

# Dover Harbour, Royal Gateway

*Report by Derek Leach*

**T**he Editor asked me of all people to write a report of my own presentation to the October meeting. Almost a year ago it seemed a good idea for me to give a talk in October 2006 based upon my book to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the granting of a royal charter by James I dated 6th October 1606, during the very month when the Harbour Board would be celebrating the occasion and distributing copies of my book to all its staff and pensioners.

How wrong I was! I struggled throughout the summer to produce a presentation lasting no more than 45 minutes, but failed miserably as the packed audience discovered when I overran by 20 minutes or so! What to omit from such a wealth of information about the development of the harbour and connections with the royal family over many centuries defeated me. Visual aids were another problem. In choosing the images for the book itself I had difficulty selecting about 200 from the thousands available. This was far too many for 45 minutes and I agonised over which to omit, only managing to reduce the total to 100. In addition I had decided to take a quantum leap forward in my technology. Instead of an overhead projector I purchased a laptop computer with PowerPoint software and borrowed a PowerPoint projector from the Museum. Whilst I enjoyed preparing the visual presentation it gave me yet another headache, familiarising myself with the technology and making sure that all the cables were in the right holes. I must thank Mike McFarnell for helping me to

set up all the equipment during the interval. Fortunately, it all worked on the night, except for one slip when I pressed the 'end of show' key instead of the 'next' key and went from image 20 straight to image 100, but I managed to sort it fairly quickly.

So, I must apologise for making the packed audience late home, but hope that some at least thought it was time well spent.

This report must be unique since it tells you virtually nothing about the talk itself. This is deliberate, although, like my talk, I would have had trouble reducing it to a few hundred words! The reason is that elsewhere in this edition Terry Sutton has written a review of the book which in fact summarises my talk. If you want to know more, I suggest you buy the book!



*Stanfield's painting of the building of the Admiralty Pier*



*Painting of Henry VIII in 1520*