

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.

Local involvement in historical events receive befitting detailed treatment because of their national significance. The basically chronological narrative usefully pauses to record and reflect upon economic changes in local agriculture and industry. Local worthies, either by birth or residence, are naturally emphasised.

It is all thoroughly and impressively readable. No review, however, is complete without reservations and I did find one grammatical error, one or two instances of value-judgements dependent upon hindsight and some apparent inconsistencies of attitude to rebellion and conformity. Some of the parish pump details are trivial to the outsider. But these are minor flaws. The book as a whole is a splendid testament to the establishment and survival, indeed the conservation over a thousand years, of a community. It offers a precedent and sets a standard which other amenity societies may praiseworthily follow.

DOUGLAS E. WELBY'S

"The History of Archcliffe Fort"

PETER JOHNSON

It is very easy, especially in an old and historic town, for some of the less conspicuous landmarks of its history to be lost without trace as the years go by.

Archcliffe Fort is just such a place and when it was finally abandoned by the Ministry of Defence in the 1970s the intention was to sell it on the open market, unless another government department wished to buy it. The Department of the Environment stepped in and the Fort was scheduled as an Ancient Monument.

Now Douglas Welby has written a short account of the history of the Fort and this has been published for the Friends of Dover Museum.

The origins of the defences go back to the reign of Edward III but it was not until Henry VIII's time that an order was given for the construction of a substantial bulwark and in 1540 it was recorded as being manned by a Captain and two soldiers. It would not appear to have been a very significant part of the nation's defences!

During the next 250 years the occasional threat of invasion brought the fort to the attention of the authorities and it was generally reported to be neglected and in need of repair and strengthening. The activities of Napoleon at the beginning of the 19th century brought perhaps the most serious threat but invasion did not come, though the activities of French privateers caused a good deal of embarrassment. Considerable strengthening and development of the Fort took place during the 19th century but it was only used for training purposes. By the beginning of the present century it was obsolete and by 1928 part of it had been demolished to make way for the increasing demands of the South Eastern and Chatham Railway which ran below the fort at sea level.