

# Conviviality

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## and Conundrums

### AT THE BAY MUSEUM, St MARGARET'S BAY

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The 42 members who met at the Bay Museum on Friday, 24th May, had a thoroughly enjoyable and convivial evening. We left about 10.30 pm feeling that we had actually conversed with people who previously had been just vaguely familiar faces, and that we had met a new set of friends. It was a venture most rewarding and entertaining and the background work which must have gone into the meticulous preparation evokes our very whole-hearted thanks to all concerned.

On arrival, May Jones gave us each a Bay Museum pen and a black or red name sticker. After a quick look around the Museum, which seemed a very small place for fun and games, the members with black labels were given beautifully printed booklets (no need to guess the printer) containing 50 questions and 5 picture questions; the red labels were each given two or three slips with numbered answers. So we didn't have to be at all clever! All one had to do was find a red label and say, 'Have you the answer to number 5?' (Who crossed the Channel in 1875 in an inflatable rubber suit propelled by a double-bladed paddle and with a canvas sail fixed to his left boot?) and eventually one tracked down the answer – Captain Boyton! A few of the questions were easy – 'Who wrote the novel *Dover Harbour*?' and some were guessable – 'on what date was Dover Hippodrome finally closed?' A few questions did not have the answers circulated, so that they could be used as a tie-break at the end. The whole idea was most ingenious, every answer well researched and every detail foreseen.

After this leisurely questioning and chat we each had a plate of goodies and glass/glasses of wine – how we all managed to sit comfortably was a near miracle! Then the red labels had their turn with a different set of questions. A panel (*All ex-school teachers!*) produced a remarkable turn of speed in marking the question papers. Everyone nearly won, but Budge Adams presented prizes to Black (Set A questions), 1 Pat Pennington, 2 Lillian Kay and Red (Set B questions), 1 Jeremy Cope, 2 Shirley Dowie.

Finally, our very warm thanks to many people. Regrettably, very few members responded to the request for 'Mystery Questions' earlier in the year. Joe Harman produced five interesting photos, (how could we have mistaken the entrance to the Oddfellows' Club in Pencester Road for the Salvation Army?) and Phil Kennedy the other five. Phil and Merrill produced most of the questions and spent an afternoon at the Museum checking the answers. All were typeset and printed into booklets by Budge, who spotted any errors or anomalies. Lin organised the social side as usual, but, most unfortunately, was ill and unable to be with us; Merrill Lilley, Iris and Steve Peters took over the refreshments on the Friday morning, giving the day to the preparation. During the evening Bruce Lilley and Steve Peters acted as barmen, Sheila and Jeremy Cope ran the raffle, and May Jones gave much appreciated help with the general organisation. Thank you all; but most particularly Phil, for having the idea and daring to try it out, and to Budge for his always good humoured, dependable and tireless backing to all the efforts of the Dover Society.

LILLIAN KAY