



Annual Report

MARCH 2024

www.thedealsociety.org.uk

info@thedealsociety.org.uk

President

Una Stanley

Vice-President & Planning

Robin Green

Officers

Alice Goodliffe	Social Events
Bill Venables	Treasurer
Carol Burns	Blue Plaques
David White	Heritage
Ian Redding	Officer
Jo Dempster	Archivist
Julia Gresty	Social Events
Mary Venables	Secretary

Sub-Committees

Planning

Social Programme

Communications

Society Matters

Getting Involved

The society is run entirely by its members and any member is welcome to get involved, we are in serious need of people as we cannot operate the society as we wish on the number of people currently helping.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss helping the society, we welcome any skills you can offer but want to highlight two important vacancies:

- Social media – Someone with an interest in developing our presence online
- Treasurer - our current post holder is retiring and nowadays this is not an onerous task

Electronic Newsletter

A year has gone by since we last produced a printed report, we are committed to maintaining this contact for those who don't have email, but more frequent updates are available through the electronic newsletter and social media.

To subscribe to our electronic newsletter, simply go to our website and fill in the form. We can see that some people have dropped off the circulation list because their e-mail address has changed – if you don't receive a newsletter each month, please re-subscribe.

Society events planned for this year

Details of these events, and online booking, are under 'Events' on our website

Annual Meeting and Talk

Tuesday 9th April

Your chance to hear how the society did last year and discuss its future. We offer a drink prior to the meeting and have a guest speaker - details are on the last page.

Spring Social

Friday 31st May – 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Bookings are now open

The Wollaston family have kindly made their elegant house and garden available for us once more, with its superb views past Walmer Castle to the sea.

The event includes canapés and wine which will be supplied by Ralph Cade.

Cost is £19.00 per person.

Trip to Rochester

Wednesday 19th June

Bookings are now open

Join us on this coach trip to the historic town of Rochester where all the things you'll want to visit are either in or very close to the High Street. Together with its attractive half-timbered, brick and weatherboard buildings, independent old-fashioned shops and cafes together with its connections to Charles Dickens there is something for everyone to enjoy. Visit the beautiful Cathedral, the imposing Castle - one of the best-preserved Norman fortresses in the country, the fascinating Huguenot Museum and much more.

This coach only trip will allow you to visit the attractions of your own choice or take it easy with a leisurely wander absorbing the atmosphere of this attractive Medway town. With a variety of places to eat and drink you are free to decide on whatever appeals to you.

During your journey you will receive a map of the town together with an information sheet to help you make the most of your visit. You will alight the coach close to the High Street after a drive of approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.

We will leave Deal at 9am and pick up in Walmer, returning from Rochester at 4pm.

Cost is £15.50 per person.

Summer Social

Saturday 13th July

Once again you are invited to socialise in Ralph & Robin's beautiful garden with Ralph's canapés and wine.

Heritage Open Days

7/8 & 14/15 September

Details of local events as part of this national initiative are at www.dealheritage.org.uk.

Quiz

Thursday 19th September

We are holding an evening of fun questions and socialising with other members.

Christmas Social

Friday 13th December

Celebrate the season with fellow members in the elegant and historic setting of Deal Town Hall. It is an ideal opportunity for new and old members to meet and socialise with everyone including committee members in an informal atmosphere. Wine and canapés will be served by Ralph and his team.

Booking

The best way to book is by credit/debit card or PayPal from the 'Events' section of our website at www.thedealsociety.org.uk. You will receive an acknowledgement of your booking and will be sure of a place.

If you have any questions about the event please email Alice or Julia at events@thedealsociety.org.uk.

If you cannot book online, please contact David White on 07710 124300 and you can send a cheque.

Details of the other events in our programme will be sent in our monthly emails and online booking will be available on our website. If you do not have access to those, please get in touch with David White during the month before the event to arrange an alternative way to book.

Report on last year

Planning

By Robin Green, Chair of Planning

The massive increase in housing growth in the greater Deal area has set new challenges to the social economic and amenities infrastructure of the town. Whether it is nursery school provision or car parking.....dental and health services.....replacing the Victorian sewers.....or creating social and cultural provision, the infrastructure of the town is under stress. The endless publicity about the town being one of the best in Britain only increases that stress.

Deal has taken the brunt of new houses building in the Dover district for the last 10 years. At one stage it was calculated that 35% of new houses were being built in Deal Walmer and the surrounding area. The Local Plan target was 10%.

If the new Local Plan is followed then that issue should not arise in the next 10.....But that does not take account of how property developers view the green horizons around the town.

I have served nearly 20 years as the Planning Chair of the Deal Society. That has included being a coopted member of the Deal Town Council planning committee a job that I have immensely enjoyed. But the time is approaching when I should relinquish those roles. I will be delighted to continue as the Society's Vice President.

Social Events

In February we held a meeting to start an initiative about planning called 'Shaping the future of your town' which was well attended and had a lively discussion. Our Annual Meeting featured a talk on the pubs of Deal.

Our social events provide a chance to catch up with other members and have a social chat, the Spring Drinks were held as usual in the lovely setting of Glenhill.

The Summer Drinks party held in Robin and Ralph's garden was a real success and everyone made the most of their lovely garden.

The year was concluded with the Christmas event at Deal Town Hall. The catering at all of the events was, as usual, superb so thanks to Ralph for his excellent food and drink.

Civic Matters

We are a member of Civic Voice which raises concerns from civic societies nationally.

We continue to support Walmer Town Council with Walmer In Bloom.

Heritage

The society continues to play a part in organising Heritage Open Days which have returned to pre-pandemic levels and we continue to try to improve the event.

We are also part of an initiative to improve the communication between our history societies and historic venues in order to generate year-round interest in our history.

Finances

By Bill Venables, Treasurer

The examined accounts will be presented at the Annual Meeting. They show an Income of £4,046 and Expenditure of £5,083. The overall loss for the year shown in the accounts is £1,037. At the financial year end the Cash fund held was £7,319.

The society changed from Membership Subscriptions to Donations in 2022-23 which has led to a decrease in funds of £326 on the previous year.

Social events raised an income of £3,048 with a related cost of £3,170 giving a small loss of £122.

Administration costs and Communication had a slight increase over last year but this will enable the Society to further develop its presence in Deal and Walmer, making people aware of how the area is changing and whether it is the right kind of change.

The accounts will be available on our website but if anyone would like a copy of the accounts then please contact Bill Venables on 07971 864696 or treasurer@thedealsociety.org.uk.

Membership

Our membership comprises:

- Those on our mailing list who receive monthly newsletters by email;
- Those who do not use email but wish to remain members, who receive this annual report

At the end of 2023 we had 524 (467 in 2022) members on our electronic list and 14 (23 in 2022) on our postal list.

We no longer charge a membership fee but will invite donations from time to time.

Thank you to the 66 members who have left their standing orders in place – we accept those as a donation towards our costs. If you do not wish to continue to make such a donation please cancel your standing order as we are unable to do it for you.

Annual Meeting 2024

Tuesday 9th April from 7pm

Deal Town Hall

You are invited to join the committee and fellow members for a drink, followed by our annual meeting and a speaker which will comprise:

1. Annual Report and Accounts

As reported on the previous page and we invite questions on it.

2. Elections and Resolutions

Must be submitted in advance as on the right.

3. Plans for the forthcoming year

The committee will outline forthcoming events and other plans.

4. Questions to the committee

Members are invited to ask the committee whatever questions they wish about the running of the society. It would help us prepare an answer if you notify the Secretary of your question at least a week in advance.

5. Walmer Castle and it's Amazing Lord Wardens

The Duke of Wellington, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and, more recently, Admiral Michael Boyce often visited Walmer whilst serving as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

Few people know much about anyone else who once held England's oldest military appointment.

Local author Martin Hoskins will give a talk on four Lord Wardens who held the office during the late Victorian era, whose lasting legacy at Walmer Castle is visible today. He will also sign copies of his popular book 'Walmer Castle's Amazing Lord Wardens'.

Nominations and Resolutions

If you would like to be put forward as committee member, or if you wish to submit a resolution to be voted upon, please submit them to the Secretary by Monday 1st April. You may either send an email containing the information below or post it.

Nomination as an officer (committee member):

- Name of nominee
- Phone number & e-mail address
- Name of proposer
- Name of seconder

Resolution to be voted upon by the members:

- Wording of resolution
- Name of proposer
- Name of seconder

Mary Venables, Secretary

32 Peter Street, Deal, CT14 6DG
secretary@thedealsociety.org.uk