

Festival of Dover 1999

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SNEAK PREVIEW

LISA WEBB, ARTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

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The town's annual arts celebration, the Festival of Dover, is coming up shortly, and promises a packed programme of entertaining events and activities. The Festival, coordinated by Dover District Council, runs from the 29 May through to the 6 June, to coincide with the late May Bank Holiday, and the week of half term holidays. While the programme is therefore tailored to meeting the needs of local families and children looking for something to do, it also aims to add interest for those visiting the area.

The week will be launched on Saturday 29 May with a day of high quality European street theatre in Market Square, including comedy cabaret, visual theatre and street entertainment from the Grand Theatre of Lemmings and the Invisible Men, along with local professional entertainers and a European street theatre event as part of the Music et Ramparts programme.

The following day, the annual Teddy Bear's Fairytale Picnic will take place at Kearsney Abbey - a classic children's event encompassing many family arts-based activities. Storytelling sessions, live music, dance and movement workshops, puppetry and drama from Pumpernickel Puppet Company, along with many other children's activities combine to provide a full day of free entertainment. Also on Sunday 30 May there will be "An Evening with Noel Coward and George Gershwin", an evening of light entertainment at The Churchill Hotel provided by leading soprano Marie Kelly and West End singer Freddie Williams and a supporting cast. Marking the centenary celebrations of Noel Coward and George Gershwin, the show will include songs, sketches and revue numbers.

On Bank Holiday Monday, a day of classic seaside street theatre is programmed for Dover seafront, including performances by the musical deep sea diving Jelly Rollers and pirate and mermaid walkabout duo Circo Rum Ba Ba. Support is provided by jazz bands, children's entertainers, puppetry and face painting. Meanwhile, at De Bradelei Wharf a special reunion event will take place for those evacuated during World War II. "Evacuees Reunion" will include a wartime tea party, with various artists providing music and songs of the era, and an opportunity for all participants to swap stories, photos and memorabilia.

In conjunction with the county wide Kent Dance Festival, Dover will host a two day event employing professional dancers and companies to provide a varied package of dance masterclasses, workshops and performance based work. This event will take place on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 June, with the project culminating in a professional showcase of work, featuring the professional dancers and local participants alike on the evening of Sunday 6 June.

Music will be explored in Music Lab'99, a three day music residency project to be staged once again during the Festival, enabling young people to work alongside a

20 professional team of musicians and performers at the White Cliffs Theatre. The tutors will hold masterclasses and workshops, lead rehearsals and help form bands who will perform in a finale concert alongside various named acts. Music forms will include rock, pop, jazz, folk and all forms of modern music, and participants will take away with them a compact disc and video recording of their achievements. This event takes place between Thursday 3 and Saturday 5 June.

Another project will be "The Dreaming Sea", the second part of the trilogy project, Millennium Voyage, and the result of a community based residency project led by Strange Cargo Arts Company. Participants will be devising and producing a multimedia open air show to be staged at the prestigious location of Dover Castle on Friday 4 June, as part of a three year programme of visual theatre for the Festival. Dover Town Council will be coordinating a 60's night at Dover Town Hall, including performances by The Maroon Dogs and personalities of the era. Throughout the week, local organisations and individuals will be presenting exhibitions at venues including Crabble Corn Mill, John Angell the Jewellers, White Cliffs Experience and Dover Museum.

De Bradelei Wharf is once again the principal sponsor of the Festival, having provided a major investment over a three year period and enabling over 90% of the activities in the Festival to be provided free of charge. Other major sponsors include Tesco Stores, who are supporting all of the audience development projects, along with Pfizer, George Hammond and Dover Eurochange to name but a few.

A full festival programme will be available from 19 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.

Windmills on the Goodwins

From Terry Sutton

Electricity-generating windmills on the Goodwin Sands in the English Channel? Forget the idea, say members of the Dover Society's planning committee. Completely impracticable, says the committee's chairman, Jack Woolford. The general opinion of our committee was that any structures would just sink.

The idea of the offshore windfarm, presented to Dover District Council, came from Glasgow-based Natural Power Company which revealed it is looking at about ten offshore sites around the UK coast for possible use for windfarms to create electricity.

Natural Power's Alan Macintyre believes the offshore windmills could be creating power in five years time. But that depends on winning the necessary consents from national and local authorities.

One possible site for a windfarm, put forward by the company, was the Goodwin Sands and the idea was welcomed by members of our of Dover District Council's planning committee.

Support for the whirling offshore windmills came from Councillor Simon Bannister who wamed that the world's supply of fossil fuels was fast running out and who claimed that a shortage of fuel to create electricity could lead to world wars.

Mr McIntyre said it was encouraging to know at least one local authority supported the project when there were so often planning objections to windfarms.