Music for the Iron Voice

TERRY'S TRIUMPH

-- JACK WOOLFORD --

Music for the Iron Voice', the Organ recital sponsored by the Dover Society in aid of the East Kent Hospice in Dover College's splendid Chapel on Saturday 18 May was well attended (despite competing excellent musical attractions) and raised £150.

The occasion was a triumph for the organist Terrence Vardon - long time a member of the Dover Society,- of Temple Ewell and Dover Boys' Grammar School (who also had lessons on the College organ), now Headmaster of King Henry VIII School Coventry. Although starting off majestically with the gigantic challenge of Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, he described the ancient origins of the instrument and went on to play the earliest extant (14th century) piece of (English) keyboard music. Then, in strict chronological sequence, he por-trayed both instrumental and musical developments, with examples from 15th century Spain and 16th century France, to the great 18th century German climax of Buxtehude and Bach. All were masterpieces, display-ing to perfection the Iron Voice's unmatched range from quietest flute to most boisterous bass, and played with joyous and infectious virtuosity. The organist's scholarly

programme notes (beautifully printed by Budge Adams), were supplemented by his friendly, persuasive and humorous asides.

The masterpieces after the inteval were deliberately more mixed, from the exquisite refinements of 19th century Cesar Frank to the noisy extravagance of Widor's famous Toccata, and on to the un-organic 'absurdities' of Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer", Eric Coates' "Dambusters" March and, for encore, a delightfully witty amalgam of the "Sailor's Hornpipe", the third "Brandenburg Concerto", Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" and Arne's "Rule Britannia". The friendly rapport between organist and audience was manifest in applause more thunderous even than the loudest the organ could do.

Intended as a contribution to the Dover Festival before the change of dates the Society can congratulate itself on sponsoring a good cause in a uniquely unforgettable way.

Welcome to Calais Accueil

JACK WOOLFORD

On Monday 23 May there was a very pleasant ceremonial at the Town Hall when about twenty-five members of "Calais Accueil" a voluntary organisation to make visitors welcome to Calais, were hosted by the Mayor, Cllr. Lynn Young.

Although he could not be present, it was organised by Society Secretary, Leo Wright, who had dedicated himself particularly to the improvement of relations with our cross-Channel twin port and country. A year or two ago our members were similarly welcomed by the

Mayor of Calais, and it has taken time and patience, and the happy co-existence there of Mme Marion Lefebvre, English born, Calais resident, equally eager to promote Anglo-French friendship, to bring it about.

After initial greetings, Councillor Tant and the Town Sergeant guided the Dover Society representatives (Chairman, Vice-President Lillian Kay, Sybil Standing and Terry Sutton) and their guests to the Mayor's Parlour where the municipal regalia were displayed and expounded in what can best be described as a trialogue. Councillor and Town Sergeant, with interruptions from Terry Sutton, (and interpolations in schoolboy French from the Chairman) explained some of the mysteries of District and Town/ Parish Councils and, even more entertainingly, those of the Cinque Ports. These, of course, owed their existence to Anglo-French hostilities, both before and after

the Norman Conquest, and Terry's jesting reminders of French raids on Sandwich and English rule in Calais were deftly translated (by Mme Lefebvre) and greeted with friendly laughter.

The occasion concluded with a brief address by the Mayor of Dover and the service of refreshments, after which Cllr. Tant discussed with Mme Lefebvre earlier frustrated attempts from this side to promote Dover-Calais friendship, with twin promises to do better. The next episode will be the meetingand lunch with some of today's guests on our trip later this month (July) to the Cote d'Opale. This, too, has been organised by Leo Wright.

Excavations at the corner of Townwall Street and Woolcomber Street

KEITH PARFITT

 $F_{\rm OLLOWING\ THE\ DEMOLITION}$ of the petrol filling station off Townwall Street, members of the Canterbury Archæological Trust have spent some eighteen weeks on the site prior to the building of a new filling station. The work is being funded by BP Oil UK Ltd.

The site lies within the bounds of the former Burlington Hotel, destroyed during the last war. Centuries earlier the area formed an important region of the mediæval town. Lying within the ancient parish of St. James this site seems to have been situated in the fishermen's quarter of the old town.

A complex series of mainly timber buildings with trodden chalk floors has been excavated; their remains are hard to find. The pottery that is being found with them is mostly Norman in date, c. A.D. 1150 - 1200 and it would seem that there was then a thriving community in

this area. On the hill above the site, the great Keep of Dover Castle would have been under construction at exactly this time.

The excavations are due to be completed in early July but many more months of work on the very large number if artefacts recovered will be required. When that study and all the background research is completed it will be possible to produce a major new volume on the history of Mediæval Dover. It is already clear that there is a very interesting story to be told concerning a little-known part of this ancient town.