

Dam Busters' March (Eric Coates) was suitably explosive and Purcell's "March and Canzons" from the Funeral Music of Queen Mary, movingly proclaimed by the brass section. Gordon Jacob's arrangement of three Vaughan Williams folk songs was characteristically both vigorous and witty as well as folksy. (Jacob used to orchestrate for ITMA during the war). Rod Spencer conducted with persuasive body language and a vigorous baton.

In between the orchestral pieces were two instrumental solos. The second one was conventional, Faure's "Morceau de Concours" for flute, beautifully played by Charlotte Harvey. The first was challengingly unconventional, a "Sonata for Trombone and Piano", with the talented student composer, Dai Fujikura on the piano and fellow student Stefan Rothschenk on trombone. To say, as

the programme did, that "each instrument plays an equal part and the virtuosity of each is exploited to the full", is almost an understatement. Piano virtuosity does not take us by surprise, but what can be done by a virtuoso trombonist is positively amazing. The work is, I think, more a rondo than a sonata in classical terms, with long cadenzas for both instruments as well as brief bouts of collaboration and longer bouts of combat. To say that it was breath-taking is also an understatement.

The second part of the concert was choral. The male voice choir, the "Clippers", directed from the piano by Rod Spencer, had no apparent difficulty in making Beethoven's "Prisoner's Chorus" from Fidelio as moving as it ought to be. Elgar's "From the Bavarian Alps" was sung by the full choir. The six songs were exquisitely phrased and moulded, witness the repeated storms of applause for choir and conductor.

JACK WOOLFORD

Bustles to Shell Suits

DOVER JUNIOR LIBRARY, 16 MAY

How many ladies of a certain age realise that the opaque tights and leggings that they wear now are a reflection of their youthful mini-skirted days? Fashion cycles tend to return to happier times, but older legs cannot withstand scrutiny and must needs be covered. This was one of the insights passed on to those who attended a fascinating illustrated lecture given by Judith Doze, internationally-recognised fabric conservator and member of the Kent Costume Trust.

Fashion was once the preserve of the very rich. Sleeves and skirts were deliberately designed to restrict movement, proving that the wearer had no need to work. The advent of cotton contributed not only to a manufacturing industry which altered social structures but also to the availability of a cheap, practical fabric.

Wars were the other great catalyst. We were shown the post-1918 navy suit, ubiquitous at the time, but so "worn to death" that actual examples are now rare. This had a military-style jacket decorated by frogging surrounding the buttons and a flared above-ankle-length skirt. In the '30s fashion was influenced by art-deco, one of the few styles unique to its time, and the Chanel suit, the straight skirt and jacket still virtually unchanged over 60 years.

The Second World War, with its emphasis on utility and economy of fabric, was followed by inevitable reaction—the "New Look", considered outrageous at the time.

Then Judith's audience responded to "Memories", the Festival theme. Nylon was available and used for stockings and stiff petticoats to support fuller skirts. Among other horrors I remembered my own plain

88 pink nylon swimming costume which became transparent when wet.

In the '60s youth had money to spend and as a result fashion changed so rapidly that clothes became disposable. Original model mini-dresses, hippy wear, flower power garments and collarless Beatle jackets are already hard to find.

Discernible trends recently have been the ethnic look and, contrasting with it, power

dressing, epitomised by wide padded shoulders. Now development of Lycra, fabric rather than yarn, and other easy-care materials had led to the adoption of sportswear for every day use, together with a relaxed attitude to fashion. Even skirt lengths are optional at present. We owe a debt to the designer of the first fashion anorak who stuffed it with his own eiderdown.

SHEILA R. COPE

Cyrano de Bergerac

THURSDAY 11th MAY

THE EUROPEAN THEATRE presented "Cyrano de Bergerac" in French at the Nye Hall as part of their 1995 National Tour before an audience which was totally captivated by a most dramatic and highly polished performance. It was an inspired choice, brilliantly produced, with some very fine acting. Fantastic value!! Whether or not your French was up to it, (and everyone had a copy of the script in French) the plot was easy to follow and most moving - an unforgettable evening!

JOHN POTTER

THE LAST ALL CLEAR

FRIDAY 12th MAY

TEMPLEWELL PLAYERS were invited by Dover District Council to stage a show for the Dover Festival. A large audience filled the new impressive Nye Hall, at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, which is a tribute to the talent and enthusiasm of the players. The show was devised and produced by Catherine Napier, assisted by Paul Booth. Keith Tuthill gave an accomplished performance on piano supporting the nostalgic wartime songs and sketches. A brilliant trumpet solo by Veronica Tuthill crowned an enjoyable and entertaining evening.

MIKE McFARNELL

VISIT of H.M.S. *BRAVE*

13 - 14 MAY 1995

HMS *Brave*, a Type 22 Frigate, affiliated to Dover, made a three day visit here during Festival fortnight and was open to the public for two days on the Saturday and Sunday, 13th and 14th May.

HMS *Brave* is one of the newest ships to join the fleet and exhibited the latest "state of the art" technology. She carries a crew of 250, of which 25 are women. Every member of the ship's company has a vital job, for the ship has

to be self-supporting and carries specialists in each field to operate, repair and maintain the complex equipment and to feed and pay the ship's company over extended periods. As the visitors observed, living conditions on board are good. The crew on duty were happy to talk about their work, their careers and their life on board and the ship attracted large crowds during the two day event.

BRUCE. LILLEY