

NEWSLETTER

Issue No 53

Winter 2009



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

How fortunate we all are to live in the comfortable 21st century, on such a beautiful island, on such a beautiful planet!

Aylesbury is quite far north, being close to latitude 52 degrees. This means that we experience significant differences between the seasons which contribute an interesting variety to our year. Now, as Winter approaches, wildlife anticipates and adapts by conserving energy or by moving to warmer areas: deciduous trees shed their leaves; birds migrate. Aylesbury Vale U3A life also adapts!

The large active Bowls Group has closed down until next Spring (apart from the popular Group Christmas lunch!). The equally active Gardening Group and Wildlife & Nature Watch Group are adapting by retreating indoors to listen to talks and to watch videos (soon to enjoy their own Group Christmas lunches!). Usually the different Walking Groups do manage to continue walking regularly, helped by the increasing mildness of our winter weather.

With fewer outdoor attractions, the Groups that meet indoors are now especially well attended. Mainly these Groups provide interesting stimulation for members' minds, while others, such as Swimming and Ten Pin Bowling, provide enjoyable opportunities to exercise the body. Mental stimulation and physical exercise are both vital for each of us to remain alert and healthy. However, outdoors or indoors, perhaps what is ultimately most important to us all is friendship. In addition to our well attended AVU3A General Meetings each month, every Group provides precious opportunities to meet up regularly with old friends and to make new ones.

During this the 20th Anniversary Year of AVU3A we have acknowledged our debt to those who set up our organisation by making them Honorary Members. We who have inherited this organisation owe so much to them and to the many other members who, over the years, have contributed in so many ways as Committee Members, Group Leaders and helpers. During our AGM in October a new Committee was elected. Supported by your enthusiastic participation, we pledge to do our best to ensure the continued successful evolution of this increasingly important organisation.

Alex Paterson

CONGRATULATIONS!

Member Hugh Hanley's latest book is now available in a hardback copy at £18. 99. 'Aylesbury—a History' has 150 illustrations in 128 pages. It covers a vast swathe of history, from the early grant of land made by Henry II to his otter hunter Roger Foll; through the royal charter of incorporation granted by Queen Mary in 1554, right up to the present day. To quote the 'blurb' - This readable and informed account tells the story of Aylesbury from its origins to the present and will be greatly enjoyed by anyone with an interest in the town.

LEARNING FROM OUR MEMBERS



Aylesbury Vale U3A is its members, just as much as its groups. The whole ethos is about learning from each other, and wherever we are or whatever group activity we are taking part in, we share experiences. Our annual study tour is always a learning experience in more ways than one. On the 2009 visit to Somerset we briefly visited Lynmouth and district and Ray Juniper was able to share some of its history and memories with us. He told us “Lynmouth is a place that has fond memories for me as my Dad retired there in 1951. In his time there he made a ‘Tide

and Wind’ table, and I was delighted to find it, over 50 years later still hanging in the little museum on the harbour front. Ron Meadowcroft kindly photographed it for me. In order to get the best picture he could we switched the museum lights off briefly. This led to some of the other visitors having to blunder about in the dark bumping in to each other. However the result was a perfect picture with no reflections—thanks Ron.”



OUR ANNUAL QUIZ AFTERNOON

The end of October saw another fun afternoon at the Aylesbury Bowls Club. Question Master Elinor Paterson (assisted by Husband Alex) has found the ideal format; tea and biscuits at 3. 00 p.m., the quiz at 3. 30 followed by the Fish and Chip Supper at about 6. 00 p.m.

There was a full house, and the teams tested their brains with questions on Name Another, Natural World, The Human Body, True or False, Books and Authors, Around the U.K., Hobbies and Leisure, the Highway Code, Food and a mystery round of Smells. The latter saw members sniffing at small vials of liquid in attempts to guess what they contained. (It has to be said that more than one member was seen to be surreptitiously dipping a finger in and having a small taste!). Two rounds were ongoing throughout the afternoon, and most of us puzzled long over the one labelled ‘U3A Matters’.

The winning team consisted of Cynthia Fowler, Pauline and Alan Briailey, Lois and Alan Robinson, Rowena Auger, and Jean and Peter Ashton. In second place were Geoff Young, Sue John, Elsie Shaw, Sheila and Brian Calver, and Dilys and Gerard Boyle. At the end of the afternoon there was both good news and bad news. The bad news? That this was to be Elinor’s final year and she was enthusiastically applauded and presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. And the good news? Well, Jean and Peter Ashton have volunteered their services for next year, and we can look forward to continuing to enjoy this much anticipated social event.

CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP:

Radio, television and newspapers are full of items which merit further discussion. Don’t forget that you can have your say by joining this group which meets twice monthly on Tuesdays at the Aylesbury Grammar School from 2. 30 p .m. to 4. 00 p.m. There will be meetings on 19th January, 2nd February and 16th and 30th March. You can enjoy an informal debate on any subject under the sun. For further information contact Jean McKay on [REDACTED]

TEST YOUR BRAIN POWER !

1. You are participating in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?
2. If you overtake the last person then you are ...?
3. Now do this sum without writing it down or using a calculator! Take 1,000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1,000. Now add 30. Add another 1,000. Now add 20; then another 1,000. Add 10. What is the total ?
4. Mary's father has 5 daughters. 1) Nana 2) Nene 3) Nini 4) Nono. What is the name of the 5th daughter ?
5. A mute person goes into a shop and wants to buy a toothbrush. By imitating the action of brushing his teeth, he successfully expresses himself to the shopkeeper and the purchase is made. Next a blind man comes into the same shop and wants to buy a pair of sunglasses. How does he indicate what he wants?

ANSWERS BELOW

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Don't forget the national 2010 U3A Photographic Competition. The winning photographs are to be used in the 2011 Engagement Calendar. The theme will be '**Coast**'. We haven't got the full details yet—but watch this space, and remember to read your national magazine which is now posted direct to your home address. Look out your photos from this year's holidays, and if you are going to enjoy a winter break—bear it in mind.

We know from our own exhibitions that we have some first class photographers amongst our membership, so why not have a go!

And have you tried the website **www.flickr.com** It holds a massive collection of photos submitted by photographers from all over the world who want to share them with their friends—and you. Click on 'explore' and do just that!

ANSWERS TO BRAIN TEASERS:

1. If you overtake the second person, you are second—not first)
2. You are last. How can you overtake the last person?
3. 4,100 (Did you get 5,000 ?)
4. Answer—Mary (not Nunu)
5. He just asks for them.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

OUT AND ABOUT:

The group has now held several meetings and is well on its way. It has been agreed that those interested will meet for coffee at the Broad Leys pub in Aylesbury at 10.30 a.m. on the last Thursday of each month, when it is hoped that some members will come along with a firm idea of some visit/outing for which they would like company. As food never seems to be far from the minds of U3A members, you will not be surprised to hear that the first outing was to enjoy a stroll around the grounds of Waddesdon Manor (while there was still some pleasant autumn weather to be had), finishing off with afternoon tea. That proposal was quickly followed by enquiries about a Spring tea at Hartwell House, and a visit to the new Greek Taverna in Aylesbury. Two or three members booked tickets for the Halton Singers production of 'Iolanthe'. Another idea which is still in the planning stage is to visit the home of a member to play scrabble. She expects shortly to be 'housebound' after an operation, and that could be a lovely way for her to keep in touch. Once the members got started ideas came thick and fast.

The administration will be kept as simple as possible. The member putting forward the suggestion will be expected to make the arrangements. (Where money is involved no booking will be accepted without a cheque.) There is no compulsion to take part in any of the offerings. It could be that 3 people will go out to lunch—or it could be 10. Contact between meetings will be made by e mail or s.a.e. should something exciting come up. Any U3A member may join—male or female, single or married—all they have to be looking for is a friend to go somewhere with. Simple! Jean Coussens has kindly agreed to act as the group co-ordinator for the first year, by which time it is hoped that the pattern of events will be clear and that it will be possible to find another volunteer. So, if you are at all interested please give your details to Jean at the next full monthly meeting or by telephone (██████████). You may only wish to take part in one activity a year, or you may find several of interest. You will be able to both make and participate in the programme. There will be no excuse for anyone not to go 'OUT AND ABOUT'

The editor

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE !

When Poetry Group 2 chose its theme for a recent meeting, its members hadn't realised what a clever idea they had introduced. The theme was 'Paintings', and it was possible to illustrate many of the poems with photographs of the original masterpieces. They enjoyed Chardin's painting 'Return from Market' comparing it to the description in the poem 'Back from Market' by Eavan Boland; studied Paolo Uccello's 'St. George and the Dragon' to accompany the poem 'Not My Best Side' by U.A. Fanthorpe, and admired Augustus John's 'Blue Pool' to a reading of 'The Blue Pool' by Anne Stevenson. Coordinator Sue John had cleverly guessed that somebody in the group would read 'I would Like to be a Dot in a Painting by Miro' as it features in several of the anthologies owned by members. She had searched out a painting which seemed to portray the aforementioned 'Dot'! The non gallery goers were walked through several famous art galleries as many poets with an observant eye had done, and in the process learned a great deal about some classical works of art. Many of the poems enabled the group to have a clearer understanding of the painting referred to. It was an unexpected bonus which was much enjoyed, and offered a true U3A learning experience. Art and Poetry!



Return from Market by Jean-Baptiste-Simeon Chardin now in The Louvre in Paris

THAMES VALLEY NETWORK

I try to keep you all informed that the The Thames Valley Network is still working to enhance your interests and trying to encourage members to become involved in outside activities and Study Days. But like all U3A activities it needs your support which seems to be sadly lacking from our U3A. All the forthcoming events are posted on the notice boards and our secretary Tony Dobbs ensures that they are kept up to date. If you are interested in any of the events contact Tony or me and we will be able to point you in the right direction. They have produced outline topics for 2010 and 2011 so you have got plenty of notice. Make sure that you have a look, you will find a wide range of subjects and I am sure that there must be one that interests you.

One of their major events is a study of the History and Architecture of Oxford. This is from the 13th to 15th September 2010 at Merton College, Oxford, and is available to residential or day visitors; all the details will be on the notice board. This comes later in the year and does not conflict with our Study Tour being arranged by Ron & Rosemary Meadowcroft.

Remember that you only get out of an organisation what you are prepared to put into it, so if you are organising an event that you think would interest other U3As let me know and we can broadcast the details to the other Groups in our network, This is nearly 40. If you have a computer details are on our website if not, as I have said before they are all on the notice boards.

Geoff Young

AS ALWAYS-A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS -



Brenda Tumilty, Diane Richardson, Linda Finnemore, Gay Titley, Maureen Wilkins, Christine Vane, Jeni Davies, Shirley Leftley, Kay Wells, Gay and Ian Hancock, Margaret Williams, Brian Kennedy, Dawn Clairmonte and Sandy Hinton.

And a particular welcome back to two ex members who have rejoined—Anne Legg and Denise Harper. We are glad to see them again.

TRY SOMETHING NEW !

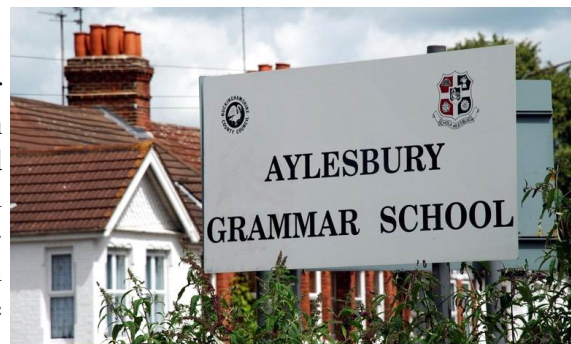
Our Group Organiser has had suggestions for several new groups, and there is still time for you to put your name down and enjoy a new, (or return to a previously enjoyed), activity. We are looking for anyone interested in **MUSICAL KEYBOARD SKILLS, MAH JONG, A SINGING GROUP, SCRABBLE** and a second **FRENCH LANGUAGE GROUP**. So talk to Jean Coussens, and have a go. If you don't like it, you can try something different. That is the joy of U3A—plenty of opportunity to experiment.



. Please contact Jean Coussens if you would like to try your hand. You may try one of them and then find out that it is not for you; but that is the joy of U3A—you can experiment.

THE U.3.A. BURSARY:

The 2009 Annual Prize Giving for the Aylesbury Grammar School was held on 16th September, and I attended with Alex Paterson. We were met at the entrance by the Head Boy and other senior pupils and escorted to the Staff Room where other guests were assembled, and offered light refreshments. We were then all taken to our seats in the main hall where the Grammar School Senior Jazz Group were just finishing entertaining the assembled parents in readiness for the ceremony to begin. We were welcomed first by the Chairman of Governors and then the Headmaster who said how pleased he was that yet again the school had had an excellent year and that pupils had exceeded the previous year's percentage of A and A+ grades in their recent exams. He praised the pupils for their hard work, and thanked his dedicated staff for their encouragement and work in enabling the pupils to reach their goals.



The U.3.A. prize for community involvement was shared by two pupils—George Deacon and Dan Silverton. These two, along with a small group from the Upper Sixth, had formed a peer group to help younger pupils with any problems they might encounter such as bullying, peer pressure, personal relationships and any other difficulties which they did not feel able to talk about with teachers or parents. This had been a very popular scheme and George and Dan had now been training the pupils in the Lower Sixth on how to continue in the coming year.

The Head Boy, Tom Moran, then gave a student's review of the year followed by more music by the AGS senior Jazz Ensemble. The Guest Speaker was Mr. Peter Winkleman, Chairman of the Milton Keynes Dons Football Team. His main theme was to exhort the students never to give up even if they did not achieve their initial goal, but to keep striving to reach their highest point even if that meant changing direction. He hoped that many of the boys would return to Aylesbury after completing their academic education as he stressed that Aylesbury and the South Midlands were earmarked for greater expansion and an exciting future.

Although we were not able to talk to our two prize winners at that time, we were able to introduce ourselves to the Headmaster and offer any assistance that the U3A, with all its wealth of experience, could give to the school.

Jean Coussens



Members of the Wildlife and Nature Group enjoy an informative and entertaining morning looking at fungi with John Tyler at the Dancersend Nature Reserve

Photo: Peter Ashton

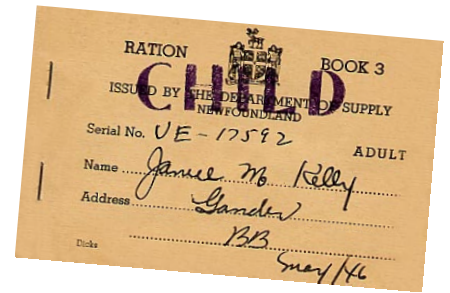


Even our intrepid walkers need a rest now and then ! This picture was also taken by Peter Ashton on a recent walk over Downley Common

OUR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT – What is it? Who is it for?

Project Team Members:

Mike Burrows - Interviewer
Geoff Young - Interviewer
Shirley Stokes – Interviewer
Joan Thorley - Interviewer
Roy Knight – Recording Maestro
Mike Bean and various CUSS members – editing team



The project aim is to collect and record as many memories of World War 2 from Aylesbury U3A members as we can, not for us (although it starts out that way) but for our children's children and their progeny. Just because you don't have memories of bombs and planes in the sky, does not mean you can't contribute - it is as important to remember what school was like, what food you ate, or what games you played, as these are all part of that traumatic period in our history.

Since I first suggested this idea at the Green Park celebration earlier this year, it has become a bit like Topsy – it's grown and grown! We now have over 60 people prepared to participate, and I have assembled the above team to help the project forward. How do we propose to get started on this project? Come the new year we should be able to start contacting the volunteers to arrange a day and time for one of the interviewers to visit, along with Roy Knight, to check the sound system, and then it is a case of asking questions to set the memory going. Once we have squeezed all the information about life during World War 2 from those willing participants (and we are thankful to them for volunteering), comes the real technical part of editing and putting together the final product (probably in CD format, but the way technology goes who knows how this information will be packaged).

In whatever format, everybody who contributed to this project will receive a copy of our U3A's memories of the Second World War. Copies will also be lodged with relevant County Archivists (we are not all from Buckinghamshire), and the Imperial War Museum has also indicated they would like a copy. I envisage that to get to the final stage could take us into 2011, so if you haven't yet signed up there is still time! Any of the team can be contacted at the monthly meeting or my phone number is [REDACTED] or e mail me.

This extravaganza with a cast of, who knows how many, will be produced through the efforts of those mentioned at the beginning of this article under the benevolent direction of your committee.

Mike Burrows

A VISIT TO THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS:

Please to remember the Fifth of November
Gunpowder, Treason and Plot.
We know no reason why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.



Aylesbury Vale U3A certainly didn't forget this year and spent a wonderful sunny though cold afternoon on a very appropriate visit. This very extensive site at Waltham Abbey, now partly a nature reserve, offered a living history display by the English Civil War Society, a 'Meet the ghost of Guy Fawkes' experience, and many exhibitions and films on the uses of gunpowder, and the sadness of war. And it all finished with a much enjoyed firework display. Thanks to Ron & Rosemary Meadowcroft for arranging it and Jim Gallie for the photos.



2009 Study Tour - Somerset

Thursday 10 Sep 09: a coach left Jansel Square for Somerset with 43 eager members, all with a comprehensive information folder prepared by Derek & Pam Ayshford with their usual efficiency, (they also maintained their reputation for arranging excellent weather throughout the tour!). Our first major visit was to the National Trust owned Lacock Abbey and Village. The old village has featured in "Cranford" and "Pride and Prejudice"; Harry Potter was partly filmed in the Abbey, which also houses the Fox Talbot Museum of Photography.

The first stop on Friday was a visit to the Cheese Factory in Cheddar village where they still produce a variety of unpasteurised hand-made Cheddar Cheeses for sale to specialist outlets. We had very impressive views of the Gorge as we drove on to Wells where we had a guided tour of the Bishop's Palace. Saturday was "Bristol Day". Derek had arranged tickets for the harbour ferry (40 mins round trip, but get on and off wherever you wanted) and for Brunel's SS Great Britain (launched in 1845, the World's first Great Ocean Liner, powered by steam and sail - a big funnel in the middle). There

was also plenty of time to explore the city. The Hotel Manager had told Derek in advance that there would be a wedding and a 21st Birthday party in the Hotel that night and that it might be "a bit noisy"; so Derek had very cleverly arranged at short notice a visit to the Playhouse Theatre at Weston-Super-Mare for a Rogers & Hammerstein concert. When we got back at about 11.15 p.m. the "bit noisy" proved to be an understatement, with the disco being so loud that the walls and windows were vibrating; fortunately, it stopped at precisely midnight! But Derek's arrangements away from the hotel for the evening were much appreciated.



Harry Potter display

Photo by Jim Gallie



Sampling the cheeses at the Cheddar Cheese Company. Photo by Jim Gallie

Sunday was "see the countryside day" - first on the coach to Bishop's Lydeard, then in our own reserved carriage on a steam train to Watchet. This is a small harbour village, important in Victorian times for transporting iron ore from local mines. A second train journey (diesel) took us past Dunster Castle to Minehead in time for lunch (a jazz band was playing on the station as we arrived). Terry's driving skills were very evident as we travelled from Minehead to Lynmouth, as we went via Porlock where the road gradient is 1 in 4 on both the way in and way out (Terry had to reverse a long way back down the hill when we met an oncoming open-topped tourist bus!) - excellent views of Lorna Doone country. We only had an hour in Lynmouth - a very pretty village that has been rebuilt following disastrous floods in 1952 (9.2 inches of rain in 24 hours) - just enough time for ice-cream as we wandered around!

Then we crossed parts of Exmoor, and (for those still awake) were within sight of Ayshford village, which Derek said was his ancestral home, although he did not claim to be Lord of the Manor! A long but varied and interesting day!

Bath was the focus for Monday. We were free to plan the day ourselves, but Derek had obtained tickets for both the City of Bath and the Bath Skyline open-topped bus tours. Some of those using the buses afterwards felt in need of warming refreshment as it was quite cold on the top deck - so a visit to Sally Lunn's - Bath's oldest house - (and who asked for brandy in their hot chocolate?); we found that a Sally Lunn bun is a lot bigger than we had anticipated, but it would have been a lost opportunity not to try one! There is lots to see in the City - the Roman Baths (which themselves could take up most of a day), costume museum, Jane Austen, Poultny Bridge, and more! (Here for the first time ever, Derek nearly lost two members of the group; a search party was just being arranged when they appeared 20 minutes late. (Salutary lesson - when visiting M&S remember which door you went in through). Then back to the Hotel.

Tuesday meant settling accounts and boarding the coach for the homeward journey – not directly, but initially via Weston-super-Mare. Those who had considered a quick paddle found that the tide was out – which meant that the sea was about 7 miles away – so there was only time to walk on the sandy beach! Then to Swindon, where the choice was between “STEAM” (the Great Western Railway Museum) and the Designer Outlet Centre. Surprise, surprise! Boys one way, girls the other! STEAM deserves its slogan “A first class day out”. We left Swindon at 4.00 pm (some carrying more packages than they arrived there with) and headed for home.

Everyone had an enjoyable and very interesting few days, entirely due to the exceptional hard work by Derek and Pam, who had made several reconnaissance visits while planning the route. Indeed, everyone who has been on study tours over the last few years admires the imagination, initiative and enthusiasm with which they have made the arrangements and successfully delivered enjoyable and instructive outings. They both deserve a very big vote of thanks for the major contribution they have made to achieving the objectives of the Aylesbury Vale U3A.

Brian Robson

The Garden Group's Summer Season 2009 *by Barbara Fraser*

Our summer season started with a visit to Chenies in April. Chenies is a very old Tudor House visited by Henry VIII and Elizabeth I and containing tapestries and furniture mainly of the 16th and 17th centuries. We had a tour of the house and spent some time wandering round the gardens. April is a particularly good time to visit as there are 300 different cultivars of tulip to be found.



Chenies Manor

In June we visited the RHS Garden Wisley. We were particularly interested to see the new Glasshouse, a huge cathedral-like glass structure with three climatic zones, tropical, moist temperate and dry temperate habitats. Entering the Glasshouse is like walking into a jungle, with tree ferns, tall palms, lush-leaved creepers and dazzling flower displays. July's coach trip was to Waterperry Gardens. The herbaceous borders (all 200 feet of them) were magnificent and we also enjoyed visiting the country life museum and the Saxon church.



**The new glasshouse
at R.H.S. Wisley**

On perhaps the hottest day of the year we visited Victor Scott's garden at Aston Abbotts. The house was built in a terrace of four by Lord Overstone in 1854 for the benefit of his estate workers and their families. Each dwelling had enough ground for a family to be self-sufficient in vegetables and fruit and each had a pig sty and an outside toilet. This garden was filled with exotic plants (including a giant redwood) collected by the Scotts on their travels. However, the whole garden retained its Victorian atmosphere and we would not have been surprised to find a pig in the sty and chickens scratching about under the fruit trees.

Our visit to Homelands in Ellesborough was a delight. This is a ¾ acre garden with everything – wild life pond, rockery, bog garden, water features, gazebo and pergola walk and many mixed shrub and herbaceous borders, all adjoining a wild flower meadow. It is difficult to see how so much could be crammed into such a relatively small space. We were also treated to a magnificent tea of scones and cakes. Then in September we visited Buckingham Nurseries. This is a family-run garden centre with a good selection of shrubs and plants and we came away with some bargains. The plant sale in May raised £100 which will be used to pay for speakers in the winter months. Grateful thanks to members for their donations of plants for this event. Last but not least, we visited two members' gardens, Jean and Peter Ashton's (again a very hot day) and Liz and Ron Lloyd's garden. Many thanks to them!

MORE NEWS FROM THE GROUPS !

GOOD RESPONSE FOR CANASTA START-UP

Cyril Reed reports an immediate response of 12 names for the Canasta Group which is well underway with half the members having played within two weeks of the launch. A consensus for Tuesday evenings provided the initial impetus and by the time this newsletter is printed, it is expected that daytime fixtures will be underway. The aim is to mix accomplished players with those who have some experience of playing cards and, like Cyril, want to learn new games.

Cyril hopes that, after the first two or three months, as information about skill levels and preferences is gathered, he will be able to introduce rosters, as with Bridge. That system runs smoothly with everyone knowing well in advance where, when and who with!

To join contact Cyril Reed [REDACTED]

JOIN US ON A GENTLE WALK!

This group which is delighted in by members wanting a gentle 40 minute walk in good company (followed usually by a pub lunch for those who want it) began the Autumn season under new leadership. Veronica Stagnell has taken over from June Goodwill to whom we owe thanks for several years of successful organisation. The session began with a walk in Wendover Woods, followed by an excellent tour of Quainton Village, with a talk on its history, and in November an Aylesbury Canal walk in the pouring rain. The group has several new members this year, and looks forward to welcoming many more. While it is nowhere near as energetic as the monthly local walks group—and there are definitely no stiles— it does encourage people to get out into the fresh air and is always enjoyed by the participants.

Veronica Stagnell

20 YEARS OF OUTDOOR BOWLING WITH AVU3A

Winter again, and the joyous shouts of ‘Well you bowled!’, ‘Nearly!’, and ‘Just a yard!’ have ceased until early summer arrives once more.

September saw our last meeting at Aylesbury Town Bowling Club this year and with it a small presentation, with cakes and wine, to Mary Rogers as a way of showing our gratitude for her long suffering encouragement of enthusiastic, if sometimes less than perfect, bowlers over the last 20 years.

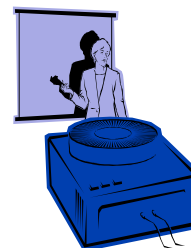
Well done and thank you, Mary.

Elinor Paterson



**Mary Rogers cuts her
‘20th’ Birthday Cake
Photo by Alex Pater-
son**

SPEAKERS CORNER



JANUARY 13th: The Ridgeway – John Tyler

Stretching over 80 miles from Ivinghoe to Avebury and over 5,000 years from the Stone Age to the present day, the Ridgeway can claim to be the oldest road in Europe. John will return to offer (in his words) a blister – free walk along this ancient chalk land track, describing both its prehistory and the rich wildlife that it supports today.

FEBRUARY 10th: Pharaoh's Birds – John Wyatt

John has given several excellent talks to our U3A , and this time combines his interests in Ornithology and Egyptology with a talk on birds and antiquities of Ancient Egypt from the times of the Pharaohs 4000 years ago.

Using information from mummies , bone remains , hieroglyphs, art and artifacts of Ancient Egypt this is a story of the detective work involved in discovering ‘ Pharaoh's Birds’.

MARCH 10th: The Berlin Wall 1961 – 1989 - Roger Moorhouse

Roger is a historian and author who specializes in World War 2 and Nazi Germany.

The talk will tell the story of the Berlin Wall; the most potent symbol of the Cold War division of Europe. He will talk about its origins, its development and its curious demise, and highlights some of the lives that it touched.

HOUSEKEEPING NOTICES.

1. In order to ensure that our e-mail database is up to date it would be appreciated if all members with internet accounts would send a short e-mail to secretary@avu3a.org.uk
2. Any new member this year who has not yet received a complimentary U3A pin badge please see Tony Dobbs who will be pleased to issue one.
3. For those who were unable to attend our November general meeting, Jill Bartlett has kindly volunteered to take on the post of Social Activities Coordinator and has accordingly been co-opted on to the committee.
4. A revised issue of the Directory & Handbook has now been issued which has a yellow cover and is marked “Issue 2 November 2009” Please dispose of the previous issue which has a blue cover.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 5th January: A gentle walk in Waddesdon Park- meeting at 11. a.m. (for 11.15 start) in the Bowling Club car park on the right as you pass through the main gates of Waddesdon Manor. Pub lunch later!

Wednesday 20th January: Coffee morning for long standing and new members at the Broad Leys P.H. at 10. 30 a.m.

Tuesday 2nd February: An Aylesbury town 'heritage' walk for the less active amongst us meeting at 11. 00 a.m. for 11.15 a.m. start outside the Aylesbury Methodist Church in Buckingham Street.

Tuesday 9th February: The Garden Group has a talk by Alexia Ballance on 'Designing a Border'. It takes place at the Aylesbury Grammar School from 2. 30 to 4. 00 p.m.

Tuesday 2nd March: At 11 a.m. for 11.15 start - another gentle walk beginning at Eythrope Road, in Stone Village. Parking is limited so please share cars. Park approx. three quarters of a mile along Eythrope Road (first right turn after the white painted village hall). Enjoy the Rothschild park land with us!

Wednesday 3rd March: Outing to Worcester with the History Group—full details to follow

Tuesday 9th March: Jill Carey talks to the Garden Group on 'Clever and Curious - Adapting for Survival' Aylesbury Grammar School 2. 30—4. 00 p.m.

Wednesday 17th March: at 10. 30 a.m.—Another Coffee Morning at Broad Leys

Thursday 25th March: To Kew Gardens (Genealogy Group may visit Kew Records Office!)

Thursday 22nd April: Outing to Kelmscott Manor—details to follow

Tuesday 25th May: Visit to Berkeley Castle and the Jenner Museum.

Friday 25th to Wednesday 30th June: Study tour of North Yorkshire based in Harrogate

Thank you to all of you who helped with this issue, not forgetting the ever helpful contributors to the Computer Users on-line advice bureau who save my bacon (and the magazine) on many occasions. Thanks to Alan Robinson and our Secretary Tony Dobbs for their contributions, and to Jim McKay who ensures that the photos, are as good as we can make them. I am also grateful to the many excellent photographers in our U3A who continue to send wonderful photos. I wish I could use them all!

Deadline for copy for the Spring edition is **February 10th** (the date of our monthly meeting)and can be handed in then or preferably be sent in advance of that date to:

Shirley Stokes, 9 Windsor Road, Aylesbury HP21 7JG: Tel: [REDACTED]
or e mail treveris9@btinternet.com