

36 *Cruise Welcome Group*

MERRIL LILLEY

Two meetings of the Cruise Welcome Group have been held since the last *Newsletter*, one on 18th April at the Churchill Hotel and another at Dover College on 27th June. Both meetings were chaired by James Overton. In future they will be chaired by the new Town Centre Management Co-ordinator.

Keith Southey from Dover Harbour Board said there were 132 cruise ships calling into Dover this year and he highlighted particular ships that may be of interest. One of these was the Airtours vessel *Sundream*, in Dover for the first time on 21-22 April when she was entertaining a number of tour operators, T.V. and national and local press representatives. On 16th May there was to be a launch of the *Saga Rose* and on 4th July Barbara Sturgeon of Radio Kent made a live broadcast from the *Crystal Harmony*, the largest cruise ship yet to be accommodated at Dover.

A rota of cruise welcomers has been drawn up.

It was decided to progress with the initial information board at the cruise terminal and this will be in place by the

end of June. For next season it is hoped that a video of Dover will be available to offer to the cruise ships to show to passengers before they arrive at the port.

Colin Sawyer's publication, a "New Guide to Dover", was discussed. The guide is free, is distributed over a wide area and is updated each month.

It was agreed that coach operators should be made aware of pick-up points. As well as at the Market Square there will be an opportunity to drop passengers at Pencester Road, possibly a more suitable site.

After the meeting on 27th June members had an opportunity to take a trip on the "Guide Friday" bus to observe the route and listen to the taped commentary.

WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRYSIDE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

On 21st May, 1997, the U3A held its sixth Annual General Meeting at St. George's Hall, Deal.

This local group had 215 members in 1996-97 but membership is increasing all the time. There are six groups in Kent, the others being Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Dartford and Maidstone.

The White Cliffs group has run 23 courses in 1996-97 and will be adding to these in September 1997. In addition there are monthly talks and social events.

At the AGM, after the reports from the Chairman and Treasurer, there were reports from many of the group leaders present, including Shakespeare, Scrabble,

Viking Trail, Music Appreciation, Writing Workshop, Astronomy, Art Appreciation, Drawing, Bridge, Fun with French, French - Intermediate and Advanced and German, Elementary and Intermediate, which gave some idea of the range of courses available.

Note: If you are interested in joining the *White Cliffs U3A* for courses starting in *September 1997*, write to the *Membership Secretary, Olive Littlejohn, 26 Cross Road, Walmer, Kent CT14 9LB* for programme and enrolment form.