

The Progress of the Harbour Board Schemes

JOHN GERRARD *reports:*

Cruise Terminal

At the Western Docks the main internal steel and concrete structure for the Cruise Terminal is now largely complete and work is being carried out on the roof structure, which is in a poor condition.

Dredging for the removal of 350,000 cubic metres of silt and chalk is almost complete and plans are being made for the removal of the massive concrete foundations of the old No. 3 Admiralty Pier Berth. When this work has been completed the port will be able to handle some of the largest cruise ships.

So far seventy cruise ship calls are booked for next year. The largest of these vessels is the 44,000 gross registered tons Princess Cruise Line's *Royal Princess* and she will be making nine calls at Dover.

The Sea Front Improvements

Work on this £600,000 project has gone well and is scheduled for completion in December. Additional work is being carried out at NEW BRIDGE in order to improve pedestrian access to the town centre.

It is hoped that dog-owners will respect the new lawns and not allow any fouling of this new amenity. The timber fence and hessian screen that have been erected adjacent to the new hedge are temporary and will be removed once the plants are established.

Marina

A new amenity block has been built adjacent to the Clock Tower to provide additional toilet and shower facilities for the new Tidal Harbour berths that have this summer proved to be so successful. Visitor nights have increased by 37% on last year's figures.

Ferry Traffic

For the year as a whole traffic has fallen by 6.8% for passengers, 10.2% for cars, 7.7% for freight and 23.4% for rail wagons. Coach traffic has grown by 3.7%. The losses for September were, however, somewhat higher, being 14% for passengers, 18.7% for cars, 12.6% for coaches, 13.2% for freight and 33.2% for rail wagons.

The train ferry is scheduled to cease rail operations at the Western Docks in December, but the Harbour Board awaits formal confirmation of this by the French operators.

Arrangements are now in hand to rebuild the Seacat berth at the Eastern Docks to take a new 'Sea Lynx' high-speed vessel next spring.

The Churchill Hotel

Many improvements have been +++++ carried out at the Churchill Hotel in recent months and in the future the Board, working with the Henley Lodge Group, plans to extend the number of bedrooms and to provide enhanced leisure and recreational facilities in the basement.