

SENTINEL was visited by a Canadian historian by the name of Andrew Hunter who has been researching the Lalla Rookh disaster of 1850, when 11 fishermen died while going to the rescue of the stricken ship.

WHILE the story of the tragedy has been told many times, few realise that the vessel in question was named after the subject of Thomas Moore's epic poem.

THE poem embodies the magical, exotic East – graceful, bejewelled and barefooted women with long, flowing hair and undulating skirts, romantic heroes, strange villains in ornate costume, horses with richly decorated saddles and bridles, all set against a backdrop of harems, tents and temples.

IT relates the journey of the princess Lalla Rookh from Delhi to Kashmir, and has been described as a miniature Arabian Nights adventure.

INCIDENTALLY, there was a Great Western steam engine called the Lalla Rookh, built in 1905, and today you can purchase a South Australian semillon white wine bearing the same name.

DURING the project, Mr Hunter toured Broadwater Cemetery and was appalled at the destruction of graves by morons who have, over the years, been allowed to get away with criminal damage on a disgusting scale.

HE was also most interested in a Sentinel article on the controversial billeting of Canadian troops in Worthing during the Second World War.