

of syllable-strings within the lines, whereas Shakespeare made sure that not all his pentameters slavishly followed the pattern of "tee-tum - tee-tum - tee-tum - tee-tum: e.g. "Friends, Romans, countrymen, LEND me your ears".

Philip Robinson then, again without accompaniment (or help from members of the audience who didn't know it) performed a comic donkey song "*Mon Ane*" by Pierre Dupont from 1848-51 to

demonstrate how the musical stress could fall anywhere in a French line of verse. To end the evening, some of the audience learned that "*For he's a jolly good fellow*" is really a very ancient French tune as they (eagerly) sang along to several verses of "*Malbrouck s'en va-t-en guerre*" and enthusiastically applauded the command to "Go forth and utter your strings of French syllables, leaving your stress at home"(!).

Château de Malmaison set in the grounds of the Bois-Préau 10 miles west of Paris was the home of the Empress Josephine. Between 1800-1804 Napoleon would visit at weekends, though his presence would hardly make the party go with a bang. Only twenty minutes was all the time allowed for meals, and when called upon to sing, he always gave a rendition of "*Malbrouck s'en va-t-en guerre*" (Malbrouck Goes to War), out of tune. An odd choice, when you remember that it was Malbrouck, the Duke of Marlborough, who had beaten the French armies a hundred years earlier.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**SUMMER 2005**

At around 450 our membership is about the same as it was this time last year and we have recruited a record 19 members since the spring. We are indebted to those who introduce friends and also to Terry Sutton who, as our press correspondent, works hard to keep Dovorians aware of the Society. Thus we manage slowly to increase our numbers year by year in spite of inevitable losses.

Our new members are:- Mr R Markham, Mrs L Young, Mr S Perkins, Mr D & Mrs J Downie, Mrs D Hodgson, Mr R & Mrs J Marsh, Mrs S Langley, Mr M & Mrs J Bates, Mr K & Mrs S Munday, Mrs C Dennison, Mr P Sherratt, Mrs J Baldwin, Mrs J Laws, Mr S & Mrs C Crowley.

In the Spring I thanked all raffle helpers. Adeline Reidy has kindly offered to organise raffles from October and I feel totally confident that with the support of members Adeline will find the task satisfying and even entertaining.

*Sheila Cope, Membership Secretary*