

A CHRISTMAS GATHERING WITH MUSIC

The preliminary work by Linda Clackett and her social sub-committee, the generosity of vice-president Jack Ind, Headmaster of Dover College, in making available the historic Norman Refectory, the professional skill of Mr Hatton, the College caterer, the Mandarin elegance of the "invitation card" in Newsletter No 2, and the tickets (the work, of course, of Philomena Kennedy) and the securing of the services of Adrian Boynton and his Band all laid the foundations for a most enjoyable evening, our first social event.

Of distinguished guests: we were delighted to have present the Town Mayor and Mayoress of Dover, Councillor and Mrs R. Tant, and four vice-presidents; Mr "Budge" Adams, Mr Peter Johnson, Miss Lillian Kay and Mr Jonathan Sloggett. Unfortunately our President, the Countess of Guilford, and our host, Jack Ind, were unable to be present. Peter Johnson did the honours in place of the Headmaster. As a Governor and previous Chairman of Governors of the College he did more, treating us to a brief but vivid history of the ancient site and the modern school, thereby focussing the attention of the company on one aspect of the Society's remit: Dover's heritage. (A detailed visit of the College buildings may feature in our 1989 fixtures).

That was the serious side. For the rest, the company warmed seasonally to the evening: the food and wine and, after that, to the music. Some ladies even danced to it! Adrian Boynton and his Grammar School Boys are like pennies from heaven - certainly they were the stars of the evening and, as they too were visibly enjoying themselves, it can be said that four score of people had a super evening.

The only thing missing was a large supply of Philomena Kennedy's new publication, *Walk Around Dover* which we are impatient to buy at the Channel Bookshop in Russell Street, Books... & More in the Market Square, or at Harbour House.

Leo Wright Committee Member

WALK AROUND DOVER is also at present on sale at the Dover Express office 25 High St., W.H. Smith, the Tourist Information Centre in Townwall St. and will shortly be available at the Museum and the Dover Health Food Centre, Charlton Centre. In St. Margaret's it can be purchased at Roses, the Newsagent and the Post Offices. I understand some Deal shops have it in stock. It can be sent through the post for the price of a first class stamp.

BOOK REVIEW

WALK AROUND DOVER Philomena Kennedy. £1.85. 1988.
Published by Dover Harbour Board.

WALK AROUND DOVER admirably fills a long felt need. It is an essential companion for all visitors to Dover and an indispensable reference book and guide for all Dovorians, past, present and potential.

As a practical guide the format and presentation are admirable. Of a suitable

size for pocket or handbag, substantial enough to be held unobtrusively open and with a double page spread showing clearly road names, page references, recommended routes and even toilets and disabled facilities, it encourages both systematic study and sampling as any good reference book should. With 34 closely packed pages Philomena Kennedy's immaculate calligraphy and with her beautifully drawn and spaced illustrations throughout, it forms an integral whole in a way the printed page seldom achieves. Judicious use of red splits up the text for ease of reference and gives pleasure to the eye. The only criticism is of the size of the text, too small for visual ease although always crystal clear. Perhaps in the next edition, for there must surely be one, an extra page could be added without changing the present quality or format.

WALK AROUND DOVER makes an admirable companion to exploration of the present town. Philomena Kennedy encourages her reader to see through her own perceptive and artistic eye. How many of us know where to see a model lighthouse as we walk, or the head of Mercury or the musical angel? Do we know the significance of the arches on the Maison Dieu tower above the pavement, even if we know they are there? Philomena Kennedy reminds us, too, to visit the new Town Hall Gaol audio-visual display, to explore the Grand Shaft and to enjoy the detail of the buildings.

However this is a guide to much more than historic buildings and monuments or even than their architecture and past associations. The medievalist can contemplate the sites of walls and gates, the classicist mentally reconstruct the western pharos from the Bredenstone, or gaze entranced at the bus depot under which were found the possible remains of the Roman Harbour. From the Swing Bridge in Union Street with guide in hand you can find not only the Wellington and Granville Docks but imagination will take you to Paradise or enable you to see in the mind's eye the whole array of the mid-19th century harbour.

And since imagination can sometimes serve better when not confronted with modern developments, this guide is also ideal armchair reading. For those with longer memories, too, or recollections of tales passed on, the trams, the bathing machines, the splendours of Burlington Hotel or of the Hippodrome (a tablet, now, in Snargate Street) can all be recreated. In the armchair too, the extracts from writers through the centuries from Lambarde to Bavington-Jones, come into their own. We can visualise the scene in the harbour in the 1820s when "horses suspended from gigantic chains, are reluctantly swung from or to the vessel, while their heads, hung down, and their extended limbs, betray their terror..."; or the celebrations for the Armistice in 1918 when "aeroplanes did wild capers in the sky".

In short, WALK AROUND DOVER is compelling reading for everyone connected with the town. Philomena Kennedy is to be congratulated on her fascinating and meticulous account; and our thanks are also due to Dover Harbour Board for having the foresight to sponsor it. They are not likely to regret it.



Joan Hasler

So far the following errata have come to light:

the caption on p.12 should read '.... decorated windows...'

p.18 the Burlington Hotel was a Teachers' Training College in the late 1920s.

p.26 I hope there will not be too many confused people looking for Wellington Crescent. I can't blame the typesetter! Please contact Editor if you spot any more. Ed.