

## ENGLAND'S HERITAGE

*at Castle Fine Arts Studio in Castle Street*

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PHILOMENA KENNEDY

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THIS SMALL EXHIBITION concentrated on three aspects of our heritage. First was a magnificent facsimile volume of the Kent portion of Domesday Book. A matching volume contains the translation and a map plots the locations mentioned in Domesday over a modern Ordnance Survey map. They are fascinating documents.

The second part was the exhibition of two engravings printed from the superb 18th century copper plates and carefully hand-coloured. The engravings were originally commissioned by the Society of Antiquaries in order to reproduce the two famous paintings 'Embarkation of Henry VIII at Dover 1529' and 'Le champs de drap d'or' ('The Field of Cloth of Gold'), which are in the Royal Collection. A video showed some of the great technical and aesthetic abilities required in the inking-up and printing of the huge plates, the handling of wet paper 31 x 53 inches in size, and the hand-painting. One print takes a trained painter a full hour to colour.

A selection of photographs, of local subjects, from the famous studio of Francis Frith formed the third section of this show.

The enjoyment of this exhibition was enhanced by Deborah Colam's extensive knowledge of the interesting exhibits in her Studio.

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## England's Heritage Exhibition

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JEAN JONES

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A RARE TREAT awaited photographic enthusiasts who visited 'England's Heritage Exhibition' at Castle Fine Arts Studio, as part of the exhibition was devoted to a display of original photographic prints from the Francis Frith Foundation.

In 1860 Frith set out from his studio in Reigate to make a topographical record of every town and village in the British Isles. Whilst he never achieved his ambition during his lifetime, his company continued working to his brief until the middle of the 1960's.

The photographs in this exhibition spanned the years between 1880 and 1924 and showed classic and less well-known views of towns in the vicinity. Some particularly delightful views of the seafront at Dover showed the long gone Promenade Pier with figures of the period strolling by.

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24th May - 5th June

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Folkestone, Hythe, Sandwich, Walmer and Kingsdown were also featured and for those familiar with Deal, a unique record of the ruins of Sandown Castle were taken in 1906 and washed away by the sea soon afterwards.

Also on display in this exhibition a fine three-volume facsimile of the Domesday Book, printed to celebrate its 900th anniversary and two spectacular copperplate engravings in full colour showing 'The Field of Cloth of Gold' and 'The Embarkation of Henry VIII at Dover', engraved in 1774 and 1781 respectively by James Basire. Each plate took two years to execute and they are possibly the largest of their kind ever to be produced.

## The Snowdown Way & Monty Sunshine

KEN WRAIGHT

SOME 150 – 200 PEOPLE were at the Town Hall on Wednesday 26th May to hear the SNOWDOWN C.W. MALE VOICE CHOIR AND THE SNOWDOWN C.W. BAND in a very pleasing concert of varied music.

The choir under the baton of their professional conductor, Stephen Portman from the U.S.A., delighted the audience with spirited renditions of 'Nothing like a Dame' and 'Milligan's Musketeers', the difficult 'Ching a Ring Chair' by Copland through to the stirring 'Never Walk Alone' – all excellently accompanied by Gillian Greenacre.

The Band gave an enthusiastic performance under their jovial conductor, Terrence Green, with some interesting cornet, euphonium and tuba solos and contributed to a very enjoyable evening.



ON THURSDAY 4th June the Astor Theatre, Deal was host to MONTY SUNSHINE and friends for a splendid night of Traditional and Mainstream Jazz presented by Arty Promotions.

This veteran musician still conjures up that special feel of the 1950s and 60s Jazz Clubs. A crowd of some 120 people sat around candle-lit tables in this slightly run-down building which all added to the authenticity of the occasion.

Fitting, perhaps, that during the evening notices should have been circulated inviting support for a new Jazz Club in Deal. If this was a sample of what can be done then I, for one, hope the venture succeeds.

A thoroughly worthwhile evenings entertainment.

24th May – 5th June