



had had to miss his performance: the kindness and good company of P. D. James who showed such interest in the festival and in the future of Dover itself: the moving and funny performance by 'Words' Alive!' at Astor High School's parents evening: Sarah Lear, the children's librarian at Deal, dressed as a furry pink elephant on the hottest day of the year(!), alternately delighting and terrifying her young observers in the Charlton Shopping Centre: Donna's much derided Teddy Bear Rally on a glorious Whit Monday when all the world seemed to have come to Kearsney Abbey with teddies big and small, flat and fat, ancient and modern, to have a good time in the sunshine with Judy and Punch Puppet Company and the splendid staff from the GPO who gave their free time to bring Postman Pat to an entranced young audience. Most of all, I think, I appreciated the good humour and mutual support of the committee when things weren't going too well or when we realised the enormity of the project that we had undertaken so lightly, and also the hard work of Donna Sowerby whose enthusiasm kept us all going.

We have made some mistakes but we have learnt a lot and we will learn more when the District Council's survey results are analysed; this will stand us all in good stead whatever happens in the future. We would have been delighted if some people had taken it upon themselves to write to the Press expressing pleasure with events they had attended, but, alongside some criticism over the siting of the box office, we have all received encouraging verbal appreciation from many people and at least no one can say that we didn't have a go! We remain bloody, but unbowed.



## Deadline for CONTRIBUTORS

An important change has been made in the *Newsletter* publication dates.

As from the next issue publication will be one month earlier than has been our custom, ie in April, August and December. A number of advantages, both to the membership as well as to the Editor and producer will result from the change and will, we hope, soon become apparent.

The Editor welcomes contributions and illustrations, particularly line drawings, or other appropriate visual materials.

The deadline for issue No. 15, for publication on 1st December, is 24th October. The producer would prefer "copy" to be typed, and in any case asks that it be double-spaced. Single spacing, especially in manuscript, is a frequent source of typesetting error.

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College during the first week of the festival. With the help of John Rice, Arts Officer, Kent County Council, we managed to organise this and the college ran workshops for the general public and sessions in local schools. Chris Waterman of Dover Museum and Chris Lean, Public Relations Manager, Dover District Council, were invited onto the committee and Christine offered the museum as a venue for the festival launch and organised the superb exhibition 'Dover in Words and Pictures'. She also agreed to join Ivan Green, the historian, to present 'Dover Past and Present' at the Town Hall, Chris Lean was able to offer his expertise in obtaining publicity for the festival and in organising the brochure and posters.

Whilst all this was going on Donna was beaver away to obtain sponsorship; her efforts were amply rewarded and the festival was supported by Arjo Wiggins, Barclays Bank, Eurotunnel, KCC, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, National Westminster Bank, Pfizer, P & O European Ferries and South East Arts. All of the sponsors not only gave money to support the festival but also showed great interest in the venture for which we are very grateful. Help and support was also given by Dover Choral Society, Dover Film Society, the Dover Society, Friends of Dover Museum, the White Cliffs Experience and the Charlton Shopping Centre.

The meetings went on and on! Donna insisted on running a giant Teddy Bear Rally in Kearsney Abbey on Whit Monday. Misgivings were expressed by some of the committee who were concerned about the possibility of bad weather, drowned teddy bears or, even worse, drowned children, but it was decided to go ahead. Long discussions were held about how to run the Box Office without any extra staffing budget and the publicity material was cleverly devised by Anita Luckett at Dover Museum. The extremely complicated schools' timetable was revised almost daily to accommodate the needs of schools and artists and nearly drove me, and my assistant Jenny Hart, demented. Sleepless nights followed as the programme grew and most of us wondered what we had let ourselves in for!

We had our last meeting on Sunday, 17th May, when Donna and her husband Pete, Peter, Gavin and I went to the Town Hall to make final preparations. By this time we were past caring what happened!

Monday morning dawned bright and sunny and I thought it must be a good omen. I was wrong. By 9.20am I had a frantic phone call from Michael Rosen to say that he had been burgled, he was with the police and he couldn't come to talk to 450 children who had been looking forward to his visit for five months. I managed to telephone everyone just in time to stop the coaches leaving and I decided at that moment that whatever happened over the fortnight, it couldn't be worse than this so it must be downhill all the way from then on. I was right this time! Apart from minor hitches everything swung into action and worked just as planned.

Obviously, I wasn't able to attend all the events but some things stand out in my memory: the caring attitude and professionalism of Colin the Magical Clown who insisted on foregoing his lunch to go back to St. Martin's School to see a group of small children who

