

## VISIT TO THE MARLOWE

*West Side Story* 20th July, 2000

It was our first trip with the Dover Society as new members. A party of twenty left Dover by coach for Canterbury on what seemed like the hottest afternoon of the year. Despite the fact that we felt we should be making the most of the rare glimpse of the sun, this was more than compensated for by the brilliant show we saw at the Marlowe Theatre, *West Side*

..... by LIZ VEALE

*Story*, a modern 'Romeo and Juliet' set in America, the singing, dancing and acting as professional as it could be.

Our seats were in a good position and although some of our party found the music too loud we were not of the same opinion. A very enjoyable outing for our first with the Dover Society and many thanks to the organisers of the occasion.

## THE OCTOBER MEETING

*The meeting held on 16th October, 2000 was divided into two halves. In the first half of the evening members enjoyed a talk by Derek Leach and after the interval everyone was involved in discussions about future projects and other Society matters.*

### "The Secret Treaties of Dover"

*Derek Leach's Address to Members 16 October 2000*

by JACK WOOLFORD

The first secret Treaty of Dover began: "For the perpetual union and friendship between the two kings and their states, articles so secret and advantageous to the monarchs have been agreed upon that a treaty of similar importance can hardly be found in any period of history. The Lord King of Great Britain being convinced of the truth of the Catholic religion and resolved to declare it, and reconcile himself with the Church of Rome as soon as the welfare of his Kingdom will permit". To explain this and two other similar treaties, perhaps the most discreditable in England's history, explained our speaker, we had to go back to the 17th century.

Derek Leach outlined the events of the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 and illustrated these with portraits of the King and pictures of his landing at Dover at dawn on May 25 where the Mayor presented him with an ornate Bible which, he said, was "the thing I love above all things in the world". That evening a thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey had to be cancelled because

Charles slipped away to spend the night with Barbara Palmer (nee Villiers), for which her husband was made Earl of Castlemaine and she Duchess of Cleveland. After twelve years and six children Charles broke with her when John Churchill, later Duke of Marlborough, jumped out of her bedroom window to avoid him.

Charles swore to maintain the Magna Carta and pardoned all those who had opposed his father, Charles I, apart from the 49 who were signatories of the 1649 death warrant. Only 10 were executed - "I am weary of hanging" - but Cromwell's corpse was exhumed and hung at Tyburn. The Cavalier Parliament, more Royalist than the King, re-established the Church of England, though Charles himself was inclined to toleration and tried to get pensions for 2000 Puritan clergy who were sacked. Games and sports, music the theatre and the arts were released from puritan dreariness. Aged 30 Charles was dazzling yet earthy, athletic in every sense of the word. He acquired the nickname "Old Rowley"