

This was a truly magical midsummer's evening, made even more so by the lack of any charge for attendance, the beautiful surroundings of the Dover Town Hall and the well-stocked bar. We live in hope that the spirit of the Moscow and Kiev Conservatoires will continue to shed its light on music in Dover, and that there will be many more such events.

The next concert is scheduled to be held on Saturday 7th October 2006, 7.30 PM. Details will be announced later and may be obtained from:

The Dover Music Society, Tel. 01304 213035 Fax: 01304 213039

E-mail: concerto@supanet.com

Town Centre Trees

— — — by Jack Woolford — — —

They are there, all *ten* of them, in the Market Square and at intervals all the way along to McDonald's. It has taken almost three years, from the initial suggestion by our Mike Bayley, who drew a map with pictures showing the proposed *eight* trees in situ, to the fruition by Dover District Council's Horticultural primo, Darren Solley.

The word "vicissitude" suggests itself. We had no difficulty in persuading you, our members, to subscribe £1000 and A.J. Simmonds, jewellers to add £250, and, although it took a little longer, to secure a contribution of £1500 from Dover Town Council. We had also hoped to raise another £800 from the Dover (ex-coalfield) Regeneration budget but ran out of time because of the delays. Fortunately it was no longer needed.

The first problem was the method of planting. We naturally assumed that it would, as normal and as elsewhere, be in the ground and it took a whole year to establish that because of underground pipes and services this was

impossible. The self-evident solution, to use planters instead, following the excellent precedent set by Dover in Bloom, was nevertheless controversial and time-consuming. The next problem was the position of each tree and a late intervention by CCTV meant that only one of our original placings was acceptable. Another problem was the choice of a suitable species of tree; this started with Rowan went on to Hornbeam then Ginkgo Biloba. Finally it was decided on Liquidamber Styraciflua 'Worplesdon' (Sweetgum) which

are now praise-worthily in place, all *ten* of them. The Worplesdon is a beautiful tree with a height of 12-16 feet its leaves are lobed; glossy, mid-green in colour and in the autumn turn a striking orange/red and yellow colour.

The last problem was (and is) the drought which, although it threatens Dover in Bloom flower containers, appears to have been overcome. And there is, in fact, yet another problem: to plaque or not to plaque and if so, where.



Trees in the Market Square