



THE PRESENTATION

had set a good example in giving up their Sunday morning to take part in this voluntary environmental exercise. All hoped that the now tidy area would prove to be sustainable. Councillor Hubbard, Vice-Chairman, Technical Services Committee, DDC, presented the trophy to the Dover Grammar School CCF, the winning team.

On completion of the work the participants retired to M'Donald's restaurant for welcome refreshment.

Thanks are due to Tesco and M'Donald for sponsoring the cadets in this public spirited voluntary project.

The rubbish seemed never ending, ranging from litter to supermarket trolleys, large plastic packaging and, would you believe it?, two bedsteads. Not surprisingly the large skip was soon filled and as much rubbish again was stacked alongside for later collection.

Chairman Jack Woolford judged the competition and congratulated both teams on their efforts and said they

A Statue Dover Never Got!

MARJORIE WRIGHT

Some time ago there appeared in the *Dover Express* under the title "Anniversaries" a statement that : "On January 8th 1895 Rodin's statue of King Lear was refused by Dover."

Intrigued by this I recently got around to investigating the extraordinary statement.

In the first place there appears to be no known statue of King Lear by Rodin. (The French are not very keen on Shakespeare, though they are at present comparing François Mitterand with King Lear.)

So, to the Local History Library where, with the help and guidance of the Librarian, I discovered that marvellous chronicle of Dover's history in the late 19th century: *The Dover Year Book*. Here at last the awful and - let's face it - rather shaming truth was revealed. I quote:

DOVER DAY BY DAY

8TH JAN. 1895. A letter from the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava (Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports) to the Mayor was read at the Council saying that a French gentleman had executed a bronze statue of King Lear which he wished to present to the town. The offer was accepted but up to the present a suitable site has not yet been agreed upon.

22ND OCTOBER 1895. The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava resigned the post of Lord Warden in a letter to the Mayor.

28TH JULY 1896. Monsieur Mulot, the French sculptor, who had promised the King Lear statue to Dover, wrote that owing to the delay and manner (*sic*) his offer was dealt with, he would withdraw it.

NOTE: The life and works of Monsieur Mulot and his place in France's artistic history is another field for enquiry.

POSTSCRIPT: 17TH November 1896. The motor car made its first appearance in Dover.