

The Christmas Feast 1996

~~~~~ ELIZABETH SENYARD

A warm welcome awaited us in the ancient Refectory of Dover College on the evening of 14th December for the annual Christmas Feast. A good start was made by Mr Jack Woolford, our President, who presided over festive trays of sherry in the hall which we drank in the warm and festive atmosphere of the Refectory, dressed up with a large Christmas Tree. Past experience had led our party to dress in quantities of winter woolies, which happily on this occasion, had to be discarded during the evening!

A record number of 110 attended. The Town Mayor, Mrs Lynn Young and our MP David Shaw honoured us with their presence. M. et Mme. Coffey, from the Association France/Grande Bretagne, were our very welcome guests. Their four charming young children seemed to enjoy the event greatly, happily engaged for much of the time creating portraits of the entertainers and guests on the programmes - not without some success.



The CHAIRMAN and JEREMY

After partaking of an excellent 'feast' we were royally entertained by a group of energetic songsters - the White Cliffs Barbershop Chorus - who ensured that there were no post-prandial snoozers in the house. Their repertoire was varied and full of fun.

Many thanks to Sheila and Jeremy Cope who organised the raffle in their usual

efficient manner. Thanks, also, to Sasha Lawrence, who was busily engaged in taking photographs of guests. These were available for purchase at the January meeting of the Society. A very special thank you to Joan Liggett, who organised the whole event with her usual efficiency and care.

A sad note to end this, I'm afraid. The writer was on her way back from the Ladies room, and was just about to enter the Refectory, when the Barbershop Chorus were about to make their entrance. She was summoned by their leader and eagerly approached him to find out what he wanted - thinking, of course, that at last after all these years she had been 'discovered' - only to find that she was merely required to hold the door open for them while they rushed through it to their audience.



SOME OF DICK BOLTON'S RANDOM SCRIBBLINGS AT THE CHRISTMAS FEAST



THE BARBERSHOP CHORUS AT THE CHRISTMAS FEAST

photo: Sasha Lawrence

# Wine & Wisdom at St. Mary's Parish Centre

E. MERRILL JOHNS

**A**S WE SET OUT for the occasion the overwhelming feeling was that somewhere the weather spirits must be casting an evil eye over us. Last year a blizzard sent us home early, this year high winds and rain greeted us.

Once in the hall of St. Mary's we left such gloomy thoughts behind us and greeted familiar faces before settling at our tables of six for the questions.

There was the usual list of topics and the awesome decision as to the most likely area in which our team could excel. We did quite well in ours, but performed even better in another. Were we alone in that error of judgement? I suspect not!

In the section on Quotations one was "Tomorrow is another Day".

It could well be the thought for the evening, as most teams are destined to go home in various stages of disappointment.

During the interval, we had welcome refreshment of French bread, ham, cheese, tomatoes and apples. The 'Dingbats' provided the usual challenge while we ate.

The evening was a great success, for which we not only thank members and friends who participated but also Mr Clive

Taylor for asking the questions, his wife, Jill, for marking and Mr Andrew Denyer for totalling the marks.

Our Chairman, Mr Jack Woolford, struck a chord in all of us when he said that on these occasions we realise both how much we have forgotten and how much we wish we had known. The Taweans, who won, had least to regret, with the 1066 team as runners-up and Scrumpy Jack in third place. Glass paper weights inscribed "Dover Society - Wine and Wisdom 1997" made most acceptable first prizes.

In the car on the journey home we talked of the evening and I felt we could paraphrase a Bible passage as we reflected on those answers we did not give and those answers we gave which we ought not to have given and those answers we did not give which we ought to have given. For myself I am resolved to remember for all time the American party which chooses a donkey for its mascot!