

# DOVER BETWEEN THE WARS

## REGATTAS



Immigration Customs, Harbour Board, British Rail. They all took part. In the evening all rowing boats and motor boats left the Prince of Wales pier, all decorated up with lights and sailed right along the beach. Fireworks from the pier at night. The beach was thronged all day with people. It brought trade to the town. It lasted all day until Midnight.

## HOSPITAL FETE

Pencester Gardens, that was the day for Dover and all around, that was. It was for the Victoria Hospital, because the people of Dover kept the Hospital going. It was up to us. It was a wonderful day. The main prize was a car and every shop in Dover from Snargate Street up to Buckland had a number on a prize in the window. If you had this on your programme, which was sold months before you got the prize. It brought trade to the town and the highlight of the Fete was the Tattoo in the evening performed by the Duke of York Boys' School, all dressed as wooden soldiers. The highlight of it all was when they were shot and they all went down as one man. It was wonderful, there was a battle next.

Summertime, every Wednesday evening there was a Beating of the Retreat on the seafront, Sunday bands in the Granville Gardens, it was something for the Dover people. We had no vandalism in those days. There were 5 picture houses, 1 musical hall and 2 dance halls. On Sunday the military, with bands playing, marched to the Church, then everyone went to the shaft barracks to hear the bands for the Officers and their wives. Then there was the covered market, where you could get anything you wanted. We had a good Council in those days, all Dover business men wanted trade and kept the money in Dover. The Fur and Feather show every year was a great thing. It brought the miners in. Nearly everyone kept chickens and rabbits and dogs. It was trade for Dover.

## THE THREE DAYS SPORT AT THE ATHLETIC GROUND

Immigration, Customs, British Rail, Harbour Board.

It included children for 1 day. Cycle racing, all sports were included. More trade for Dover. I was on the Committee when it closed down for 2 years. What about Dover cricket week. That brought trade to the town, that was a lovely week. A festival of songs and country dancing in the Town Hall.

Where is the shopping week, the dancing and bands in the streets. Where has it gone, what has happened to us?

I was born and bred in Dover, I have been here all my life. I am 76.

**E.G. Matthews**

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