKLAND PAPER MILL

#### *Past, Present & Future ..... Reported by Jack Woolford*

PAUL CLARKE, Dover District Council's Forward Planning Officer, dated the mill to c.1638. It was extended a century later, twice burned down, in 1814 and 1877, acquired by Wiggins Teape in 1890 and closed in 2000, by which time annual production had increased from three to 27,500 tons.

Failing for two years to find an industrial buyer, it was acquired by SEEDA (*South East England Development Association, a regional government subsidiary*) in consultation with the District Council and English Heritage. Unfortunately demolition of some of the buildings left others structurally unsound, necessitating further demolition. On the other hand the Dour was opened up, cleaned, and a weir and fish run installed. The proposed Riverside Walk will benefit.

The Planning Brief has been prepared by consultants, within restraints of scale, design quality, traffic and conservation (notably the Grade II listed Millhouse and St. Andrew's Church) architecture and landscaping. These include stock brick walls, both ecological soft and built (public space) river edges, the view of Dover Castle, accessibility (especially to the handicapped), roads, footpaths, parking, energy-saving and pollution(s!) Access for employment will be as it now is. For housing, the former bricked-up, entrance will be reopened. There will be bold groups of trees and avenues

Four developers have been short-listed. One will emerge on July 30, hopefully responsible for the whole site. Eventually there will be public consultations.

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### WITHOUT LET OR HINDRANCE

#### *The Story of Passports*

#### *Talk by Martin Lloyd..... Reported by Derek Leach*

MARTIN LLOYD, who was an Immigration Officer for 20 years, gave a fascinating talk about the history of passports at our March meeting. He explained that the title of his talk was taken from words in the British passport, although a passport only establishes the identity and nationality of

the owner. It is up to the immigration authorities of the country concerned whether to admit you - without let or hindrance - or not.

It is not known when the first passport or its equivalent was issued but the first recognisable document appears to be a