

THE 4TH JULY 1997, AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, was celebrated in great style in Dover aboard the luxury liner, the *Crystal Harmony*, which berthed at the terminal that morning. She is the largest cruise ship to use the new terminal, being 241 metres in length - ten metres longer than the *Royal Princess* which set the record a year ago.

It was agreed by the Cruise Welcome Group that we should mark the occasion and I suggested presenting the lady passengers with a red rose buttonhole. With the blessing of the Dover District Council, I managed to obtain sponsorship, not only from the Council but also from the Town Centre Management, De Bradelei Wharf and the Churchill Hotel. The roses were ordered from "Ann and Pam" the florists in Cherry Tree Avenue. Pam really "rose" to the occasion and delivered 450 buttonholes to my home late in the evening of July 3rd, ready for me to take to the Cruise Terminal the following morning.

At 8 a.m. on the 4th July we set up our stand in the terminal. Mr. John Turgoose, General Manager (Shipping), Dover Harbour Board, was the first to be presented with a buttonhole, together with the Captain of the *Crystal Harmony*.

The gesture was much appreciated and the Captain mentioned this in a radio interview on Radio Kent later that morning.

At 10.30 a.m. the Dover V.I.P.'s and members of the press - including our own Dover Society member, Terry Sutton - arrived and were taken on a conducted tour of this elegant vessel. Needless to say, the cabins are really sumptuous and so they should be at over 1,000 dollars a day!! The tour concluded at 12 noon and we were all entertained by the Captain at a Welcome Reception, with Barbara Sturgeon of Radio Kent giving a running commentary. It was indeed a really successful morning. I was unaware, until then, that Americans call "Bucks Fizz" a "Mimosa" - I think I still prefer "Bucks Fizz" -

By mid-afternoon passengers began to embark and were greeted at the terminal by a string quartet, champagne and a red rose buttonhole for the ladies. It was a most happy occasion. One lady passenger remarked to me, "The Colonists have come back home"...

We in Dover have every reason to be proud of what Dover Harbour Board has achieved. The potential is tremendous for the future of the cruise terminal - long may it continue.

DAPHNE DAVIS

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The last date for the receipt of copy for issue No. 31 will be **Monday 16th February.**

The Editor welcomes contributions and interesting drawings or photographs. "Paper copy" should be typed at double spacing - if it must be handwritten please write clearly and at wide line spacing. Accurate, fully proof-read "copy" on computer discs is most welcome - almost all types can be handled - but a prior phone call to 01304 208008 to confirm would be helpful.

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