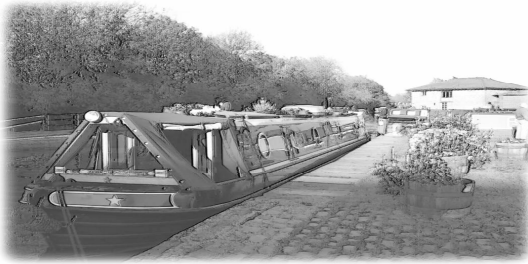


## AYLESBURY VALE U.3.A.



Newsletter Issue No. 58

March 2011

### A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

Ever since our U.3.A. was founded we have been supported firstly by the Grange School, offering the use of both premises and equipment, and later on by Aylesbury Grammar School. Some years ago to acknowledge this help we agreed to award a small bursary to each school to be given to a pupil who, in the school's opinion, had shown a commitment to a community project. This could be a project within the school - but outside the formal timetable, or in the wider external community. You will read reports of the winners of the bursaries in this newsletter from time to time.

This year, the Grange School invited us to nominate some members to act as mentors to pupils taking part in an Eco-Challenge Day, and with some trepidation your Chairman and Jeni and Bob Davies turned up for school promptly at 8.30 a.m. on a cold January morning. (Those of you who know the Chairman well will be aware that this is not her favourite time of day!) We were assigned to different classes of some 30 students who had been given a broad outline of areas for consideration. They were divided into groups of 5/6 and their task was to design, develop and present a concept/idea that would help the school to become more environmentally friendly.

Our task was to judge how effective their teamwork had been; how they had set about problem solving and to assess their creativity and presentation skills. They had a lot to pack into the day.-designing a company name and logo; producing fact sheets and posters and devising an incentive scheme. We could only point out potential snags if we saw any, keep them to their time limits and eventually decide on a winning team from our own class. Finally all 7 of the class winners had to make a presentation in the main hall to their fellow year pupils, and we selected an overall winner.

The whole day was a pleasure and the youngsters treated us very kindly! I always enjoy looking at the group dynamics - how the mixed groups differed from single sex groups; who was the ringleader as opposed to the elected spokesperson, and how the shyest gradually emerged from their shells as the day progressed. We must have done something right, as the school has already thanked us and "look forward to seeing you next year". All we want now is some more volunteers!

I am quickly learning what a busy time the Chairman has! Since the start of this year in addition to the day outlined above, I have also attended a couple of coffee mornings, our group leaders annual meeting and a Thames Valley Network Representatives Meeting in Witney. I feel that I am already fulfilling several of the Psychology Group's suggestions on page 9 for a happy and active retirement

*Shirley Stokes*

## Winter Memories:

One of the problems of a quarterly newsletter is that many things have been lost in our memories by publication date. This is just a reminder of some of the activities that happened since the last newsletter and goes to show that the weather didn't stop us much at all. Sadly, the annual Christmas Lunch at Green Park had to be cancelled due to the poor take-up (and I suspect the not inconsiderable rise in the price). That didn't prevent many of the individual study groups from arranging their own celebrations, and your committee would be pleased to know whether you prefer to hold separate events, or whether you would like them to arrange another joint lunch this year.

The ever popular Quiz and Supper organised very ably by Jean Ashton, with a little help from husband Peter was once again a sell-out. 64 members took part in 8 teams, and only 31 points separated the top and bottom teams. You have to get your name down early if you want a ticket! The winning team consisted of Jane Hobson, Paul Fincken,

Jean Wood, Muriel Beech, Evelyn MacLeod, and Gay and Ian Hancock. The rest of us just enjoyed the Fish and Chip supper.

An early Christmas Celebration for another coach load was the visit to Blenheim Palace on a very cold but beautifully sunny day just before the snows came. They were able to enjoy walks around the grounds, and the informative Guides who entertained everyone with stories of the history of this great building and the families who have lived in it. Even the Greek and Roman busts were looking quite rakish - particularly where their holy wreaths had tipped over their ears very becomingly. We thought that we were not too old to enjoy a Pantomime at the new Waterside Theatre, (but it was cancelled) while the 'Out and About' group took a guided tour of Waterside both front of house and back stage. A visit to see The Lord Mayor's Show is described elsewhere in the newsletter.

The only trouble for U3A members during the winter months seemed to be not enough hours in the day!



The 'Gentle Walkers' enjoyed a visit to College Lake Nature Reserve recently, and were soon up to their ankles in mud! They very much enjoyed a spot of bird watching followed by a U3A lunch at The Bell where the whole U3A programme was covered as they shared views on politics, national service, the theatre and wildlife!

Photos by Tony Poth



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 2:

We meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons from 2.30 to 4 p.m. at the Grammar School during term times. We have some lively discussions ranging from the current political situation to more everyday topics such as the benefits/non benefits of organic milk and whether Twitter and Facebook are making us 'less human' or 'more sociable'. Members bring along any topics they wish to raise at each meeting. We don't always stick closely to the topic raised, as often there is someone with a story to tell, but that is part of the enjoyment. Whatever the topic, by the end of the meeting we usually end up smiling and looking forward to the next get together. We always welcome new members or visitors - so if you're interested in joining us, or would like more information, please contact me.

*Jean McKay*

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

### PLAY CANASTA !

Canasta is a game that many of us remember from the 50's and 60's when it was very popular and we do have a Canasta group that was started by Cyril Reed with Mary Rogers as his deputy. These roles have now been reversed with Mary taking over as Leader and Cyril her deputy. We play in members' homes on a Tuesday evening from 7.30 p.m. just 4 players at a time. We welcome new members - both those who have played before and complete novices. It is not a difficult game once you have mastered the melds and scoring and as it is played in partners we will try to match you with a more experienced player. The only problem we have is venues and it would mean we could get more games each if more could offer to host an evening. There will never be more than 3 other people coming and it does ensure that you will get a game that evening! Just coffee and biscuits to be provided during the evening so

### OUT AND ABOUT AT THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW:

The Lord Mayor's Show is one of the longest established and best known annual event in London and dates back to 1535. So we decided that it was time we went to see it. We travelled by coach from Buckinghamshire and our driver dropped us at the Royal Festival Hall where we had a welcome cup of coffee. Our final destination was Queen Victoria Road where we parked to allow us to see the 785th 'Show'. It was wonderful to be so close – we were in the front row! The event is a street parade with nowadays a fairly light-hearted combination of traditional pageantry and elements of carnival. The procession took more than an hour to pass us by. We are told that there were 60,000 participants; 2000 servicemen and women; 220 vehicles; 71 floats; 13 marching bands and 21 carriages! We had groups of children alongside us and the participants would “high five” all the children adding to the carnival atmosphere.



The Lord Mayor of London -  
Alderman Michael Bear

The coach then took us onto Blackfriars Bridge in order to see the fireworks that were set up in the middle of the Thames – another bird's eye view! There were over half a tonne of giant fireworks which had taken a team of pyrotechnicians 2 days to set up! As we had such a central viewpoint on both occasions this visit could be recommended for all abilities as we were at the very heart of the occasion. We were grateful to Margaret Crafts, a member of the 'Out and About Group' who kindly organised the day.

*Chris Reading and Gwen Young*



The wicker statues of Gog and Magog, Guardians of the City emerge from The Guildhall once a year to take part in the procession. They first appeared in 1554 and after several re-births returned in 2006 following several months of hard work by the Company of Basketmakers.



## MORE NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

### Transport Group - January Meeting:

The second meeting of this new group was held at the home of Ron and Rosemary Meadowcroft where their son-in-law, Martin Bromiley, gave us a very professional Powerpoint insight into his work as a Senior First Officer with British Midland International based at Heathrow.



Martin on the flight deck

Martin began by giving us a short account of his early flying experiences in gliding, gaining his Private Pilot's Licence and then progressing through the Oxford Aviation Academy to obtain his Airline Transport Pilots Licence. He has been with BMI for fourteen years and flies four different types of Airbus jet aircraft. A typical working day could see him plying between Heathrow and Glasgow and back a couple of times, or he might be away for a few days travelling to somewhere more exotic such as Dubai or Bishkek (look it up!). This part of his presentation showed us an aspect of air travel which the passenger does not usually think about when checking in for a flight. Safety is an over-riding consideration for airline managements and aircrews, and pilots have to arrive at least an hour before departure time in order to study the weather forecast for their route, calculate the fuel required and any other matters which might affect the journey. After arrival at the aircraft one of the pilots (Captain in fine weather, First Officer if cold and wet!) inspects the exterior of the plane for damage or defects.

Although we were shown video of some very scary landings at awkward airports we were all reassured by the efforts which are made to maintain the excellent safety record which airlines have achieved. Indeed, I think Martin's presentation would have alleviated the fears of anyone who might be 'aerophobic'.

*Peter Ashton*



All dressed for the cold on the visit to Blenheim Palace

Photo by Rosemary Meadowcroft

## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR



I wonder if you could print a thank you in the Newsletter to all the U3A members who took the time to send letters, cards, flowers, and make phone calls following the recent death of my husband. I don't think a thank you has been printed before in the newsletter but I have been overwhelmed by the kindness of the U3A. At one time I thought if ever anything happened to Cliff I would be off like a shot back to Poole but now I am not so sure. I feel I have so many friends in our U3A that I couldn't hope to find another anywhere in the country to beat it for friendliness and consideration. I have been told that many of them came to the Church, many more than came to the Chandos afterwards and I would like to thank them also. I'm afraid that walking into and out of Church was pretty much a blur likewise much of the time in the Chandos, but I would like everyone to know how much I appreciated their thoughtfulness.

*Val Penn*

## WHY NOT JOIN US AT AVEBURY ON MONDAY 23RD MAY ?

After possibly stopping for morning coffee at Polly's Tea Rooms in Marlborough we will have a good view of Silbury Hill from the A4 on our short drive to the National Trust Car Park at Avebury. The pretty village of Avebury is built within the magnificent 5000 year old stone circle that is certainly one of the best in Europe and a World Heritage Site. The Gentle Walkers will be able to amble round the stone circle maybe visiting the Alexander Keiller Museum, the Queen Anne Manor and the village of Avebury. The local walkers will be able to follow a more energetic route of some four and a half miles taking in Silbury Hill, the West Kennet Long Barrow and of course the stone circle. It is suggested that if the weather is kind we take a small picnic lunch to eat on our walks then all meet together in the National Trust Restaurant for afternoon tea before we make our way back to the coach.

Everyone should be prepared with suitable clothing and walking shoes and a change of shoes in a polythene bag to avoid getting dirt in the coach.



Avebury Stone Circle

*Ron Meadowcroft*

## THE HISTORY GROUP HAS A NEW LEADER !

The History Group, which meets fortnightly at the Church of the Holy Spirit, has been looking at "The Age of Enlightenment" and all that covers. So far we have only scratched the surface of what is a very large and varied subject. It covers a wide range from astronomy, architecture, psychology, music, education, and many more. It seems that every time I watch a documentary programme on the television it is something to do with the Enlightenment. I try to encourage members to choose a subject, or a person connected with that, and research them, and present this information to the others at our meetings. At present the Group only meets for two terms and we finish at the end of March. I have been leader of this group for the last fifteen years, and have decided that it is time for someone else to take over. I am finding that I have run out of new ideas. I am pleased to announce that a triumvirate of Mike Burrows, assisted by Veronica Stagnell and June Goodwill have agreed to take it on, while I will be able to find time to investigate other interests. I would finally like to thank all our members, both past and present, for their interest and look forward to talking with the new leaders.

*Geoff Young*

## HELP TOMORROW TO TAKE SHAPE - THE 2011 CENSUS:



The 2011 Census is coming and 27th March is census day! You may already have received your census questionnaire. A census has been taken every 10 years since 1801 except 1941 (the war interfered with that one). The population is always changing, and the census collects and then shares facts about society's make-up. We want everyone to take part so that the services and facilities your community, family and friends need can be identified, funded and planned accurately - services such as schools, hospitals, emergency services, transport, leisure facilities, housing, education, training and employment services and many others.

As your genealogy group can attest a census is a fantastic source of historical and family tree information and the records collected will be made available to the public after 100 years. The records from 1911 are now available!

### **You can complete the questionnaire on -line**

This is the first census that can be completed on-line (though you can still post it back if you prefer). Completing the on-line questionnaire is easy, convenient and secure. If you or somebody you know needs help you can click on-line at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk). Large print questionnaires, information booklets, translation booklets in over 50 languages, audio and British Sign Language video guides are all available. You can also telephone the census helpline **0300 0201101** for help in English and other languages, or to ask for a home visit.

Don't forget that completion of the Census Form is compulsory; returning your questionnaire is required by law. The few people who don't return a questionnaire may be prosecuted - they could face a criminal record and may be fined up to £1,000.

### **Need information about the 2011 Census locally? I can help**

**Suzanne MacLeod tel. 07801 331477 email: [J102@census.gov.uk](mailto:J102@census.gov.uk)**

## **H**OT OFF THE PRESS:

By the time you read this we will have a third Reading Circle; and a brand new Scrabble Club (or two). The idea of a jigsaw exchange has also been mooted. For news of these, or to suggest any other innovations, speak to Group Coordinator Jean Coussens.

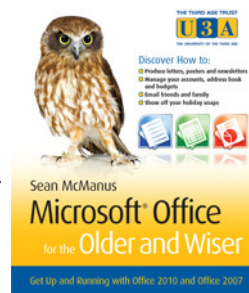


**AS ALWAYS - A VERY WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: DON'T FORGET TO SAY 'HELLO' IF YOU SEE AN UNFAMILIAR FACE AT THE NEXT MEETING !**

Barbara Mathews; Eileen & Bill Wade; Joy Neave; Heather & Steve Edwards; Clare Harding; Anne Aylett; Alan Covington; Sheila Cruickshank; Marilyn & Geoffrey Cunningham; Len Anderson; Sheila Sylvester; Jackie Ainsworth; Jean Kemp; Jean Bitmead; Yvonne Stentiford; Jean Hennessy; Zena Crome and Rosemary Blake.

## THE DEMISE OF CUSS AND THE RISE OF PC WISDOM!

Most of us will be sorry to learn that CUSS (The Computer Users Support Service) has stopped its regular meetings after many years of helping our computer users. Unfortunately it has outlived its usefulness as most of those attending were no longer novices. A big thank you must go to Mike Bean for his patience and hard work. I for one will miss our long Friday chats over seemingly insurmountable computer problems.



Fear not however, if you are new to the ubiquitous PC there is still plenty of help out there such as the superb range of books produced by the Third Age Trust under the name of PC Wisdom. One I came across in Aylesbury Library (yes they still have books) is called Computing with Windows 7 for the Older and Wiser. This book covers all the basic things anyone would need to know if they are starting out in the fascinating world of the home computer. I can thoroughly recommend the book, which is good value at about £10.00 for both newcomers and the more experienced. There are seven books in this series covering such areas as the Internet, Family History and Digital Photography, all written by a U3A member with us in mind and they are available at our library.

One thing they recommend in the first chapter is a Guardian Angel. Fortunately our U3A is blessed with a number of these, willing to chat on the phone or over coffee. All you have to do is register at [u3aa-vcuss@freelists.org](mailto:u3aa-vcuss@freelists.org) and then post your query/problem on line. Someone always knows an answer! Then when you are up and running you can try a visit to our website for all the latest news and articles.

*Ron Meadowcroft*

### U3A CALENDAR BOYS:.

You've all heard of calendar girls, well here, in our U3A we have our own calendar boys. This is not quite what you might imagine; here we have two calendar "boys".namely Norman McRae and Bill Gibbins who have produced a lovely calendar for 2011 showing pictures taken on the London walks in 2010.

**January** shows Alexandra Palace; **Feb.** -The Roundhouse Theatre in Camden Town; **March** - Hackney, **April** -, Cannizaro Park; **May**, Entrance to The Royal Courts of Justice; **June** - Victoria Square,in front of Queen Victoria's statue; **July** - The Royal Exchange; **Aug.** - The Market in Portabello Rd; **Sept.** -Alexandra Palace again; **Oct.** - The famous zebra crossing at Abbey Road; **Nov.** - Taking a rest in Regents Park; **Dec.** - Covent Garden.



Why not join the boys (and girls) on their London Walks in 2011?

*Jim Gallie*

## THE END OF THE CHEQUE

As you will know in December 2009, the Payments Council announced a target end date to close central cheque clearings, October 31st 2018 has been set as a target to allow for the development of alternatives to, (as far as I am concerned) the much loved cheque. Your committee is already considering the advantages and the problems. We know it seems a long way away but we are looking at the proposals and taking advice. If you have views, please let us know



## OUR PLACE IN THE TIME-LINE OF THE MONUMENT:

*As a child whenever we visited the Chiltern Hills my family showed me views of Aylesbury Vale and told me of the events that happened over the years. This little time-line is dedicated to Ann & Roger Walker who led our walking group from Whiteleaf to Wendover in November.*



**9000 BC** the last ice sheets that shaped our chalk hills have retreated and a huge herd of deer from the European main land race across the plain through the sparse birch and juniper woodland. By 6500 BC the sea has claimed the land and these great migrations are no more, Britain is an island.

**3700 BC** the bones of a tribal leader whose body had been displayed for many years on the hill top at Whiteleaf is laid to rest with great ceremony. Chalk is dug with antler picks to form a white mound visible all over the Vale.

**800 BC** farming has come to the Vale and for protection circular defensive mounds and ditches are built on the hill tops where people can retreat in troubled times.

**100 BC** people from Brittany are trading at ports on the south coast and about 50 BC hundreds of gold coins stamped with the head of Apollo are lost by the Catuvellauni on Whaddon Chase. Some of these were unearthed in 1849 and a further 73 at Little Horwood in 2006

**100 AD** The Catuvellauni are now enjoying the Roman life and have built a substantial villa below the hills near Kimble. Corn and timber from the estate are traded on the Thames at Marlow.

**648 AD** On a cold winter afternoon a long procession of clergy carrying a cross and banners make their way along the Icknield Way from St Albans to Dorchester Abbey where they are to attend the funeral of St Berinus who died on 3 December.

**903 AD** The Witan confirmed that land below the hill near Prices Risborough was granted by the King of Mercia and had then been given by Athulf to his daughter Aethelgyth. Sometime later this land was given to the Archbishop of Canterbury to pay off marauders from Scandinavia who ravaged Kent and threatened to burn down the Cathedral unless they were bought off.

**1330** On 15 June The Black Prince was born at Woodstock, his victories over the French at Crécy and Poitiers (perhaps partly paid for by the taxes taken on goods passing through Princes Risborough).made him very popular during his life,

**1634** Charles I required Buckinghamshire to provide a fully-equipped ship of 450 tons with provisions for 6 months, or £4,500 in money. John Hampden addressing a meeting in Great Hampden Church refused to pay the Ship Money and by the 24 June he had died in Thame, six days after being wounded at the Civil War Battle of Chalgrove Field.

**1863** The Wycombe Railway Co. built the first line into Aylesbury improving markets and communications in the Vale by transporting Aylesbury ducks and dairy goods to London.

**1904** The Monument is unveiled in memory of 148 men from Buckinghamshire who died during the Second Boer War.

**1916** Twenty Thousand soldiers train to dig trenches in the Chilterns prior to the Battle of The Somme. Remains of these trenches can still be seen.

**1938** The Monument was destroyed by lightning and rebuilt.

**1944** On the night of 5 June, men of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry took off in Horsa gliders to capture Pegasus Bridge in Normandy. The gliders were built in local furniture factories.

**1956** Khrushchev and Bulganin have dinner with Anthony Eden at Chequers,

**2010** Monday 25th October Over 200 people with Bishop of Buckingham and the Lord Lieutenant gathered at The Monument on Coombe Hill to honour Buckinghamshire's Boer War heroes as a new plaque was dedicated to their memory; additional names were added bringing the total number to 159.

**2010** Monday 15 November Members of the Aylesbury Vale U3A after visiting one of the ancient forts stop at the grave of the tribal leader (sadly scarred by cycle ruts) before heading for the bright sunshine at the Monument, where they view the historic Vale through the swirling grey mists below.

*Ron Meadowcroft*



## **GUNMAN PROVIDES FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR THE PSYCHOLOGY GROUP!**



In the psychology group we do not follow a particular course of study and the meetings are topic related. We have visiting speakers and we use source material from TV programmes, newspaper articles, books etc. as a basis for our discussions. Recently we had a lively discussion on 'nature or nurture'. Is it our genes or our upbringing that makes us the person we are? This was sparked by a newspaper article on Raoul Moat the gunman who was on the run. He came from the same family background as his elder brother who had an MSc, and was a respected member of the community. Our next meeting will be on the subject of stress, and a visit is being arranged to Grendon prison. Speakers in the past few months have covered the subjects of homelessness, attitudes, and the psychology of Alfred Adler.

In a discussion of 'Attitudes to Retirement' the following suggestions were made, which readers may find helpful:

- \* Plan ahead - always have something to look forward to.
- \* Don't be afraid of change.
- \* Try a new interest.
- \* Don't just join a group - get actively involved.
- \* If in doubt, don't be afraid to ask for advice.
- \* Keep mentally and physically active.
- \* Involve yourself with others.
- \* Renew & revisit old friends and acquaintances.

Although the group is almost full at the moment, we would like to see a few more male members - there are only 3 at present so we are well outnumbered! Or you could think about starting another group - there is plenty of help available.

*Ken Evans*

## **THAMES VALLEY NETWORK.**

At the January meeting we welcomed Pam Jones, the TVN Chairman, to outline the operation of the Network which arranges many activities (some of which are outlined below) covering a wide range of subjects and interests. I always hope that our members will participate and get the full benefit of Aylesbury Vale's Network membership.

Saturday 4th June Network Conference. Swindon.  
Saturday 22nd August, Arts and Handicrafts – Workshop. Burchetts Green  
Friday 23rd September, Food Science, Health & Wellbeing, Benson Village Hall  
November, Four Opera Masterpieces, Rewley House Oxford.  
July, Bridge Tournament.

The Riverside Project - on-going since the beginning of last year is particularly exciting and has its final session at Wellington College, Crowthorne between the 26th – 28th October, when there will be talks, practical activities and a 'Riverside' exhibition of the project results including paintings, poetry, music and a quiz. Why not look on the Network's website for more information [www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk) All the details of current events, application forms and times are also available on our own website or from me. You can't say that we don't find interesting things for you to do, so take part and enjoy it all.

*Geoff Young*

## SPEAKERS CORNER



### **April 13th 2011 – Prehistoric Art – Jill Eyers**

Many of you will have enjoyed Jill Eyers last talk about the Geology of the Chilterns. She is a lecturer and a professional geologist who has published guides in the *Rocks Afoot* series. More recently she has been working with archaeologists on a number of areas, including ancient landscapes of the Thames Valley, a Mesolithic site in Bucks and Roman excavations in Oxfordshire. She is returning in April with a further presentation on “Prehistoric Art”. Here she will consider the questions - When did people first start carving items to carry round with them or start applying sculpture or paint to caves? More importantly, why did they do it? She has some intriguing ideas on everything from Venus figurines to stone circles and cave paintings.

### **May 11th 2011 – The Life and Voice of Kathleen Ferrier - Christopher Fifield**

This month we will learn more about one of the greatest English opera singers of the last century. Christopher Fifield will talk about the life of Kathleen Ferrier about whom he has written and broadcast extensively. He will illustrate his presentation with recordings of her songs.

### **June 8th 2011 – Farming with Steam – Tom Doig**

Tom Doig has travelled widely, in the UK and abroad, lecturing on and researching various aspects of rural life in the Victorian era. He was Director of the Cambridge & County Folk Museum and the Amberley Industrial Museum in Sussex. He claims “Life on the farm in the early days of steam power was an exciting and, sometimes, frightening experience.” In an informative and amusing presentation he will look at the variety of uses for which steam was harnessed including the Derby Walking Digger and the uncontrollable Romain Croskill cultivator.

*Jeni Davies*  
*Speaker Secretary.*

## **HOUSEKEEPING NOTICES.**

Don't forget -we are still looking for a Theatre Visits Organiser so that we can take full advantage of the group rates for our new Waterside Theatre as well as those further afield.

Jim McKay our Membership Secretary has sadly given us forewarning that he is hoping to move to the South Coast and although we shall hold elections in October it would be helpful if anyone interested could ‘shadow’ Jim to see what is involved.



A reminder that if you wish to bring a guest to our monthly meetings you must check with the Membership Secretary as our average attendance continues to rise, and we don't have many spare chairs available these days!

An Apology for the ‘deliberate’ mistake on the new Handbook, spotted by many of you. It was definitely not 20010!

I shall be handing over to Peter Gasson on 1<sup>st</sup> April as Anne and I hope to move to Worthing very soon. Many thanks to all of you who have helped me during my time as Secretary, I have enjoyed making so many new friends.

*Tony Dobbs*



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH;** Coffee Morning at 10.30 a.m. at The Broad Leys, Wendover Road, Cost £1.75 New members particularly welcome; (Then on 18th May & 20th July)

**SATURDAY 2ND APRIL:** Thames Valley Network Study Day - Historic Towns of the Thames Valley' at the John Hampden Grammar School, High Wycombe. Towns included will be Abingdon, Aylesbury, Windsor, Wallingford High Wycombe. and Swindon. Cost £11 including a sandwich lunch. Talk to Geoff Young for further details or get your booking form on [www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk)

**TUESDAY 5TH APRIL:** The Gentle Walks Group have another new route - this time starting from the Marsworth Reservoirs and Canal. Parking will be free at the White Lion Pub as those who wish to will be lunching there. The walk will start at 11.15 a.m.

**TUESDAY 12TH APRIL:** Local Garden Visit to Ascott Gardens, Wing. Meet Jansel Square at 2.00 p.m. to arrange shared transport.

**SUNDAY 17TH APRIL:** The main object of this Gentle Sunday walk is to see the Spring Flowers at Waddesdon Manor. (Entrance free for National Trust Members) Meeting at the Kiosk at the front of the Manor for a 11.15 a.m. start.

**TUESDAY 3RD MAY:** Gentle Walks Group meet at the central services area in Wendover Woods at 11.15 a.m. for a 'bluebell' walk. Lunch available in the café.

**WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY:** Coach Visit to Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park to see the rhododendrons. Dept. Jansel Square 9.30 a.m. Coach & Entrance £18. Details from Barbara Fraser.

**MONDAY 23RD MAY:** A joint outing with the Walking Groups to Avebury with a 4 ½ mile walk to Silbury Hill and West Kennet Long Barrow. Departing from Jansel Square at 8.30 a.m.

**SATURDAY 4TH JUNE:** 'The Time of Our Lives' - Thames Valley Network Conference; New College, Swindon; Cost £12 (exc. Lunch) £18 (with lunch). Hosted by Swindon U3A. Full details from Geoff Young.

**TUESDAY 7TH JUNE:** A much loved and familiar walk for our 'Gentle' walkers around the Wendover Wild Flower Meadow and the Fishing Lake. Parking at the moment is still free for 1 hour in the Public Car Park on the left of the High Street. Members to assemble there near the library. Commencing, as always at 11.15a.m.

**TUESDAY 14TH JUNE:** Coach Trip to Hever Castle, Kent, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. Dept. Jansel Square at 9.30 a.m. Cost £24 inc. entrance to Castle and Gardens.

**FRIDAY 24TH TO WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE:** Study Tour of Cheshire and North Wales:

**FRIDAY 16TH TO MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER:** Third Age Trust National Conference 2011 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, near Nottingham. The theme is 'A Celebration of U3As'.



Our newly introduced sport of 'carpet bowls' which takes place at Aylesbury Town Bowls Club, Wendover Road every Thursday until 14th April 2011 starting at 7.15 p.m. Cost £1 per session. Elinor Paterson & Ken Cooper show how it is done.

Photo from Tony Simmons

The U3A Lawn Bowls Dorrance trophy is presented to Mary Rogers and Ron Lloyd at Fox-hills Bowls Club

Photo by Tony Simmons.



## ANOTHER NEW GROUP – SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING:

Group Leader:- Greig Sneddon

When:- 1st and 3rd Friday of every month, 1.30 - 3.30pm

Where:- Meadowcroft Centre



The Scottish Country Dance group has had a very successful launch, with the first two meetings attracting 21 people. The members who attended had varied experience - some were complete beginners while others had taken part previously. The group is open to women and men, as couples or individuals, and all you need is a sense of fun and a pair of soft shoes to wear when dancing. There is no restriction on numbers and members do not need to commit to attend every session.

Photo from Greig Sneddon

It is wonderful to see so many of you sending in unsolicited photographs and articles - although sometimes I do twist an arm or two! The newsletter wouldn't appear without the help of so many people. All of you contributors; Alan Robinson who despite retiring from the Secretaryship continues to keep an eagle eye on my full stops and commas (and typing errors); Jim McKay who edits the photos as necessary and the Secretary who places the printing order and collects the finished production. Thanks to you all.

Deadline for copy for the Summer edition is **May 14th** to be sent to:  
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