

THIS AND THAT

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— DOVER CHAT

Many people told me that they liked the idea of this chat page and some sent contributions, both oral and written.

Edna Littlehales wrote shortly after receiving her Newsletter and her letter, printed in full on page 78, highlights several interesting questions for discussion. For instance, how many of our members, I wonder, like Mrs. Littlehales, are not "real" Dovorians but regard the town as home? And how many members, like Mrs. Littlehales, are unable to attend meetings due to health reasons and depend on the Newsletter to keep in touch with events? And how many members have views on the amount and quality of entertainment in Dover, past and present? Why not give us your views?

Talking of members who are unable to attend meetings reminds me of another letter, sent to our Secretary, from Dover Care and Repair in Maison Dieu Road. This is an organisation which helps elderly or disabled home-owners to get repairs or improvements carried out to their properties. They have been in existence for five years and have been able to help a great many people, yet some of our members may not have heard of them. Full details can be found in our advertisement pages.

Also in the advertisements this time are details of Dover's Citizen's Advice Bureau, another organisation we thought may be of help to members. There are also two new advertisers, Blake's Wine Bar, already a favourite of many of our members, and Shirley Dowle's Dress Agency.

A member from New Zealand, Marion Griffiths, wrote to say that she liked "This and That- Dover Chat" and that she enjoyed reading all the Newsletters. She is very interested in the history of Dover and particularly in old churches in and around Dover.

Jim Francis (author of the interesting article "Farewell to Pilotage" in Newsletter 22) wrote to draw our attention to the two plaques placed in the sunken garden in front of the Gateway flats after the ceremony on Sunday, 14th May, dedicated to World Peace. Dover was declared a Sri Chinmoy Peace Town and the Channel a Peace Channel.

Have you strolled down to Granville Dock lately and noticed how busy it is, with every berth taken in the new Marina in the Tidal Basin and yachts coming and going at all hours. The new dredger, the David Church, can often be seen there alongside. It had its official inauguration on July 12th.

Amongst all the activity, a pair of herring gulls have nested in an old capstan at the end of Granville Dock and raised three babies, who are now almost ready to fly. This is the season, at the end of July into August, when the young birds are about to leave the nest and they can often be seen in unusual places and predicaments, especially along East Cliff. When they do take off, they collect on the beach, in clusters of up to thirty youngsters, in charge, it appears, of some sentinel adult gulls. They are quite fascinating to watch, even if they are regarded as a nuisance to householders and car-owners.

Please send in your contributions to "Dover Chat" for inclusion in Newsletter 24 - to reach us by the end of October.

EDITOR