

DOVER PAGEANT

in CONNAUGHT PARK

2nd MAY 1994 — 2 – 5pm

The inspiration for the Pageant came from the 1908 Dover Pageant and the organisers have tried to retain many aspects from the original programme cover.

This year the Title Sponsor is the National Westminster Bank, especially appropriate as the theme is **BANKING ON DOVER**. Noreen Thomas has again written the script which traces the history of Banking and the town using colourful costumes, with music, dancing and displays, an ideal day out for all the family. The Pageant Mistress, Lorraine Sencicle, has recruited the many people needed to dress up and bring a small part of the rich history of Dover to life. She has also done considerable research and written a book on the main banking families in Dover.

The chariot races, organised by the National Chariot Federation, are a very important part of the Pageant. The Dover Victim Support Unit has close links with the Pageant and the organisers provide this opportunity for charities and groups to raise funds for themselves.

The Dover Society will, as last year, be taking part in the Pageant and will have a refreshment tent where members can meet and where new members can enrol. If you can help in any way on the day please contact John Owen, the Projects organiser, by telephoning 202207. If you can contribute cakes for the stall please telephone Ann Owen on Dover 202207 or Sheila Cope on 211348.

Dover 2020: A FLIGHT of FANCY

MERRIL LILLEY

It is one of those perfect summer mornings when the white cliffs of Dover are at their very whitest in the strong sunlight. People on the tourist viewing platforms at the visitor centre on Langdon Cliffs savour the panoramic views of the channel which have delighted visitors for centuries. Below them a cargo ship is unloading fruit; one of the six super ferries plying out of Dover is about to enter the harbour and another is almost ready to leave the Eastern docks.

At the Western Docks can be seen a gigantic cruise liner, catering for two thousand passengers. A fleet of coaches has assembled on the quayside ready to receive its various parties and distribute them around the Kent countryside. >

The ship has twelve hours in port and the cruise itinerary has offered five trips; to London (10 hours); to Canterbury with cathedral visit and city tour (7 hours); a scenic tour of Kent castles, Dover, Walmer, Deal and Richborough, including lunch at the new hotel at Dover Castle (8 hours); historic guided tour of Dover, including the Grand Shaft and Drop Redoubt, the Roman Painted House, the Castle and Hellfire Corner, lunch optional at the new hotel; and lastly a town tour including the museum, with famous bronze age boat, The Heritage Centre (formerly the White Cliffs Experience), the Painted House and The Old Town Gaol and ample time for shopping.

Almost three-quarters of the ship's passengers have opted for one of these guided tours and the departure times are staggered over the next hour. When all the coaches have left, the remaining passengers can walk ashore at leisure. Some are content with exploring the vast shopping mall and maritime museum at the Western Docks. Some take the monorail into the town centre to mingle with the throng of tourists in the Market Square, visiting the Heritage Centre, open-air cafes and tempting boutiques and antique shops. Some of the more energetic passengers walk through the marina to the promenade where they have booked sailing or wind-surfing sessions at the Water Sports Centre.

Hotels are fully booked, including the fabulous new five-star hotel on the cliffs in front of the castle on the site of the old nineteenth century Officer's Quarters, now attracting the rich and famous to enjoy its vast terraces with unrivalled Channel views. A smaller hotel on the Western Heights, nesting in the hollow above the Grand Shaft, where the old barracks once stood, is almost as popular. Although its terraces command less spectacular views, it has the unique feature of the historic Grand Shaft on its doorstep and can be reached on foot via the imposing Snargate Street entrance built in 1994. Its upper terraces lead almost directly on to the newly-built entrance of the Drop Redoubt, only recently re-opened to the public after extensive renovation of the old fortifications. A friendly rivalry regarding attendance numbers exists between the two English Heritage sites on the opposing heights, Dover Castle on eastern side of the town and the Drop Redoubt on western, as more and more tourists are attracted to the area.

Another factor which has contributed to the growth of Dover as a tourist centre is the proximity of several popular Kent golf courses and the building of a super-modern golf driving range at Whitfield, where the activity centre also offers ten-pin bowling, ice-skating, indoor tennis and squash courts.

The promenade area with its water sports and safe, clean beach and attractive gardens and bandstand is crowded with summer visitors. In the harbour rowing boats and sailing dingies with brightly-coloured sails are engaged in providing lessons for schoolchildren and visitors. A group of swimmers are training for the annual cross-channel swim.

In the Western Docks, glinting in the sunlight, the monument, which was built in the year 2000 as part of the Millennium celebrations, stands as a landmark for sailors. It towers over Dover which is now, as it has always been, the Gateway to England.◊