

THIS AND THAT

— DOVER CHAT

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There will, no doubt, be a lot of chat about the new Cruise Terminal in 1996. The other day I heard one of our members saying that someone in their family had already booked a cruise on the Black Prince from Dover next year. So soon we shall be collecting accounts of cruises out of Dover!

Another new experience in 1996 will be to visit Samphire Hoe, the "newest part of Kent". The first opening to the public took place on 5th November, when almost 200 people turned up to wander over the 70 million cubic metres of chalk marl, guided by Nick Johannsen of the White Cliffs Countryside Project. The Project will be managing the site for Eurotunnel.

During the winter months there are several of these guided walks (dates given in Melanie Wrigley's article in this issue) and it is worth going to view the 70 acre site now, so that one can see how it develops in the future.

At present, driving down to the site, headlights on, through a one-way tunnel, one arrives at a circular car park. The immediate feeling is one of vast space and light. There is an undulating landscape to explore and a splendid walk along a long, wide, terraced promenade inside the sea wall; a walk which will be closed in rough weather when a red warning flag will be flown.

No top soil has been laid on the tunnel spoil and the grass and plants already established seem to cling precariously to the earth, with dry patches between. This is an experimental site for flora and fauna. Some sections are to be left to the vagaries of nature, whereas others will be sown with various seed mixes, prepared at Wye college. Meanwhile there are hardy grasses and plants like wild cabbage and sea kale and, of course, samphire (with obligatory quote from King Lear !).

The name of the site, Samphire Hoe, you may remember, was invented by a Dover Society member, Mrs. G.M. Janaway, who won the Dover Express competition to name the platform of newly-formed land.

Do try to join one of the guided walks this winter. There is a questionnaire to complete on such matters as use, safety, car parking and facilities and the WCCP would like to know your views.

There is so much talk among Dover Society members (and everyone else) about the National Lottery and who and what are getting the money, that one cannot help but hope that Dover will be successful in winning a share of the loot, whether for Connaught Park, Old Park Barracks, Western Heights, Western Docks or elsewhere in the town.

If you have any ideas on any of the items mentioned in the Newsletter, letters to the Editor are always welcome and it is pleasing to include two or three in every issue, especially when the subject matter of the letters relates to the previous issue and sets up an on-going dialogue. So keep writing.

Also please remember that items for the Annual General Meeting in April must reach the Secretary by the end of March.