

44 THIS AND THAT

- DOVER CHAT

You may have noticed, with each successive report in Newsletters from our Membership Secretary, that the number of our members increases gradually year by year. The number never falls below 400 and stays at around about 440.

With this number of members it becomes increasingly more difficult to keep in touch and remember everyone. In her report this time, Sheila Cope expresses the hope that we can do more to introduce new members to each other at meetings and all do a bit more chatting!

In every issue of the Newsletter I invite members to get in touch if they can offer help with our various projects, subcommittees and, of course, contributions to the Newsletter. The response is a little disappointing. However, for those who, in the future, find they have more time do consider helping in some way.

I often meet members around and about the town. Recently I've encountered several members on the Prince of Wales Pier where, like us, they have repaired to watch the cruise ship of the day leave the Western Docks. There is always a small crowd at the end of the pier to watch the tugs, bedecked, manoeuvre the great ship from its berth and send her on her way, often with a display from their fire hoses as she sounds her horn three times and departs for the Baltic, Scandinavia or the Mediterranean, passengers crowded on deck to say farewell to the White Cliffs of Dover. Does it make you want to sail with her?

Were you listening to Radio Kent on the morning of July 4th? The programme was broadcast from the Crystal Harmony, the longest cruise ship to put into Dover this summer. Barbara Sturgeon conducted a wide range of interviews, with the cruise director, captain, restaurant manager, chef de cuisine, chief engineer, bar staff, entertainers, members of the crew and with John Turgoose of Dover Harbour Board saying how much the terminal was benefiting the town. One interview was with a local piano tuner, working on a Steinway worth £54,000. He said he had work on six ships, tuning the pianos!

Two members of the Dover Society were among those interviewed by Barbara Sturgeon. Terry Sutton and Daphne Davis, both members of the Cruise Welcome Group, managed to get on board. Daphne had ordered 450 rosebuds, with money donated by local groups and she distributed these to lady VIPs in the morning and to embarking passengers in the afternoon. Well done, Daphne!

What changes in the town since our last issue? Have you visited the new health food shop or the "Eight Bells" in Cannon Street? Have you noticed that work has started on the second phase of the factory shops at Wellington Dock, due to open before Christmas? Have you seen the town guide produced by Colin Sawyer of "What, Where, When"? It should be very useful for visitors to the town with a good map and lots of adverts. by local shops and eating places. The guide is available from the tourist centre, the museum and many businesses in the town have a supply.

The Museum launched its new data base on 4th July and this is available for the public to use. More about this in the next issue.

One of our members, Snezana Lawrence, has started up an Internet Service called Dodeca Images and I am hoping she will write an article about the Internet for the next copy of the Newsletter and give us her ideas - so more of that in Newsletter 30.

EDITOR