Music for the Iron Voice

TERRY'S TRIUMPH

—— JACK WOOLFORD ——

Music for the Iron Voice', the Organ recital sponsored by the Dover Society in aid of the East Kent Hospice in Dover College's splendid Chapel on Saturday 18 May was well attended (despite competing excellent musical attractions) and raised £150.

The occasion was a triumph for the organist Terrence Vardon – long time a member of the Dover Society,– of Temple Ewell and Dover Boys' Grammar School (who also had lessons on the College organ), now Headmaster of King Henry VIII School Coventry. Although starting off majestically with the gigantic challenge of Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, he described the ancient origins of the instrument and went on to play the earliest extant (14th century) piece of (English) keyboard music. Then, in strict chronological sequence, he por-trayed both instrumental and musical developments, with examples from 15th century Spain and 16th century France, to the great 18th century German climax of Buxtehude and Bach. All were masterpieces, display-ing to perfection the Iron Voice's unmatched range from quietest flute to most boisterous bass, and played with joyous and infectious virtuosity. The organist's scholarly programme notes (beautifully printed by Budge Adams), were supplemented by his friendly, persuasive and humorous asides.

The masterpieces after the inteval were deliberately more mixed, from the exquisite refinements of 19th century Cesar Frank to the noisy extravagance of Widor's famous Toccata, and on to the un-organic 'absurdities' of Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer", Eric Coates' "Dambusters" March and, for encore, a delightfully witty amalgam of the "Sailor's Hornpipe", the third "Brandenburg Concerto"", Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" and Arne's "Rule Britannia". The friendly rapport between organist and audience was manifest in applause more thunderous even than the loudest the organ could do.

Intended as a contribution to the Dover Festival before the change of dates the Society can congratulate itself on sponsoring a good cause in a uniquely unforgettable way.

Welcome to Calais Accueil

JACK WOOLFORD

On Monday 23 May there was a very pleasant ceremonial at the Town Hall when about twenty-five members of "Calais Accueil" a voluntary organisation to make visitors welcome to Calais, were hosted by the Mayor, Cllr. Lynn Young.

Although he could not be present, it was organised by Society Secretary, Leo Wright, who had dedicated himself particularly to the improvement of relations with our cross-Channel twin port and country. A year or two ago our members were similarly welcomed by the Mayor of Calais, and it has taken time and patience, and the happy co-existence there of Mme Marion Lefebvre, English born, Calais resident, equally eager to promote Anglo-French friendship, to bring it about.