Paul Barber, Cllr Jeff Franklin, Toby Hunter, Cllr Sue Chandler, Cllr Mark Dance, Mayor of Ramsgate Cllr Trevor Shonk, Cllr Paul Carter and Cllr Dan Friend enjoy the celebrations

Celebrating five years of Discovery

A garden party helped Discovery Park celebrate its fifth birthday as a multi-business science hub.

The milestone comes as the owners are close to the completion of the first phase of a £20m investment programme.

In 2012 there were just five companies and now there are more than 150 employing some 3,000 people working in a world-class environment.

Toby Hunter, chief executive of Discovery Park, said: "Having been in property for 30 years, it's an honour to say I have never felt so proud to be part of a business like I do with Discovery Park. It's an amazing place to be and a fantastic place to work, and everyone should be rightly proud of what they've created here.

"So much of what we have achieved is thanks to the help of Kent County Council and Dover District Council. We have never come across a local authority who is as open for business as DDC. Similarly, the support from KCC is wholly down to its strong and proactive team.

"Looking to the future, we are currently working on 50,000sqft of new lab space in Discovery Park House, which will create

Sandwich Technology School head Tracey Savage and Sir Roger Manwood's head teacher Lee Hunter, right, with chief executive of Discovery Park Toby Hunter and son Max Hunter

Sandwich town councillor Dan Friend, town crier Kevin Cook, corporate relations manager Kimberley Anderson and Max Hunter

Dover District Council, said: "It's hard to believe that it's only Discovery Park's fifth anniversary, as the achievements in that time have been amazing.

"Everyone involved in this journey, from politicians working together at all levels, to the people working at ground level, have had an unassailable, can-do attitude, which has brought us here to celebrate the tenants and employees who are now here.

"The benefits to our local businesses and local economy are unquestionable. East Kent Col