

The Churchill Hotel

The hotel is doing extremely well and the Board has seen fit to continue its investments to further improve it. The latest £260,000 changes will be the provision of improved bathroom facilities and a major extension of the narrow covered glazed area on the seaward side which will be much roomier and give fine views of the port activities. This extension has been very carefully designed to harmonise with the elegant Waterloo Mansions facade and will have a curved roof profile to echo the smaller balcony roofs above.

Eastern Docks Reclamation

Work continues on the new 7 acre Eastern Docks reclamation and for those members who have expressed concern about the aesthetic impact of the new sheet pile wall I can report that above the high water mark, up to the top of the wall (+ 7m to + 11.0 m above chart datum) the sheet piling will be covered with a concrete finish to minimise its visual impact. The large pile of dark material currently stored on top of the sand fill is blast furnace slag from the steelworks at Dunkirk and this will form the sub-base for the main heavy duty paving.

New Tugs

In order to safely handle the ever growing number of large cruise ships the Board has agreed that we need to replace our two existing 12 year old tugs the "Deft" and "Dextrous" with two much larger versions and in the next few months our mariners and marine engineers will be on the hunt around European and U.K shipyards. Likely combined cost for the two vessels will be £6 million thus underlining our commitment to having the right tools for the job.

Eastern Docks - Face-lift

Many of our terminal facilities are getting on in years and we are about to embark upon a £2.5 million refurbishment programme covering our departure and arrivals areas. Over the next few years this programme will be extended to all other areas

Emmanus Update

TERRY SUTTON

The Duke of Kent, in Dover to officially name the lifeboat, at his own request visited the St. Martin's Emmaus community at Archcliffe Fort.

Just under three years ago the trustees launched a £400,000 appeal and this has now been surpassed and only about £10,000 is required to complete the task of restoring a range of buildings into flats, community rooms, workshops and a retail shop within the walls.

There are already nine residents—called Companions—living at Archcliffe Fort and work is well advanced in converting a large Victorian barrack block into flats. When that is completed there will be accommodation for 25 single Companions which was the original aim.

Since July 1997 the centre has accommodated 28 individuals with a room occupancy of 96.6 per cent. It is expected the centre will lose money on a day-to-day basis until there are about 16 Companions living there, sufficient to run a second collection van, open a shop in a town centre and to make fuller use of the workshops.