

90 How many people heard this inspiring concert? There were about 30, including several Dover Society members. The Society had sponsored a concert. We balanced the number in the orchestra who had filled a coach and freely given their time. Graham Cory, Director of Music at St. Mary's, together with the Vicar and Church wardens have shown vision and courage, combined with sheer hard work, in preparing this Mayfest Perhaps next year, if they so desire, the events could be advertised alongside the Festival of Dover.

The evening characterised Dover; a stroll around the part-rejuvenated area looking

mainly good in spite of recession, and then the stimulating concert (which we nearly missed through lack of publicity), attended by a delighted yet sparse audience.

Please may we hasten the provision of well-sited poster boards to advertise all the good and varied social events, including fêtes and dances, which take place in this town? Then let us support the organisers. Above all, may we recognise the restorations that are being made to our town and talk about them with optimism.

SHEILA R. COPE

V.E.-Day Celebrations

More than sixty events were held in the Dover district to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Victory in Europe. They ranged from services of thanksgiving to street parties, from reunions to "trips down memory lane" nights out. Terry Sutton describes a few of them.

The Sir John Falstaff V.E. Night

Scores of veterans who served in Dover during the 1939-1945 war packed into the Sir John Falstaff for a reunion where the landlord had offered the first drink free!

Bar staff were dressed as munition workers in 1940s style and the pub was decorated with flags. They sang old wartime favourites and, when things really got going, began dancing in the street. Those were the days.

Evacuees take the train to Dover

More than 40 wartime evacuees caught a special train from Deal to Dover to remember the years when they were sent off to the valleys of Wales as enemy troops occupied Calais, just 21 miles away.

The group, now all pensioners, sang wartime songs on the train and on Dover Priory station platform, led by the Temple Ewell Players in wartime dress. More than 3000 children from Dover and Deal went away by train in June 1940. Some reached call-up age and went off to fight. Others returned home and there were

far fewer when the evacuation scheme ended in December 1944.

District Council vice chairman, Bob Tant, welcomed the "evacuees", some of whom had travelled hundreds of miles. Thanks were expressed to the council for organising the event and also thanks to the foster parents in Wales who took the evacuees into their homes more than 50 years ago.

Walks

Several walks in the town and on the cliffs around Dover were organised to link with the V.E. Day celebrations. One walk on the Western Heights, led by Melanie Wrigley from the White Cliffs Countryside Project, stood in silence for two minutes overlooking the town during the official silence on V.E. Day. Another walk around the port area, entitled "How we celebrated peace", was led by vice president Terry Sutton, and was based on his earlier lecture tours, detailing incidents of the bombing and shelling experienced by Dovorians during the war years.