

# BARN CONCERT BY PRIMAVERA

Updown Farm 18 June 1989

*Leo Wright*

This chamber concert in idyllic weather in a mini-Glyndebourne setting was sponsored by Eurotunnel. Of the audience of 250, 50 were Eurotunnel guests and the Chairman and I (who vie with each other in trying to play Mozart piano sonatas at something remotely approaching the written speed) had accepted the two tickets allotted to the Society.

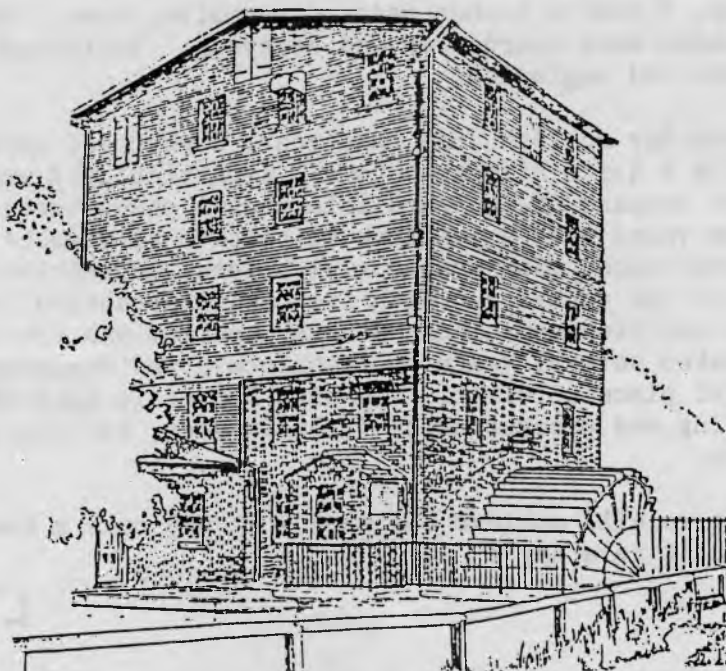
It was a truly memorable afternoon. PRIMAVERA are young players of whom, I am sure, more and more will be heard. Their performance combines understanding, sensitivity and enthusiasm with technique, so that some of the happiest passages of Mozart could bring tears to the eyes.

Five-star refreshments were offered after the concert, when it was possible to meet the players and our hosts, Alastair Morton and Tony Guterbock (to talk of KRAG and cabbages and Kings).

Could The Dover Society organise a concert by PRIMAVERA in the Stone Hall of the Maison Dieu as part of next year's programme? We found out from the artists what this entails and, bearing in mind that sponsorship might be available, are exploring this delightful possibility.



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# CRABBLE CORN MILL

The Mill dates from around 1812 when this country was living in fear of Napoleonic invasion. Thousands of troops were garrisoned in the area, and a number of mills were built along the River Dour to help to feed them. After Waterloo, the troops were largely withdrawn and with them the demand for flour upon which the local millers had thrived. Although Crabble survived for many years in the hands of the enterprising Mannering family providing flour for London's expanding population, even they could not compete with more modern methods and the Mill closed in 1893.

The building stood empty for many years until the early 1970s when it was acquired by the Cleary Foundation. Essential repairs were carried out and the Mill was opened as a museum by the Council who had a leasehold interest. This venture was only partially successful and, following the discovery of serious structural problems during the mid 1980s, it looked as though the building was doomed.

Enter the Crabble Corn Mill Trust set up to restore the building and open it to the public as a working museum making flour once again; with a shop, restaurant and educational facilities. The objective being to render the Mill self-sufficient for the future. As this is a Grade 2\* Listed Building, valuable grant aid was obtained from English Heritage with further initial assistance from Dover District Council and the Cleary Foundation when the freehold was transacted in 1988. Soon afterwards contracts were placed with Barwicks for the major restoration work which should be finished this autumn.

The Friends of Crabble Corn Mill was set up alongside the Trust to raise vital funds to finance the remainder of the work. Local volunteers, including many youngsters, have spent hours clearing out the nearby river as well as undertaking much hard work inside. Successful fund-raising activities to date include a well-publicised 'buy-a-plank' appeal, dances, and stalls at the Crabble Boot Fair and River Fete.

The exterior scaffolding was at last removed in June (it had been suggested that this too might be listed!) and sights are now set on opening at Easter 1990. However, much work needs still to be done, some of which still requires funding. Anyone with an offer of help of any kind always receives a cheerful and enthusiastic reception from Neil Anthony, the Development Manager. Why not give him a call on 823102?

A reward for the effort put in by so many people came on June 27th this year when the Times/RBA Community Enterprise Award was presented to the Mill by the Prince of Wales at a special ceremony in London. A keen interest was shown in the scheme which is now well and truly on the map as part of the tourist initiative being established in this area.

**Clive Taylor**