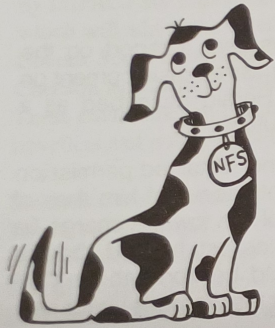


Environmental Report

by Watchdog



Welcome to Watchdog's new environmental column in which you can read about some of the good and the not so good things currently happening in this town of ours ... and Watchdog begins this time right up in the residential West End with a property that has been causing concern for some time. Standing at the junction of Turketel Road and Pelham Gardens at the heart of one of the town's prime residential areas is a property which some time back was divided into two. The Pelham Gardens-facing side still looks

fine – splendid, in fact; the empty Turketel Road-facing side looks awful, in an advancing state of disrepair. In fact, in this exclusive residential area it stands out like a sore thumb. The building is not in a conservation area – indeed is in a better condition than many that are (Marine Crescent, for instance) – but the Society has laid out its concerns to Shepway Council, as have indeed several members who live in the vicinity ... along The Leas now to The Grand, and the Society wrote earlier this year expressing its concerns about the condition of the 'Monkey House'. Our letter was not even acknowledged, but Watchdog is pleased to report that almost immediately the photostat 'KEPPELS' letters were removed from the windows ... down Castle Hill Avenue now to the Central Station, and here at least Watchdog has something positive to report in that we can expect work on renovating the station to commence early in 1999 – a long wait, but nonetheless something tangible to look forward to ... on next to the Old Harvey Grammar School building in Foord Road which, as we reported in our last newsletter, has recently been given Grade II listed status. We wrote in April expressing our concerns regarding the condition of the building, notably its loose roof tiles, and received this time a prompt reply from Shepway's Design Architect telling us that a notice has been served on the owner requiring the building to be boarded up to prevent unauthorised entry (the building was recently the subject of an arson attack); also that if its conditions deteriorates further he will recommend an emergency works notice ... over the Foord valley and up to the East Cliff, and as we go to press we have just sent in ANOTHER letter reminding the Council of the existence of the Weston Fountain and how the Society's years of hard work are being undone by the Council's neglect ... on and down very quickly past the sands, which should be a prime tourist attraction, recently described as

SUMMER 1998 NFS.

a "filthy cesspit" by the local Friends of the Earth after yet again failing minimum EC bathing standards, past the good work Impact are carrying out to the harbour area to Marine Crescent. We have recently discussed this ongoing problem with one of Folkestone's councillors who very much shares our concerns, and have written to Shepway's Assistant Chief Executive reiterating our fears for the future of this once fine listed crescent ... we move back a little way along the sea front to end this particular tour at Marine Parade, also currently in need of attention, especially Nos. 4 to 7, the Regency houses. No. 7 has lost a canopy and the other two are rotten. The Society was instrumental in the re-instatement of these canopies some years back, and we have written again to Shepway Council alerting them of the present condition ... Watchdog is now in need of a well-earned rest and some sustenance! In our next issue, an update on what has happened regarding the recommendations from Shepway's recent environmental walks, in which the New Folkestone Society have been closely involved.



Marine Parade