



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1975

# THE WHITSTABLE SOCIETY

REGISTERED WITH THE CIVIC TRUST

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

ANOTHER SOCIETY YEAR CAME TO AN END WITH THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WHICH WAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 18th.

Some 70 members were present in addition to those on the platform together with a reporter from the Whitstable Times. After our President, Mrs. Betty Crouch, had opened the meeting and welcomed those present the Chairman, Peter Miles, worked his way quickly through the Agenda closing the meeting around 9.15. This was followed by a period of general discussion and allowed those present to study the many drawings and plans concerning the Society's activities (in particular the Town Plan, the Sea Wall scheme and the Castle) which were on display.

## MORE MEMBERS, MORE MONEY!

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Cardon, reported that finances were healthy with something like £222 in the bank. Some expenditure had been incurred, however, since her statement had been prepared mainly on stationery and other materials connected with the Society's Town Plan proposals and the Newsletter and other publications.

Mr. Wilson, our Membership Secretary reported current membership at 410 with 25 subscriptions overdue for 1974. He also expressed thanks to all those concerned with distributing the Newsletter. Although there had been a welcome increase in membership he gave his opinion that the recent membership drive had not been a success and he reminded members of the need for them to recruit more.

## THE SOCIETY MEETS THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL.

Peter Miles reported that he and several others concerned with the Town Plan proposals had been invited to meet representatives of the K.C.C. As it turned out this was a meeting with both the K.C.C. and the Canterbury City Council. Although the latter declined to reveal their plans (passed on to them by the K.C.C.) the Society's representatives came away with the clear impression that the Council's plan did not depart significantly from that put forward by the Society. In particular it appeared that at present there was no proposal for a new major road through the town. A copy of the Society's Plan had been sent to every member of the City Council.

## THE CASTLE SAVED???

The meeting was brought up to date with the latest developments in the "Great Castle Mystery", to quote the Whitstable Times of 25th January 1974. The Society had long ago lodged with the City Council the view that the Castle should be retained for the use of the public. Following more recent objections by the Society to the decision by the Council to seek tenders for the disposal of the Castle it has been made clear by representatives of the Council that should there be a sufficiently great demand for the use of the building from local societies, clubs and other organisations then they might well be prepared to retain the Castle for such use. The Chairman made the point that it would have been so much more convenient to have held the Annual General Meeting at the Castle where there are some 14 rooms available for meetings and a kitchen with facilities for preparing coffee and other refreshments. At a meeting of a number of local organisations with an interest in the Castle a Steering Committee was set up the purpose of which is to establish the extent of the demand for the use of the Castle. It is perhaps surprising that there is a total of some 60 societies and clubs in the Whitstable area who may consider that the Castle would offer them improved facilities for their meetings and other activities.

### COMMITTEE ELECTED

Fifteen nominations for the committee were received and these were agreed without the need for an election. The Chairman expressed thanks to all those committee members who had indicated their wish to retire. The President endorsed this and made the point that the officers and other committee members put in a great deal of time and effort.

### LIST OF OFFICERS AS AT 1 MARCH 1975.

#### PRESIDENT

Mrs. B. Crouch, Deck House,  
Island Wall.

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mr. K.J. Barton, 65/67 High Street.  
Mr. E. Coomber, Owaissa, Clapham  
Hill.

#### OFFICERS

##### CHAIRMAN

Mr. P.L.Miles, 57 Joy Lane.

##### VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. G.P.Hughes, St.Patricks,  
Joy Lane.

##### HON.SECRETARY

Dr. C.C.Wright, 10 Railway Avenue.

##### HON.ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mr. P.J.Hewett, Aboyne, Valkyrie  
Avenue.

##### HON.TREASURER

Mrs. A.W.Cardon, 43 Middle Wall.

##### HON.PRESS SECRETARY

Mr. M.P.F.Elliott, 15 Spire Avenue.

## SEA WALL PUBLIC INQUIRY.

THE INQUIRY OPENED ON TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY WITH AN ADDRESS BY COUNSEL FOR THE CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL. HE TOOK SOME 2½ HOURS to plough through the Coast Protection Act in order to make the point that the sea wall was intended not so much to prevent flooding but to stop erosion of the coast. The inquiry is concerned with the question of whether or not the wall should be built in isolation from other questions such as what should be done with the space enclosed by it. As Counsel said "nobody knows what is going to happen between the old and the new walls". The marina was merely one of a number of possibilities most of which were unlikely to be put into effect.

Later in the day the City Engineer, Mr. Barry Hardy, began to go through his evidence which consists of 3 large lever-arch files plus a pile of other documents. By the close of the first day he had taken 2½ hours to go through 13 of 61 pages of evidence. Later in the week cross-examination of Mr. Hardy began when considerable discussion about the risks of flooding in the town took place.

Members of the working party took an active part in cross questioning both Mr. Hardy and other Council witnesses and have visited the site in company with the Inspector and Officers of the Council.

Although the actual programme is not fixed it is likely that the Society will be putting its evidence in chief to the Inspector on Thursday 13th or Friday 14th of March.

People who wish to object to the Council's schemes still have time. All you have to do is go along to the inquiry when it is drawing to a close. This is likely to be about 26th of March.

For firm information about the programme you may telephone the Programme Clerk on Whitstable 63821 (Miss Broadfoot). Even if you do not intend to object in person, a visit to the inquiry is well worth while and shows the Inspector that the people of Whitstable are interested in the outcome.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A JUMBLE SALE IS TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 5th APRIL AT THE SEA CADETS HALL. THE PURPOSE OF THE EVENT IS TO RAISE MONEY FOR the Society's funds so please come along and tell your friends about it. Both jumble and helpers are required and anyone interested should contact Kathy Williamson.

A WEEKEND SCHOOL ON THE "PUBLIC PATHS PARTNERSHIP" IS TO BE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY FROM FRIDAY 4th April to Sunday 6th April. The purpose of the school is to encourage and develop the partnership in public paths work between the County Council, the District Councils, Town and Parish Councils and Voluntary Organisations. The fee is £8 including full board. Contact: Kathy Williamson.

THE THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE BETWEEN CIVIC SOCIETIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITLED "THE FUTURE OF KENT" IS TO BE HELD AT Kingsgate College, Broadstairs from the 5th - 6th April. This is organised by the Universities of Kent and Oxford in conjunction with the WEA. The fee is £5.50. Contact: Kathy Williamson.

THREE SHORT 6 WEEK SUMMER COURSES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED BY THE WEA (WORKER'S EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION) AS FOLLOWS :-

Thursdays from April 17th, 9.45 - 11.45 a.m. "Kent Country Houses" (lecturer Mrs. Daynon).

Tuesdays from April 15th, 8 - 10 p.m. "Current Affairs" (lecturer Mr. E. Wallis).

Wednesdays from April 16th, 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. "Plant Ecology - a Field Study" (lecturer Mrs. Bursnall).

Contact: Kathy Williamson.

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THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON 18th MARCH

The next meeting was scheduled to be a talk and discussion on Harbour Street. We had hoped that our proposal for pedestrianising Harbour Street could have been discussed knowing what alternative solution had been proposed by K.E.C. in the long awaited "town plan" - unfortunately this has still not yet been published and we may not now see it before the meeting. If the plan is published on or before the 18th March the meeting will be as previously arranged.

If we do not have the plan it is thought that we should postpone this topic and include instead a report on "The Sea Wall Inquiry - the present position".

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