

# Reminiscence Workshop

MERRIL LILLEY

A SERIES of THREE REMINISCENCE WORKSHOPS on the theme of Summer Holidays and the Seaside were organised by Dover Library staff and held during the two weeks of Dover Festival. They were led by Sharon Turrell, Senior Librarian of Services to Elderly People and Marilyn Donovan of Dover Library Household Bound Service, who had run this kind of activity in other residential homes.

I joined Marilyn Donovan's Workshop at Whitfield Rest Home on Friday, 28th May. To spark off memories of days at the seaside Marilyn had a hamper of treasures, pictures borrowed from Dover Library Local Studies Centre, old postcards, including saucy ones, beautiful shells and pieces of fossilised rock, toys, beachwear and souvenirs. Objects and postcards could be passed from hand to hand and a group of residents talked about their memories of the seaside, not just Dover's beach, but many other remembered beaches.. Dovorians talked of swimming in the Harbour, of ships putting in to the Promenade Pier, of day trips to France. Other residents talked of Folkestone, Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Leigh-on-Sea and St. Leonards. There was talk of lights along the promenade, barrows selling things, the market in the Market Square on Saturdays, fishing expeditions, skimming flat pebbles on the sea, collecting shells and winkles, and playing games.

At an hour everyone was surprised how quickly the time had passed. One of the group, Mr Muddle, who had lived in Dover all his life, kindly produced a piece of writing from his sister's memories of her childhood and life here and later agreed to this being included in our series of "Memories of Old Dover". (*This issue, page 90*)



---

24th May - 5th June

---