

16 including craft, music, dance, drama and theatre skills training. Over 100 children were involved, working closely with staff, with the support of parents and friends.

There was something special in the atmosphere on the evening before the big day, when participants, busy making final preparations to costumes and sets, decided spontaneously to break out into song and performance in one of the Harbour Board's warehouse sheds. It was obvious that these young people had really gained from the project, learned to work together, discovered talents previously unknown, shown dedication to and passion for the project and still had fun!

On the night the heavy winds dropped and temperatures nudged a little higher as we assembled in the Market square with a flotilla of flickering paper boat lanterns. The procession led us to Pencester Gardens, transformed for a couple of hours into a magical kingdom

of light, sound and movement, as we were taken on a journey of discovery with magical creatures, mighty machines, shipwrecks and a tree glazed shadow puppet show. The spell binding performance was then topped by a magnificent Fireworks Spectacular to keep everyone awake a little longer! My philosophy has always been that unless young people are introduced to the Arts at a young age they will never truly understand the richness they can bring to our lives. It was a fitting finale to the Festival. It had opened and closed on a high, with excellent support from residents and visitors.

Tomorrow we will begin all over again with plans for 1998. The theme will be "Coastal Landscapes", looking at and addressing environmental issues through the arts and events programme. It is planned to run the Festival of Dover from Bank Holiday Saturday 23rd May until Saturday 30th May -- so make a note in your diary!

Membership News – Summer 1997

THANKS TO MEMBERS – the majority – who have now paid their subscriptions. To save postage, cheques and/or cash put through our door will not normally be acknowledged, though I am happy to provide new membership cards at the AGM or on receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope. Also, for economy reasons, we try to limit bank transactions and cheques may take some weeks to show up on a statement. Please do not hesitate to telephone me if there are any queries.

We are becoming more and more international and have members in the USA, New Zealand, Norway, Belgium and Australia, one recruited as a result of our advertisement in the Dover Town Centre Shopping Guide, which I hope will continue to be published. Nevertheless, word of mouth is the most effective means of gaining new members, so please mention our activities to your friends,

The Committee is trying to show that *all members* are welcome at our meetings and we intend to provide a positive greeting to anyone coming along for the first time. Since 'Society' includes companionship we hope to live up to our name and at our October meeting we especially welcome all new members who are able to attend that first meeting of the winter season. One of the committee members will be standing at the door and we would ask new members to identify themselves as they arrive.

Since the last issue of the *Newsletter* we have welcomed: Mr A, Brooks, Mr R. Kennett, Mr & Mrs L. Wood, Mr & Mrs R. Evans, Mr P. Waelput, Mrs T. Hirst, Mr M. Igglesden, Mr & Mrs H. Gordon and Mrs P. Mayes.

SHEILA R. COPE, *Membership Secretary*