

# Dover Regalia

Jack Woolford

BRYAN WALKER was not wearing his splendid black and gold uniform and did not (alas!) play his magnificent bugle, but his modest (but smart) mufti could not conceal his professional pride and joy in being Dover's Town Sergeant, custodian and exhibitor of Dover's regalia. He virtually brushed aside his 1955 origins in Hereford, his 26-year world-wide service as a Royal Marines Bandsman and his short service with Eurotunnel as mere preliminaries to his 1996 Dover appointment. He also spoke lightly of his duties as Attendant, Chauffeur and Mace Bearer to the Mayor of Dover but presented each item of regalia with reverent, almost caressing, care, with details of date, donor, purpose, constructor, maintenance and repair - and anecdotes.



*The Town Sergeant with the 1869 Town Mace*



*The 1898 Dover Jewel*



*Dover's 1933 Mayoress' Pendant*



*Brian Walker, Dover Town Sergeant*

He began with a crescendo of smaller items: the 1867 Mayor's Chain and Badge of Office, the 1933 Mayoress's Pendant, the 1898 Dover Jewel and the 1920 Dover Casket. The climax properly came with the 1676 Mace, which commemorated the Dover landing of Charles II returning from exile.

His two lapses into sadness concerned the 1st April 1974 loss of Dover's right to create Honorary Freemen and the appalling 1969 theft of so many of the town's treasures. His gracious tribute to his legendary predecessor Reg Leppard was moving. It was an enchanting as well as instructive performance.



*Dover's 1867 Mayor's Chain and Badge of Office*