

# Dover Pageant

## a Personal View

by Mike McFarnell

Expressing the thoughts inside my head going into the 2005 Dover Pageant as pressure inside began to rise, exponentially increasing with each passing moment. Desperately I began to search for some way to turn it off, some way out of the blinding morass of unfinished bits, uncompleted tasks, hundreds of pages of script falling out of order, flying away, hundreds of people wandering vacantly around asking the same stupid questions over and over again. But alas, as I knew from past experience, there is none. I knew also that sometime around one o'clock on Sunday morning, I would go into the final stages of a terrible process I have come to know very well, eyes blank, red and staring, hot and cold sweats, waves of panic accompanied by shouts of *where did I put that sledgehammer?* And I know it; I just know it, that computer hard drive is going to fail again!! And Look I told you a hundred times you're going to be a \*\*\*\*\* peasant, not Henry the \*\*\*\*\* Eighth! I've got Henry the Eighths coming out of my \*\*\*\*\* ears. Now \*\*\*\* off! Anyone observing this for the first time would think, this is it, this is the moment the lid finally comes off... but no,



just when there seems to be no place left to go apart from disappearing into a deep dark hole, an eerie calm slowly spreads over my face, blissful almost, and people realize that I have seen it...the vision I have been looking for everyday for the past 6 months, the moment when the last chair is put in line, the last programme neatly stacked, the last piece of ribbon tied, the last straggling performer rounded up, and heard the sound of the first fanfare in my mind... the moment when that vision is finally there locked in place in my minds eye, I know I am going to make it... against all the odds, the Pageant flags will fly once more. At the same moment, also borne of many years experience, my wife collapses in a heap!

I realize my dream is also shouldered by many other people, who contribute as much or more to turning a vision into reality. From the Dover Society, Jack Woolford as a discreet man of Dover was in the group who received the Dover Harbour Board Charter in 1606. In part two Terry Sutton as an ace reporter interviews Blanchard and Jefferies in 1785. For all those who missed the Pageant there is an opportunity to view photographs which are on the website [www.doverpageant.com](http://www.doverpageant.com) or to wait until the 2005 Dover Film at Dover Town Hall is shown in February 2006. I wish to thank all the members of the Dover Society who gave me their help and support.