

Reviews

After the interval we returned from Austria to England, first to Boyce whose F Major Symphony is so resolutely and rightly English in the Purcell/Arne traditions as to make "the land without music" a senseless gibe and then to Elgar's Serenade for Strings, so English too, but so eloquently contrasted by its late romantic warmth and wistfulness. And so to the elegantly fitting conclusion, the Mozart No. 29 in A, another masterpiece of youthful exuberance.

Thus did orchestra, conductor and pianist combine to give us a perfect Serenade but it is to our Secretary Leo Wright, prime mover behind the Primavera concerts, that we are also basically indebted. He it was who negotiated with Paul Neville, who procured Miss Kendall's services and who persuaded the Dover District Council to make available the piano from Deal. We must hope that he will be equally patient, persistent and skilful in organising a return date. We cannot have too much of so good a thing.

Finally, it must be emphasised that the Society could not have guaranteed the three concerts without the financial support of well-wishers. No call has ever been made on central funds and on this third occasion we are particularly grateful to the following for their support:

DOVER ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION at the DOVER MUSEUM

16 September — 20 October, 1991

JEAN JONES *

A MASS of colour greeted the eye from work on display by members of the Dover Art Society. On closer examination the work proved to be varied and interesting both in subject matter and in media. It was notoriously difficult to hang a mixed exhibition with so many different styles to accommodate, but this exhibition worked well. Paintings were grouped carefully and sensitively, making good use of the excellent new gallery space.

The three dimensional work looked particularly seductive in contemporary display cases. Terry Warren's wood sculpture and laminated wooden jewellery were both unusual and attractive, whilst Valerie Snow displayed not only pottery, but porcelain of great delicacy.

Amongst a wealth of talent the following artists deserve particular mention. Margaret Hudson's love of pattern was evident in her richly decorated works. The variety in the paintings of Jane Nicholas showed that she is equally at home with watercolour, gouache and pastel. A strong atmospheric acrylic called "The Bridge" by Alan Quartermain was particularly eye-catching. A strikingly unusual view of Jubilee Way in a storm by H. Wells contrasted with T. R. Summerfield's evocative seascapes displayed a skilful use of watercolour and his view of Dymchurch Wall was both unusual and dramatic. The Chairman of the Association, Eric Buckman, submitted a

selection of seascapes and landscapes in pastel which showed a consistently pleasing style.

The broad abstracts of Brian Hardy contrasted with the finely detailed heraldry and illustrated books of Alexander Summers. Drama was well represented by Phillip Nichols, and humour was present too, in Roger Starr's paintings of people and places in Deal.

Altogether this was a fine selection, showing that Dover Art Society is bursting with talent, enthusiasm and sheer enjoyment!

* Artist and proprietor of One Off Gallery, 9 Castle Street, Dover

GARDENS

An Exhibition of Paintings and Prints

21 September — 26 October. ONE-OFF GALLERY

A very pleasant occasion, on 20 September, where some Dover Society members met each other – and very many other people, for it was extremely well attended – was the private view of the exhibition of paintings and prints at the One-Off Gallery in Castle Street.

It included some of the charming and lively work of our hosts, the proprietors: Lawrence Gage and Jean Jones. We were pleased to see works by Pauline Gould and Shirley and Roy Chambers (he, of course, sometime illustrator to this *Newsletter*) among many others of a very high average standard, all from East Kent and many of which would have been *inter pares* at the Summer Exhibition of the Royal Water Colour Society.

White & Saynor;

SHOREHAM: A Village in Kent.

Shoreham Society: 1989: £15 . . .

JACK WOOLFORD

All amenity societies (I assume) publish newsletters and other things but not many publish substantial works in hardback and the Shoreham Society is very much to be congratulated on this major initiative. Not only is it impressive in size and appearance with its beautiful maps, photographs and drawings: it is a work of scholarship which skilfully interweaves detailed village history within its county- and nation-wide contexts and palpably gave as much pleasure in the writing as it does in the reading, dual authorship notwithstanding.