

10 tolerate no opposition! Parliament was recalled in 1640, but only for three weeks, to deal with the Scottish threat. It was all down hill for Charles after this with the Civil War and his execution in 1649.

The Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 enshrined the achievements of the interregnum and curtailed government by royal prerogative. Following the

Glorious Revolution of 1688, parliament offered the crown to William and Mary and set Britain well on the road to the constitutional monarchy that we know today.

In conclusion, Reg returned to his opening theme that human nature and the problems that have to be faced are very much the same in every age: only the solutions differ.

THE CHRISTMAS FEAST 2001

Reported by Shirley Dowle

IN TRUE DOVER SOCIETY tradition we met for the now 'much-looked-forward-to' feast of 2001. It was held on Saturday, 15th December, at Dover College Refectory.

There were eleven long tables, filled by 79 members and their guests. We were greeted by a charming group of ladies who offered us sherry or juice. Everyone seemed in good spirits and the atmosphere felt very festive. As always the food was excellent, especially the salmon, and was enjoyed by all. I am sure we all gained a few pounds that evening. Even the strong-minded could not resist the tempting, delicious desserts. Many had second helpings.

After we had all partaken to the full the fun began in earnest. Lillian Kay had organised the entertainment which she led and she had recruited some others to help her. We listened to a story or two from Lillian, a poem from Derek Leach and some solo pieces from a brilliant, visiting flautist, Sarah Gooda, who played enchantingly and performed a piece in each half of the programme, accompanied on a keyboard by Mrs. Dunne, a former Music teacher from Dover Grammar School for Girls.

We sang a lot of carols and tried to sing in parts. I could not decide whether the ladies or gentlemen were the better singers. Some were not sure which part they were singing! We had great difficulty with the rounds. Where did all the high notes go? We did very well with a rendering of 'Three Blind Mice', with actions.

In the interval we had time to catch our breath as the Christmas raffle took place. As usual there was a large and varied selection of prizes.

Back to the main entertainment again, with Miss Kay leading us in a poem called 'My Hat'. We all tried hard with this action poem but - Oh dear! - I think we left Miss Kay doing most of it as a solo! The carol singing was much enjoyed by all. Miss Kay was, as always, very entertaining and enterprising in her choice of programme and we thank her for giving us such an enjoyable and amusing time. The evening ended with a hearty rendition by all of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'.

Everyone left, I am sure, having thoroughly enjoyed the whole evening. I am looking forward to coming again next year. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps in any way to make our events so enjoyable.