

# *The* **PHILOMENA KENNEDY** *Memorial*

## AN UPDATE

By Jeremy Cope

MEMBERS WILL BE AWARE from the report of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th April 2000 that the intention was to install a plaque in memory of our founding member. Practical difficulties in realising our plan have caused us to reconsider the matter and your committee decided to investigate one of the alternative ideas originally put forward. Philomena was Arts Mistress at Dover Grammar School for Girls for many years and a permanent trophy awarded annually as an art prize, with its direct connection with young people, seems very appropriate.

I wrote to the school and received an enthusiastic response from Mrs Thompson, Head of Sixth Form, on behalf of the Head Teacher and the school, welcoming our proposal. Mrs Thompson was warm in her praise of Philomena who had taught her. A meeting was arranged and the upshot was that the Lower Sixth art students are to be targeted with the award centred on their exhibition held in June. You may have recently read of AS levels and the sense of drudgery they can induce. There are few prizes to encourage students in this year and the award will be a welcome addition to the school prize list.

In our discussions with Mrs Thompson we both had very similar memories of Philomena's qualities and style. Any award needed to reflect the Philomena we knew and would have to be special. The Society has the job of finding and providing a "suitably imaginative trophy" and the obvious thing that springs to mind is one of Philomena's pictures or tapestries. Do any of our members know of the whereabouts and availability of such a work of art?



# THE GURKHA FESTIVAL OF MUSIC 2001

By Merril Lilley

ON SATURDAY, 19 MAY, 2001, the Gurkha Festival of Music was held at Dover Cruise Terminal 2, at the Western Docks. The venue was supplied by Dover Harbour Board and a stage was erected especially for the occasion. The departure hall was packed, every ticket sold.

The Festival was launched as a result of a 'one-off' concert, held at Cruise Terminal 1 in May, 2000. This was such a success that it was decided to hold an annual event, so this was the official launch. The concert was given by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkas, stationed at Shorncliffe Barracks, Folkestone, and also included the forty strong Snowdown Male Voice Choir. The aim of the festival was to raise funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust and for local charities.

The programme included a wide range of music, from traditional Nepalese dance music to Elvis Presley, and from Verdi to Shirley Bassey. The Snowdon choir contributed with a section of three songs in each half of the programme, including *Alexander's Ragtime Band* and *Land of my Fathers*. Each half of the programme ended with a joint performance of band and choir with a finale of *Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*, followed by the evening hymn, *Now the Day is Over*, and the last post. All were well received by an enthusiastic audience.

The Band of the Brigade of Gurkha was under the direction of Captain Neil Morgan and the Snowdown Male Voice Choir under the direction of Michael Lewis.