

The Festival of Dover continues to be a joint initiative between Kent County Council and Dover District Council. The members of

the Festival Committee were Gavin Wright 85 and Peter Ryan (K.C.C.), and Kim Norton, Donna Sowerby and Sarah Pascoe (D.D.C.).

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## Reviews

*Commemorating VE Day eight of our members have contributed reviews of some of the events within the programme*

# The Railway Swing Band

## in Concert at Nye Hall on 7th May

The first concert of this year's Dover Festival was held at Nye Hall at the Duke of York's School on 7th May. It was a perfect summer evening for a concert in such a setting and in the interval the audience spilled out onto the lawns of the campus and enjoyed the cool air and the refreshments provided.

The choice of the Railway Swing Band was a popular one and most appropriate for the occasion, evoking memories of the war years and the swing era generally. Most of the band members are service trained musicians, coming from the RAF, Army and the Royal Marines School of Music, now all playing for local amateur bands. Some play for the The Broadstairs and St. Peter's band and some for the Betteshanger Brass Band. They perform regularly at the Deal Memorial Bandstand. The band is so named because the musicians rehearse in the back room of The Railway Public House, Walmer.

On this occasion the concert started with "In The Mood", followed by "Moonlight Serenade" and "Pennsylvania 65000". In each half of the concert was a section of four songs featuring the vocalist, Tony Martin, with popular renderings of songs such as "Fly Me To The Moon", "That Old Black Magic" and his last choice of "New York, New York," which brought down the house.

The concert proceeded through a wealth of old favourites to the Victory in Europe Finale, when the audience joined in singing with gusto "The White Cliffs of Dover" and "We'll Meet Again", accompanied by waving of Union Jacks. After each member of the band had taken his or her individual bow to enthusiastic applause, the audience demanded several encores before they finally allowed the band to bring the concert to an end.

MERRIL LILLEY

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## DODS "Mikado"

If I was asked to choose one adjective to describe the sixth DODS Mikado I would say that it was exuberant.

There is a lot to be said in general for amateur productions of Gilbert and Sullivan. Above all is preservation from the clever cleverness of some of today's despotic and self-indulgent

producers. There was a recent production in Canterbury (by the revived D'Oyley Carte company, of all people) where the new-look originality of the producer added nothing, in fact detracted, from the fun inherent in the work.

The DODS productions begin as a group of people who are enjoying themselves and this production radiated enjoyment. The acting of all the principals was contemporary in that it made the comedy of 1885 relevant to us.