

The Ombudsman very strongly criticised the Home Office for failing to learn lessons from the 1981 report and for repeating their mistake. The Permanent Under-Secretary had asked him to convey his apologies to all concerned and said that the Department was extremely sorry that the oversight should have occurred again. New instructions had been issued to all staff and oral guidance given to senior staff on the procedures for dealing with ancient monuments. He concluded with the hope that this time measures have been taken to prevent any recurrence of a mistake of this nature. We must hope so; *but will not take it for granted.*

## Reviews

# THE KENT CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Dover Town Hall — 21 September 1991

ROSS ANDERSON

THE Dover Society must be congratulated in bringing off a double coup for its September event in Dover Town Hall. The brilliant young pianist, Marie-Noëlle Kendall, and the Kent Concert Orchestra provided an evening of almost unalloyed enjoyment. The orchestra which, with its programme content and playing strength of 28, might more properly be called a chamber orchestra, under its conductor, Paul Neville, offered style, sensitivity and disciplined commitment that outweighed the occasional flaw in ensemble.

Marie-Noëlle Kendall, on her first appearance here, displayed technical accomplishment of a very high order allied to deep musicianship which, with the admirable co-operation of conductor and orchestra, resulted in a performance of the E flat Piano Concerto of Mozart which gave great satisfaction, rightly earning a warm ovation.

Works by Boyce, Elgar, Handel and Purcell fitted well into the programme, the Elgar Serenade being of especial interest to your reviewer who, when conducting in the West Midlands, used a score marked by the composer and frequently directed players who had worked under Sir Edward Elgar.

A spirited performance of Mozart's Symphony 29 in A proved a fitting finale to a distinguished occasion.

Enhancing the pleasures of the evening were an elegant programme sensibly priced, helpful and succinct – albeit anonymous – programme notes and last – but by no means least – most civilised interval refreshment.