

R.E.V.I.E.W.S

THE CENTRAL ESTATE AND THE HARTLEPOOLS (1800-2000)

by JACK WOOLFORD

Jack has spent thirty-five years researching and collecting material for this detailed history of his birthplace. He was born on the Central Estate in 1917 and grew up there, aware of his environment and of the fact that it was different from adjacent West Hartlepool. In 1935 he went to university and thereafter he spent vacations on the Estate and his leaves during the 1939-45 war.

He writes, 'I learned the dialect and values, learned how and what to play and how and when to fight, and although there came a time when I was glad to get away to earn a living elsewhere, I was drawn back after twenty years of separation by an increasingly strong wish to return to my roots and an even stronger wish to understand and explain them'.

This is precisely what the writer has succeeded in doing in this book. The chapters are divided into 'packages' of time, ending in Chapter 12 with the period 1945-99, and this, perhaps, is the most telling for the non-Hartlepuddian. After following, in nine chapters, the fortunes of the close knit community of the Central Estate in the first half of the twentieth century, with studies of the changes in population and occupations, the reader faces the contrast of the second half of the century.

This is not just the story of the Central Estate, which the author describes as 'the semi-detached suburb of a ship-building industrial town'. It might be the suburb of any large industrial city, with the reality of post-war planning after war damage, of markets lost, of new competition; of out-of-date industry and

the need for modern development. When town planners got to work 'the long term policy for the Central Estate was total clearance'. Jack comments, 'it was a brutal verdict, naturally provoking determined opposition'.

1967 saw the amalgamation of the two Hartlepoons. From then the author charts the wholesale demolition and the new developments in each of them. 'There was a fundamental rethink of the town's orientation from manufacture to tourism... to pre-industrial Hartlepool's role as a seaside resort'.

However, in the last pages he concludes that the Central Estate fared better than other areas for rebuilding and replacement homes and survives rejuvenated. Perhaps it could develop the feeling of neighbourliness which once existed when, as one old resident said, 'The Estate was a Village'.

The book will shortly be published by Printability Wolviston at £10.99. Dover Society members can obtain a copy from Jack Woolford for £10.00 (Tel: 330381).

Merril Lilley

Another new local book:

GREETINGS, DOVER!

from JACK HEWITT

Following the success of his books about Lillian Kay and Joe Harman, Derek Leach has produced a third book about a living Dovorian. Entitled *Greetings, Dover!* it tells the story of Jack Hewitt MBE, a well-known character, now 90 years old, whose memories of Dover go back to the First World War. Jack has given a lifetime of service to the people of Dover, mainly, but not only, through his very many years in the scout movement and in the Order of St John. In both organisations he held and holds

high office locally and was held in high esteem nationally. His 29 years in the County Ambulance Service also enabled Jack to serve through his paid work. Jack has travelled widely all over the world seeking unusual experiences in far flung parts of the world such as celebrating the Millennium in the Antarctic! He is a very cheerful but cheeky chappy who has often 'got away with murder,' particularly during his war service, and his story is packed with amusing

anecdotes including how he got that unique laugh of his. The book is well illustrated with over 100 photographs, many of Dover.

The book should be available mid April, probably priced at £10, and will be available direct from Derek Leach (01304 823926), delivered free in Dover or by post (£1.50 p&p). Cheques should be made payable to D A Leach. It will also be available at WH Smith, Dover, Dover Library and Museum and Tyler's of Deal.

2002 Dover Pageant

5th & 6th May 2002

**2.30pm - 5.00pm in the
Grounds of Dover College**

The Story of Dover is told through narration, drama, music, dance and colourful period costumes. Noreen Thomas from Templeside has written the script which brings alive 2000 years of history.

Many schools, individuals and local groups, including the Dover Society, participate in this major community theatre production which first took place in 1908.

Join us in a bygone age, surrounded by buildings of the 12th century for an entertaining afternoon.

The Dover Pageant programme is now on sale at £1.00 plus postage 44p. Tickets are also on sale at £3.00. You can pay £5.00 to secure front row seats.

*For tickets, programmes and
further details contact:*

**The Pageant Master
4 Harold Street
Dover, Kent CT16 1SF
Tel: 01304 242990**

Email: doverpageant@binternet.com

PART 1

- Episode 1 - King Arthur
- Episode 2 - Bronze Age Boat
- Episode 3 - Romans
- Episode 4 - Anglo Saxons
- Episode 5 - Dover Market and Fair
- Episode 6 - Eustace of Boulogne
- Episode 7 - William I
- Episode 8 - Stephen and Matilda
- Episode 9 - Henry I
- Episode 10 - Richard I
- Episode 11 - King John and Padulf
- Episode 12 - Edward I
- Episode 13 - Henry V
- Episode 14 - The Black Death
- Episode 15 - Henry VII

Interval

PART 2

- Episode 1 - Henry VIII
- Episode 2 - Elizabeth I
- Episode 3 - Charles II
- Episode 4 - Smugglers
- Episode 5 - French Revolution
- Episode 6 - Nelson
- Episode 7 - W H Smith
- Episode 8 - Queen Victoria
- Episode 9 - Edward VII
- Episode 10 - Zeebrugge Raid
- Episode 11 - Hop Pickers
- Episode 12 - General Montgomery
- Episode 13 - Elizabeth II
- Episode 14 - Finale