

found in bandstand repertoires. When I teased the musicians during the interval they explained that as it was the last concert of the season they were playing what *they* liked. The rest of the programme included 'Aces High', 'Girl in Satin' by Leroy Anderson, and The Thunderbirds Theme played with enthusiasm, sensitivity and panache.

As they played normal ball games continued, people strolled about and a faithful few near the band applauded dutifully. The weather was uncertain so few people were there — but they were listening — virtually all of them.

Earlier in the season, during the Dover Festival, as I entered Kearsney Abbey I heard Japanese koto music and expected to see Nipponese musclemen stripped to the waist, wearing white headbands smashing hell out of vertically-mounted huge drums. Therefore I was surprised to see half a dozen kids determinedly thumping empty paint barrels suspended from a huge wooden rod. The leader of this band said it was koto music, in which he had been trained. He had also been a cathedral chorister and the leader of a rock band called The Urban Strawberry Lunch. The Lunch had made a record which sold well in Sweden but when the popularity bubble burst they had been reduced to living in a squat from which all their instruments had been stolen. After that they improvised with paint barrels and plastic sewage pipes. Since appearing on TV they had been in constant demand — eating regularly — and had been hired by Dover DC for a festival workshop. The program concluded with Bach's Toccata played on sewage pipes with flexible table tennis bats.

Neither of the above performances was well attended because of poor publicity (and rainy weather).

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BACK TO THE MELTING POT

The Future of Local Government

SIR JOHN BANHAM, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION, has resigned/been sacked and Kent is one of the areas up for reconsideration. The status quo for Dover will remain but the formerly proposed and formerly rejected unitary authorities for North Kent are to be reconsidered.

The Dover Society Committee is telling John Gummer that its democratic decision stands, that it deplores the further delay and costs (the new inquiry will not start until July), that the shrunken County Council would have less resources, implying cuts in services, and that the voice of Kent in relation to the Pas de Calais would be weakened.