

This and That.....

DOVER CHAT

THIS YEAR'S DOVER FESTIVAL has the theme "Coastal Landscapes" and was launched rather earlier than usual, on Friday, 13 February. This was the date when the Lady Lovibund, a three-masted trading schooner, was wrecked on the Goodwin Sands in 1748. According to legend the ship can be seen again every 50 years and this year, the 250th anniversary, attracted people from far and wide to do a bit of ghost-spotting. In Deal there were ghost walks and boat trips. The White Cliffs Countryside project officers advertised a walk to start at St. Margaret's Bay, for people armed with torches or candles in bottles. The story was reported in the national press, the Daily Telegraph giving it a half-page spread and recounting the lurid tales of spottings in other years, notably in 1798.

Unable to attend the walk myself, the following day I telephoned the W.C.C.P. office and discovered that over two hundred people had turned up for the ghost walk, but, alas, were disappointed. Perhaps the crew of the ghost ship were scared off by so much publicity!

The Festival promises, as usual, a great variety of entertainment of all kinds, with something for everyone. Please write an account of your visits to festival events.

What has happened, I wonder, about all the chat concerning a cliff lift or cable car to Dover Castle from the town? Why is it that so many of the good ideas for improving Dover's tourist facilities come to nothing?

I was reading the other day that London is to get a spectacular cable car service across the Thames between the East India Docklands Light Railway Station and the Millennium exhibition site at

Greenwich. The skyride will be 85 metres above the river and the system could carry up to 2500 passengers an hour using 23 cabins. Would that Dover were planning even a two-car cable system for the Millennium?

By the way has anyone heard any chat at all about what Dover IS planning?

The Dover Society is hoping to contribute in some small way to the celebrations and various suggestions have been received. Of these the one that I think is most favoured is a plan to install plaques on notable, historic sites in Dover. A lunch time party for members was also suggested. Please write in with your ideas.

Another plan for the Thames at Greenwich is to construct London's first cruise terminal. At least in this respect Dover is not lagging behind. Thanks to the Harbour Board, we have a thriving cruise terminal and a second one planned.

The Newsletter has not contained a lot of cruise news in the last few issues. To complement all the writing I am hoping to collect about the festival theme of "Coastal Landscapes", I hope the next issue will contain up-to-date news on the second cruise terminal. It would also be interesting to include a section on the views of members who have taken cruises out of Dover in the first year of the terminal. If you sailed from Dover in 1997, could I persuade you to write a short account of your holiday for the next issue.

To end I would like to thank all our regular advertisers for supporting us and also to welcome three new advertisers, De Bradelei Wharf, Star Taxis and Kent Photos. Your help is invaluable in contributing to our printing costs.

The Editor