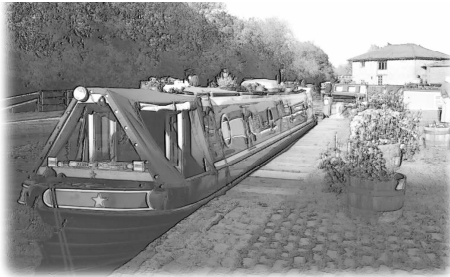


# Aylesbury Vale U3A



Issue No. 57

**December 2010 NEWSLETTER**

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

If you have read many of the recent issues of the national magazine 'Third Age News' you will have noticed that it is the term 'university' that is the cause of many letters and arguments for and against the title. People associate it with serious study with an exam and a qualification at the end—but it comes from the Latin 'universitas magistrorum et scholarium' meaning a community of teachers and scholars. That is just what we are, except perhaps that the whole ethos of the University of the Third Age movement is that we can at one and the same time be both teacher and scholar. I sometimes feel that University education is wasted on the young. I am a great believer that a little maturity goes a long way!

I know that there are many in our organisation who feel that we should be more rigorous; insist that everyone joins a group or have worthier and more serious curricula. However, even in formal adult education classes there are many students who enjoy the social activities more than the subject matter. Education Administrators sometimes complained that once a class was instituted it went on year after year with the same students. Here in U3A there is also a tendency for groups not to admit new members if the present participants are enjoying each others company and have built up a rapport. There is nothing wrong with that. It has been proven that people learn better in groups which they enjoy and where the social interaction is strongest. At the same time we should not be complacent. Every member has the potential to become a group leader—it only requires a little confidence, and there is plenty of help available within our own U3A. The Third Age Trust Resource Centre too has a great deal of valuable resource material available in the form of slides, C.D.'s and written material on all manner of subjects.

In short let us glory in our freedom to learn (or not) and to share our knowledge with our fellow members. There is ample evidence that our mental health is enhanced by meeting in friendship groups and in keeping our sense of wonder and enjoyment intact. Our outings, study visits and social activities are all invaluable in that respect. So let us enjoy all aspects of our 'University' - and may I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a New Year full of exciting U3A opportunities

*Shirley Stokes*



## AYLESBURY'S FULL OF LIFE

That was the title of a day organised by Aylesbury Vale District Council to celebrate the International Day for Older People on 1st October. Many organisations were represented such as Age Concern, Bucks 50+ Forum; Healthy Living Centre and services such as the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service and other agencies. I was not involved in the planning discussions so I feel free to comment that we owe a debt of gratitude to Jean Coussens and Alex Paterson who represented the views of our U3A (and helped with the venue). Without their work the day would not have been so successful. Alex, Geoff Young, Cynthia Fowler and I gave short talks as requested, while Ray Juniper was involved in inter-active group discussions.



Many of the exhibitions of work by retired people in the hall also featured U3A Aylesbury Vale, with embroidery, (Valerie Penn) paintings, a tai chi demonstration (Joan Lewis )and a song by Jean Coussens as part of the afternoon 'Talent Show'. The eventual venue was the Meadowcroft Community Centre, so we felt quite at home. Although we do not need to actively recruit new members, the event gave us a useful opportunity to present a public profile. You never know when you might need help! A special word of thanks too for Roy Knight. Although the event was not ours, if it had not been for his help with the hall arrangements and the amplification system, there might not have been a day at all.

In the planning stages it was hoped to invite senior pupils from various schools in order to foster better understanding between the generations. That did not happen, although we were not told why. (It may have had to do with the timing of the day requiring pupils to take a day off from school!) That, for me, was a major disappointment.

### *The Editor*



Photos of some of the U3A contributions to the 'Full of Life' day by courtesy of Aylesbury Vale District Council. Joan Lewis and pupils give a tai chi demonstration; Val Penn shows off some of the Needlework Group's work while Past Chairman Alex Paterson and Krishna Chaudhuri take a refreshment break.



Remember these faces ! These are your First Aiders—you might need them one day.

Photo from Dot Simmons

### AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL U.3.A. BURSARY

Our annual bursary was presented this year to Thomas Schaffer who had devoted much time to helping out at the School's Library. The Guest Speaker at the ceremony which was attended by Alex Paterson and Jean Coussens, was Tim Harford, a columnist for the Financial Times.

### NETWORK NEWS from Geoff Young

The Riverside Project is continuing into 2011 and they are repeating the Study Day **Historic Towns of the Thames Valley** but this time they are holding it at the John Hampden Grammar School High Wycombe. The towns covered this time are Abingdon, Aylesbury, Windsor, Wallingford, High Wycombe & Swindon. This is being held on Saturday the 2nd April 2011 and the cost will be £11 incl. a sandwich lunch.

Before that event there is to be a third planning meeting for the Project on Friday 14th January at Goring. The cost of that is £4 or £5 if you would like a sandwich lunch.

The ultimate aim is to gather all the information collected over the two years

of this project and present this at the Wellington College Residential School on 26th–28th October 2011. More details of this later. I am hopeful that our U3A will get involved as this will enlarge the interest in our local area and show what our members have achieved in a broader field. The activities include photography, walking, both long and short and the research regarding the towns covered by the study days.

On Wednesday the 23rd March 2011 there is a Study Day and Debate **“The Global Economy”** and this is being held at Rewley House, Oxford. The fee for this is £12.50 and £6 for lunch if required.

All the details and application forms are available on our website or from me.

## **AYLESBURY VALE U3A FLIES TO EASTBOURNE**

Thirty eight members visited the Eastbourne International Air-show on Thursday 12th August. The weather did not look very promising but the forecast rain held off all day although the flying took place against a backdrop of threatening sky.

Highlights of the day were of course the Red Arrows and the Eurofighter Typhoon but the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight stole the show by flying in low formation over Eastbourne Pier, their throbbing Rolls Royce Merlin engines drowning out the commentary and the Dambusters Theme music coming over the loud speakers. After the show some of us retired to Harry Ramsdens for well earned fish and chips followed by a leisurely walk on the pier. A rather tired group nodded off on the way home in the coach.



**Resting on the pier after the show - and the fish & chips !**

**Photo from Ron Meadaowcroft**

*Ron Meadaowcroft*



**From the Red Arrows .....to the Boeing Kaydets**

Photo from Peter Ashton



The Kaydet was designed in 1934 (like many of us!). It came to unexpected prominence in World War 2 because of its suitability as a trainer. Now often used for crop dusting and spraying duties.

### **A BIG THANK YOU:**

You kindly donated the magnificent sum of £285 to help with the costs of the Meadowcroft Playgroup's Christmas Party. I am told that you will be thanked in person by the tinies at the December meeting. Apparently there is quite a battle to choose just 3 children to come in to our meeting—they all want to volunteer!

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### BOWLS GROUP

As I write this, we have just come to the end of the Bowling for 2010 and sadly our last session was “rain stopped play”. Indeed, we didn't even start although quite a number of us turned up to chat over a cup of coffee and to pay our deposits for the proposed holiday at Warners on the Isle of Wight next February – something to look forward to! We have had a very successful summer with several new members who have rapidly become very good bowlers under the expert tuition of Bob Hutchins. I have finally found a Deputy; Ron Lloyd has kindly stepped into the breach and it's great to not only have his assistance weekly at what is now a large group but also someone I can leave in charge when I am away without feeling a twinge of conscience.

Weatherwise, we also had a great summer with shorts much in evidence and very few occasions when we needed waterproofs. What could be better than gentle exercise outside on a balmy summer morning with good company and lots of banter. I really do have a wonderful group who are so supportive with never a moan that it is a pleasure to know them. We played for our annual Dorrance Trophy a mixed pairs competition that takes place over a whole day with a picnic lunch and now that we have Tony Simmons to open the Bar for us, play after lunch either improves or goes down hill according to how alcohol affects you! The winners this year were Ron Lloyd and myself and I promise you it wasn't fixed, we did draw for partners - but we did do better after lunch!! We played a slightly different game this year for the Scutt Trophy instead of running it on a league basis over the season, we played 3, 2, 1 on one morning with Roy Davies beating Eddie Clifford by just one shot.

We had a match against Aylesbury Town Bowls club and had our best result ever losing by just 3 shots though as we won on 3 of the 5 rinks I did claim the moral victory. With more of our U3A bowls group becoming full playing members at the Town and more of the Town members joining the U3A its becoming difficult to decide where one's loyalties lie!

Regretfully we won't meet again until Spring 2011 but hopefully our memories will carry us through the autumn and Winter ahead. If anyone feels inspired to try their hand at Bowls next year then do contact me during March or April and I will give you all the details.

*Mary Rogers*

### STOP PRESS!

A brand new group has been formed—The Transport Study Group—a look at different forms of transport across the ages. The first meeting has been held and looked at ‘Airliners of the Pre-Jet Age’. In future trips to places of transport interest may also be arranged.



Contact Peter Ashton on for further details





What were our members looking at in the grounds of Salisbury Cathedral?

Definitely not one of our members but a larger than life size sculpture. Did anyone find out who it represented?

Both photos from Peter Ashton



At our November meeting Norman McRae made a presentation on behalf of the Genealogy Group to thank Alan Dell for over 20 years of passing on his enthusiasm and inspiring group members to research their own family trees.

Alan has since written to thank everyone and pay tribute to Norman for taking over the group, bringing fresh ideas which will enable it to go from strength to strength.



**A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS**

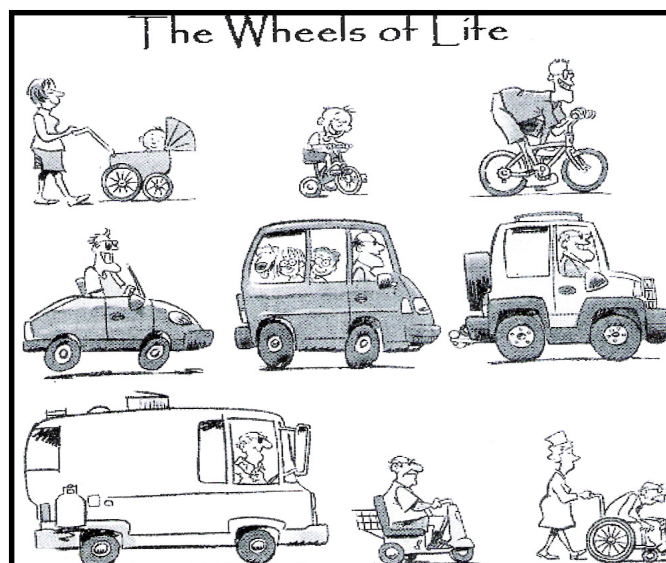
Chris Hammonds; John Francis; Bob Davies; Lynda Smith; Pat Quirke; Pete Smith; Maggie and Jim Ferris; Gillian and Lionel Brill; Eve Daintith; Audrey Billinghamurst; Jo Pattinson; Liz Scott; Sheila Samuel; Sheila and Geoff Smith; Alfred Bates; Greig Sneddon; Lynne Dawson; Christine and Chris Maxwell; Irene Phipps; Pat Woodman Doreen Markou; Else Foster; and Eileen Naples.



## **HERE ARE A FEW OF YOUR FAVOURITE SAYINGS SENT IN OVER THE LAST YEAR**

### **Thoughts on getting older!**

The thing to put aside for one's old age, is all thought of retirement.  
The first thing needed to make a dream come true, is to wake up first.

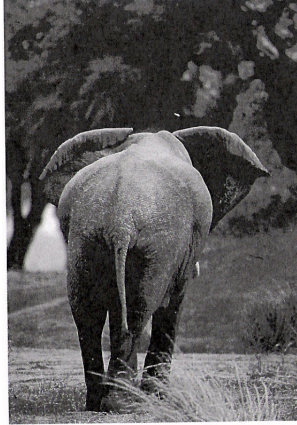


### **EXCUSES FOR NOT HAVING DONE MY HOMEWORK !**

Russians hacked into my Dad's computer and stole my homework.  
The PC exploded when the dog weed on it.  
The Internet was down and I couldn't do any research.  
I accidentally tipped a bottle of cider on the computer and it broke.

*And a slightly more traditional one:*

Mum put my homework in the washing machine and then burnt it trying to iron it dry.



### **Alternative Genealogical Dictionary:**

Archives—Where Noah Kept his Bees.

Exchequer—Retired Draughts player.

Felo de Se—Drowned in the ocean.

### **Recipe for Safari Stew**

Rinse and pat dry 1 medium to large elephant

Season with 60 Buckets salt and 40 Buckets coarse ground black pepper

Add: 1500 chopped onions  
1 truckload chopped carrots  
1 truckload diced potatoes  
300 peeled tomatoes (fresh or canned)  
10 barrels of elephant stock (or water)  
50 buckets of minced garlic  
For that special touch of extra flavour add  
1 bay leaf

And don't forget the secret ingredient:  
25 smoked warthogs

Season to taste with salt, pepper, Worcestershire and hot pepper sauce, then simmer

Feeds 2000

### **SOME HEADLINES FROM AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER— THE MONTEREY HERALD**

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Experts Say

Include your Children When Baking Cookies

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Drunk Gets 9 Months in Violin Case

Iraqi Head Seeks Arms

Prostitutes Appeal to Pope

British Left Waffles on Falkland Islands

Miners Refuse to Work After Death

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Couple Slain: Police Suspect Homicide

Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery Charge

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Two Sisters Reunited after 18 Years in Checkout Counter

Typhoon Rips through Cemetery: Hundreds Dead

Panda Mating Fails: Vet. Takes Over

Plane too Close to Ground—Crash Probe told



### **A Letter to my Bank Manager:**

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque, and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my pension – an arrangement which I admit has only been in place for 38 years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account by £30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I notice that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you I am confronted by the impersonal, over charging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become. From now on, I like you, choose only to deal with a flesh and blood person.

My mortgage and loan payments will, therefore and hereafter, no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank by cheque addressed personally and confidentially to an employee whom you must nominate. Be aware that it is an offence under The Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact Status which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry that it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his/her medical history must be countersigned by a solicitor, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documentary proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 20 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your 'phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Regrettably but following your example I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

*(Reputedly sent by a 98 year old woman to her U.K. Bank Manager)*

### **More from the Alternative Genealogical Dictionary:**

Banns of Marriage—Restrictions on behaviour after Holy Wedlock.

Benefit of Clergy—The right to pocket the collection.

Common Pleas—Groveling requests from peasants.

Device—Carpenter's apparatus for holding wood.

Goodwife—Contradiction in terms.

## **SOME SCHOOLBOY (AND GIRL) HOWLERS:**

Name the Four Seasons: Salt, Pepper, Mustard and Vinegar.

China has always followed Confusion as a religion.

Who was sorry when the Prodigal Son returned? The Fatted Calf.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. He built an ark which the animals came onto in pears.

William the Conqueror landed in 1066 AD (and AD means After Dark)

A martyr is something like a bachelor.

## **YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN !**

I'm the life and soul of the party...even if it lasts until 8 p.m.

I'm very good at opening childproof caps...with a hammer.

I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I'm going.

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.

I'm very good at telling stories: over and over and over....

I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not nearly as cute as mine.

I'm so cared for....long term care, eye care, private care. Dental care.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *An Extract from the* **RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PLANT DEPARTMENT, BICTON GARDENS- 1842**

The following rules to be strictly adhered to and fines to be paid each pay day; the amount so paid to be divided equally among the men at the end of the year...

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Coming to work on a Monday morning with a dirty shirt   | 3d  |
| 2. Coming to work on any morning without shoes being laced or tied   | 3d  |
| 3. Leaving any door or gate open in any department of the garden   | 3d  |
| 4. Leaving any fire at night not in proper trim or order   | 3d  |
| 5. Leaving open the cover of any boiler or cistern   | 6d  |
| 6. Smoking a pipe of tobacco in the hours of work  | 4d  |
| 7. Leaving any tool, wheelbarrow, steps ladder, water pot etc out of its proper place or putting it away dirty | 3d  |
| 8. Carelessly breaking any plant, pan, glass, tool etc   | 3d  |
| 9. Breaking any flower pot with plants in it, and not immediately potting the same plant properly              | 6d  |
| 10. Swearing or making use of bad language; for every separate evil expression                                 | 3d  |
| 11. Damaging or in any way mutilating or defacing the above Rules  | 12d |

## A WALK IN THE NEW FOREST

41 members took part in this long week-end walking holiday staying in a hotel on the sea front at Bournemouth. On our first day we were up bright and early, and met our guides Sue and Phil Howe near Beaulieu. Phil was a font of knowledge about the areas we covered, pointing out the various trees and their usefulness, their ages and how they were used over the centuries. His wife knew all about fungi, and carried her basket to pick up any edible ones she fancied for their dinner. Whenever we stopped she was able to pass on her knowledge to us. I liked the red 'Amanita Muscaria', but that didn't make it into her basket! After walking through woods and open heathland for about three hours, we were pleased to find Beaulieu Road station where the famous New Forest pony sales are held. Next to it was the Beaulieu Road Inn where we had a restoring drink and lunch. After a welcome rest we were off on the afternoon walk, passing ancient Neolithic burial sites, lakes and the more open areas of the forest. It was a joy to see our bus waiting to take us back to the hotel where our dinner would be waiting for us. We needed it after walking about seven and a half miles, although we were still fit enough to tackle a game of cards afterwards.



Listening to the Guide  
Photo by Rosemary Meadowcroft

On Sunday morning, with cases repacked and ready to go, we took our last walk. This started in Beachern wood, on the outskirts of Brockenhurst. To me, this was the best part of the forest, lots of woodland glades and interesting plants growing on the woodland floor, with large trees towering over us. During the war there were hidden airfields in that area and a couple of craters could still be seen. Yet it was never bombed by the enemy, as it was hidden away so well. There were many ponies here, including one stampeding group, which luckily we saw when we were back on the coach!

A big 'THANKYOU' to Jean Ashton for organising such a successful weekend.

*Margaret Gallie*



Taking a Break  
Photo by Jim Gallie



The pub is almost in sight!  
Photo from Peter Ashton

## MORE NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

### Ten Pin Bowling:

This group is now over 8 years old and plays at Jardines in Aylesbury every Monday throughout the year. It includes members from both Mid Bucks and Wendover U3As. This friendly group welcomes anyone who wishes to try their hand at ten pin bowling either on the odd occasion or regularly. Physical disability is no bar to joining and there is a real mixture of expertise. My record so far ranges between 14 and 100+ - most members fall somewhere in between, but we all have our off days!



Why not join us at Jardines on Mondays at 10 a.m. for a 10.15 start. You can find us just top left off the Market Square.

*Pat Kuryba*



### Come on in—the water's lovely!



Due to Government cut-backs we no longer receive free swimming passes, but the swimming group is still alive and kicking! Serious swimmers are well provided for, but the indoor pool with its moveable floor is arranged so that the less confident swimmers and non-swimmers are never out of their depth. The heated outdoor pool is open March to October and whatever the weather we can round off the afternoon with a few minutes in a heated jacuzzi or a drink and a chat in the café. We still get a concessionary rate, at present £2.65 and we would welcome new members.

Mondays from 2.45 onwards at the Aqua Vale Pool (except in the school holidays).

*Pat Tompkins*

### Gentle Walks:

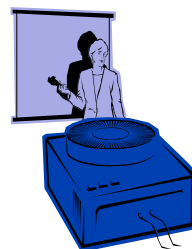
This group has gone from strength to strength this year with increased numbers and some new routes. One such took members to the Ashridge Estate on a fine day when one car load was delighted to have to give way to a small group of Fallow Deer crossing the road while an impressive stag watched from the safety of the grass verge. The only other wild life (apart from the walkers) was a rather exuberant puppy whose owners called to him ineffectually while he joyously bounced over to us leaving muddy paw prints on various parts of the walkers anatomy! The following week the Wildlife and Nature Group took the same path as you can see in the photo taken by Peter Ashton. They too saw some deer and one green woodpecker—but they were really looking for fungi.



## SPEAKERS' CORNER

January 12th : Spare Part Surgery – Dr Tony Maisey

Dr Maisey is a retired GP from Princes Risborough who regularly gives talks to local U3A groups. 'Spare Part Surgery' will provide a humorous look at transplants and implants and what technology can offer, followed by a discussion of some of the ethical problems raised.



February 9th : Isaac Newton, His Life and Works – Paul Ranford

Isaac Newton is regarded as one of the greatest natural philosophers in history. He is best known for his work in experimental physics and mathematics, but his greatest labours were in subjects apparently far removed from science – alchemy and biblical interpretation. The talk will give some insight into Newton's life and character, his works and their influence on 18th and 19th century science.

March 9th : The Spice Trade – Peter Humphries

Peter returns to us to trace the development of the spice trade from prehistory to the present day. Topics include the use of spices in Egyptian, Greek and Roman cultures; spices in the middle ages and then the influences of the Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and English traders and mariners. His research has revealed the ancient, tortuous and bloody history of the spice trade as the background to our casual acceptance of the availability of spices today.

## HOUSEKEEPING NOTICES

**USE OF NOTICE BOARDS:** All notices about days out and study visits/holidays must first be given to the Secretary and not placed directly on the boards in order to avoid date clashes.

**2011 DIARIES;** There are still some diary orders awaiting collection. They will be available at the December Meeting.



**CAR PARKING:** May we remind all members to take care when parking on the Community Centre site. We know that it is difficult to find a space – but we are causing some problems by blocking the space between the rows which makes it impossible for delivery vehicles and the emergency services to gain access.

**GET WELL CARDS:** Please remember to contact Val Young if you know of someone who is ill in hospital, or housebound or bereaved, and who would welcome a card from their U3A friends. We do like to keep in touch!

**FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURS:** Muriel Beech would like to update her list of useful tradesmen, so please let her have names of any whom you have found to be efficient and helpful.





A group of contented London Walkers at Alexandra Palace

Photo from Ron Meadowcroft

Derek Ayshford tries his hand at the Barrel Organ, watched by an admiring crowd, on the visit to the Finchcocks Musical Museum.

Photo by Peter Ashton

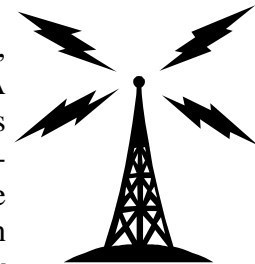


A pause for refreshment at 'The George' a 17th century galleried inn now in the care of The National Trust. Our London Walkers discovered that it had been immortalised in Dickens' 'Little Dorrit'. There was an Inn on this site on a 1543 map –destroyed by fire in 1676 and then rebuilt.

Photo—Peter Ashton

## U.3.A. ON AIR !

If any of you watched the programme 'New Tricks' a few weeks ago, you will have seen the James Bolam character giving a talk at a U3A meeting. Publicity literature in our familiar yellow and blue was prominently displayed, and a member explained to him what the organisation was all about. As a supposedly retired police officer he gave a talk about 'serial killers', and as they didn't have a chairman who was any good at keeping order, he was constantly interrupted by other colleagues. Wouldn't have happened in Aylesbury Vale! Later on a radio recording of Gardeners Question Time was hosted by the Sussex U3A.



## COMMONWEALTH GAMES NEW DELHI 2010

*Tony Simmons was once again a technical officer for the disabled powerlifting competition at the paralympic section of the games in Delhi. You may remember that Tony has been kind enough to tell us about his participation in previous years - and this is Delhi 2010. (If you want a fuller version - see our website).*



The Games Mascot with his guard at the Hotel Ashok.

Both photos from Tony Simmons

One of my everlasting memories of the Delhi Games will be the tight security from the moment that we arrived at our hotel 'The Ashok'. where there were many security checks - at the gate to the grounds and the entrance to the hotel where we had to put the case through the scanner, take off our jackets and empty our pockets before walking through the scanner ourselves. After passing the armed soldier at the reception desk we were met by a games representative with the first of many gifts - a case with a polo shirt, pin badges, guidebooks and an umbrella! In the afternoon we went to collect our uniforms, and I thought here we go again! On arrival at the uniform distribution Depot, I said to myself "perhaps for the first time in many games it will all fit". Once again the answer was 'no' - next time maybe! Both jacket sleeves and trousers too long so a lengthy visit to the tailor was on the agenda .

On the second day a trip to the Taj Mahal was arranged and on arrival at Agra Cantt Railway Station we were surprised to see nobody but police and soldiers. We learned that the station had been sealed off for a 100 yard perimeter. It was a similar tale at the Taj Mahal itself because the public were not allowed in for the first hour while we were there, and again on the return journey the road was empty of traffic because it had been sealed off to all vehicles. This had been an unforgettable trip.

On the afternoon of our third day I went to watch a ladies triples bowls match at which England beat India. It was here I met up with Ray Keen a bowls umpire from Foxhills in Aylesbury. (I asked him if his uniform fitted but as expected the answer was 'no'). On day four it was time to check the venue, and we watched the last class of the Weightlifting in a venue that was only about half full. Day five October 12th my birthday and the day of the competition. Ladies up first. Three medals to Nigeria which were presented by HRH Prince Edward. The Prince afterwards went back stage to meet the ladies and their coaches and to chat to the officials. After a short technical break it was the turn of the men, 28 in all, I was to act as Technical Controller. Once again the three medals went to Nigeria. There was to be one last surprise on my return to the hotel. In my room was a bottle of wine, bunch of flowers and birthday cake with Happy Birthday Anthony Simmons on it— 'Complements of the Ashok Hotel'. So cake in hand it was down to dinner to divide and share.



Tony is presented to H.R.H. Prince Edward

All in all a trip to be remembered not for the organization of the games but for the way the Indian volunteers made us most welcome and of course for the soldiers, the heat and not least the bugs both large and small. I look forward to London 2012 and Glasgow 2014.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wednesday 19th January:** A Meet the members Coffee Morning at 10.30 a.m. at The Broad Leys P.H. Wendover Road . Price £1.75 Please join us whether you are a new or long standing member.

**Tuesday 8th February:** John Cornwall on 'Making the most of a Small Garden'.  
Garden Group at Aylesbury Grammar School 2.30—4.00 p.m.

**Tuesday 8th March:** Garden Group; Chris Day from Buckingham Nursery—'A –Z of Foolproof Gardening' Aylesbury Grammar School, 2.30 p.m.

**Wednesday 16th March:** Another Coffee Morning to which all members are welcome. Join us at the Broad Leys P.H. Wendover Road at 10.30 a.m. Cost £1.75

**Friday 18th March :** Visit to Hitchin British School and Hitchin Town. The British School opened in 1810 and the unique set of buildings on this site are furnished and equipped to show the history of elementary education from 1810 to 1969. The Lancaster Schoolroom is believed to be the only complete example remaining in the world. You can see how one master was able to teach 300 pupils in one schoolroom and you may even be invited to take part in a lesson—if your hands are clean!

**Thursday 7th April:** A Theatre Group visit to see a performance of 'Dreamboats and Petticoats' with a lunch cruise beforehand.

**Monday 23rd May:** A joint Walking Group visit to Avebury and Silbury Hill and West Kennet Long Barrow (about 4 miles).

**Friday 24th to Wednesday 29th June:** Confirmed dates for study tour of Cheshire and North Wales.

The next deadline, for the March issue, will be February 9th and your contributions should be submitted to the editor by that date. It would be helpful if anyone sending in photos could also give them captions, as it is not always clear where they were taken. Your contributions are vital, and don't forget that it need not always be the Group Leaders who submit news—any member can tell the story of what is happening in their speciality.

Please send all contributions to: Shirley Stokes, 9 Windsor Road, Aylesbury, HP21 7JG. Tel: 01296 392726 or e mail at [treveris9@btinternet.com](mailto:treveris9@btinternet.com)