

Impressions of the Celebrations

by two members of the Dover Society...

PEACELIGHT LANTERN PROCESSION AND THE 2ND MILLENNIUM CLOCK

NEW YEAR'S EVE, 1999 by Terry Sutton

What better way to bid farewell to the old Millennium? More than three thousand happy faces, young and old, filled Dover Town Centre as they walked in the lantern procession from Dover College to the sea front.

It was the spectacular New Year's Eve community event, superbly created by the Strange Cargo Arts Company, and the start of two days of Millennium celebrations. By the time the procession reached the sea front, through the Christmas illuminated and decorated streets, lined with spectators, there were more than five thousand people enjoying the magical scene.

Everyone was in a happy mood. The weather was kind. Police reported virtually no trouble on either night and there were many congratulations to Dover District Council which organised the event.

On the sea front promenade the huge crowd watched a large sculptural bonfire on the beach as the Clock of the Second Millennium creaked in flames through its final minutes into a new age.

The exciting event ended in a cacophony of sound, flashing lights and a fantastic display of fireworks. The Second Millennium was no more... but the Third Millennium was waiting to arise from the bonfire ashes.



Photos: Dover Express