

Letters to the Editor



Saving Our Traditions

Dear Editor,

I recently moved back to Dover, my hometown, after years of absence; however, for twenty years I kept in touch with Dover affairs. Three matters interest me and on these, I offer fellow members the benefit of experience and future help when needed.

The K6 Jubilee traditional red telephone boxes are fast disappearing all over Britain and the Dover area is no exception. The K6 in St. Margaret's Bay went last year to be replaced by a modern all glass type totally out of keeping with the undeveloped bay and outside Martin Mill station another went recently. About twenty years ago, I had the four K6's 'united' at the old Dover Marine station now the Cruise Terminal. Two of these inside the building are looked after and operational for the public good. The K6 at East Cliff and the one at New Bridge are listed. I am trying to have the K6 on Castle Hill listed as under threat from B.T.'s ongoing review of telephone boxes. The criteria for listing were recently reviewed and at the behest of B.T. has made it more difficult to list one. However, I hope the K6 on Castle Hill may meet even the stricter criteria along with the unlisted old Lodge House next to it. They go well together.

My second interest is street name-plates, again part of our heritage. The old cast-iron ones are part of our old roads but all too often they are replaced by modern inferior types. In an age when little is maintained - just replaced, it is a sad reflection of throw-away Britain. If you have an old Victorian street name-plate near you ask Dover District Council to keep it in place. It is at risk!

My third interest is flags and I enjoy membership of the Flag Institute. Very rarely does one see the Union Jack in Dover. Even the Harbour Board only flies it in the summer. Flag poles do not necessarily require planning permission, so be patriotic: fly the flag.

I am happy to help any member on these matters on mobile number 07941 574901 for voicemail or text.

Yours sincerely,

G. R. Wanstall (Member and Doverian)