



Festival of Dover 1997

A PRESS RELEASE FROM DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

FESTIVAL SET FOR NEW HORIZONS !

For 1997, Dover District Council's Arts and Special Events programme is centred around the theme "New Horizons", chosen to celebrate arts and activities from around the globe.

The flagship event of the year is, without a doubt, the Festival of Dover in May. Now in its sixth year, the Festival adopts a new approach, by combining community involvement with amateur and professional talent taken from around the world. During this nine-day fiesta, over one hundred events will take place, ranging from music, dance and drama to visual arts, workshops, literary talks and countryside walks.

This stimulating package of arts and activities continues to offer vital added value to those visiting the area, yet clearly provides opportunities for active involvement by the local community.

The annual arts celebration will be launched on Saturday, 17th May with a Caribbean Mardi Gras Party in the town centre, featuring entertainment from the Rhythm Makers, an authentic steel band, and Caribbean street theatre performances from the London-based company, Circo Rum Ba Ba. The open air shows range from appearances by Carmen Miranda on stilts to a 10 feet Little Red Devil juggling fire! The company will also be hosting a circus skills drop-in workshop, for all aspiring young performers.

New for 1997 is the introduction of public art into the programme. The innovative disabled sculptor Tony Heaton will

be working on a major piece of sculpture for Dover's seafront, titled "Squaring the Circle". He will be accompanied and aided by children from schools in the District. The piece is to be developed and created during the lead-up period to the Festival, and will be unveiled at a ceremony on Sunday, 18 May.

Music lovers will enjoy the programme of music from around the world which will take place in the Market Square each lunchtime over the Festival period. This will include Italian arias, classical Spanish guitar performances, traditional German Oompah sing-alongs and romantic French accordionists. Dance fans will not be disappointed either, with a fantastic show from the London company Flamenco Express taking place at the newly opened White Cliffs Theatre on Tuesday, 20 May and the Shikisha Dancers from Africa dancing in the Market Square on Thursday, 22 May. The highlight of the week will be the feature length young people's Song and Dance Spectacular on Saturday, 24 May, featuring the Best of British in Dover town centre.

Walkers and ramblers can discover "The Tropic of Dover" with the White Cliffs Countryside Project, who have organised a number of environmental activities to complement the world theme

0 of the Festival. These also include "A Touch of the Mediterranean" - a gentle walk around the Heights looking at wild herbs and their uses, and "French Canals" a bike ride along the canals in Northern France on Friday, 23 May.

Calling all would be tourists! In our celebration of world travel, a special cruise promotion evening promoting global cultures and experiences is to be presented at a brand new venue in Dover on Thursday 22 May. Sporting fans are catered for in "Howzat! An Evening With Dickie Bird!" on Friday 23 May.

The schools programme has been extended for the sixth consecutive year, bringing a comprehensive programme of events into classrooms around the district. Children of all ages will be offered opportunities to sample German puppetry workshops, experience traditional African story-telling and will participate in a French exchange project. One of the major features of the Festival will be the culmination of the "artists in residency" project, in which two schools will be participating.

"Paperboat Journey" is a major street theatre project, combining the art forms of craft and design, musical score writing and theatre production. The performance will be premiered in the town on Saturday 24 May, followed by a fantastic firework display launched from Dover Castle.

The finale to Festival Week will be the ever popular Teddy Bears' Picnic at Kearsney Abbey on Sunday 25 May, this year themed to incorporate the Teddy Bears' Wild West American Adventure. This event promises lots of fun and entertainment for the whole family, with storytelling, puppet shows, music and dance to keep all of the Teddy Bears entertained!

Once again the Festival has only been made possible through the generous support offered by local businesses and organisations and the enthusiastic involvement of local events organisers and promoters. Their contributions have enabled the programme to continue to expand, and while the sum of financial support is in the region of £20,000, support in kind is regarded as of equal value. We are particularly proud to announce a number of new partners this year, including De Bradelei's as principal sponsors for the 1997 Festival of Dover, SEEBOARD as major sponsors of Paperboat Journey, and Meridian Television, key sponsors of the new public art project.

A full Festival Programme will be able from late April at all local outlets, including libraries and Tourist Information Centres. However, if you would like to register for your advance copy of the programme, please call the Festival Hotline on 01304 375192.

LISA WEBB

X BINDERS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Please read this in conjunction with the Society's advertisement on page 44

The minimum order we can place with our suppliers is 100 copies and a list is being compiled of those members who would like their names to be added to it. (At the moment we have twelve names). When the list has, say, eighty names, the binders will be placed on order. The cost, likely to be a few pence more than the last figure, £3.00, does not include postage for out-of-town members.

The Binders hold 13 copies - space enough for more than 4 years of the *Newsletter*.

To add your name to the list write a note to the Secretary, Leo Wright, at "Beechwood", Green Lane, Dover C163AR or use the slip enclosed with this *Newsletter*.

That's all you have to do to ensure that in the fullness of time a Binder will be delivered to your door!