



# Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association



## Newsletter



March 2010



### Contents:

- Letter from the Chairman
- Dates for your Diary
- Winchester City Council Update
- The Kingsgate Street Ludlow Post Box
- The Amazing Mr Gully
- Winchester College Glass at the V&A
- A Passage to India
- "In Love and War" by David Rooney and Michael Scott (Book Review)
- "Hidden Heroes of the Great Hall and Winchester Castle"
- A word from the Editor

Editorial Team: Denis Howe 01962 713512 e-mail: [d.f.howe@clara.co.uk](mailto:d.f.howe@clara.co.uk)  
Tony Humphrys 01962 854881 e-mail: [tony@humpo.net](mailto:tony@humpo.net)

## **Letter from the Chairman (Sue Coles)**

The long winter is nearly over and we can now look forward to the guiding season.

The tours sub-committee of Kate, Colin, Elizabeth and Geraldine have worked extremely hard to produce an exciting and challenging programme of special interest walks. My thanks also to the many guides who volunteered to lead these walks. The season starts with the tours from the Discovery Centre associated with the Treasures of Hyde Exhibition. With the added publicity associated with the exhibition, ticket sales are already good.

Increasingly, web marketing is the way forward and so we decided to revamp our website to make it more attractive to users and equally as important easier for those of us who have to amend the content. We are particularly indebted to Paul Mundy for his invaluable support during this process. We are hoping that the new website will "go live" in the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> March. The web address will not change; it remains [www.winchestertouristguides.com](http://www.winchestertouristguides.com). We are also expanding the members' pages and in due course members will be able to access the rota and the themed tour programme.

Since our last meeting, we enjoyed an excellent party, ably organised by Judy, Lis and Pat Byford. It was good to see several honorary members and also representatives from the TIC.

Behind the scenes, we have been continuing work on the arrangements for the Guided Tour Service from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 when the reduced input from the TIC takes effect. We are almost there and as soon as arrangements are finalised, we will circulate a document with full details.

For our February General Meeting, we were invited to St. Cross and in addition to our meeting we enjoyed an excellent tour of the more private areas of the Hospital and an excellent tea. For our June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, we are venturing slightly further afield and are visiting Marwell. It too will include a guided tour.

It would be good to report that the ITG and the Guild of Registered Tourist Guides had agreed a way forward for the single professional body. Unfortunately, they have not! It must be assumed that the two bodies will continue as now for some time. There has been considerable debate on the regions to be adopted by the ITG for training purposes. This could have a significant impact on future guiding in the Winchester area and we are arguing for a region similar to the old STB region, possibly called Central Southern. However, other regions have their own priorities and it is currently difficult to predict the final outcome.

We have recently lost 3 full members. Helen and David Sutcliffe are moving away from the area and will become Honorary Members. We wish them well for the future. Sherian Morgan is standing down as a Full Member but will become an Associate. We hope to see her on training and social events in the future and she will still be available for German tours if we cannot find a guide from amongst our full members.

Finally, I should like to wish you an excellent guiding season. Sue

## Dates for your Diary

### **WATGA Events**

3 Jun (13:30 ) WATGA General Meeting, Marwell Zoo (details tba).

### **Winchester Events:**

6 Mar – 2 May Treasures of Hyde Abbey, Winchester Discovery Centre  
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/events>

11 Mar (19:00) “Memories of Winchester High Street in the 30s” – Phil Yates  
<http://www.cwt.hampshire.org.uk/trust/papers/wintertalks.pdf>

### **Winchester Cathedral**

10 Apr -> The Jane Austen Story (exhibition)

20 Apr Jane Austen themed lunch (Chawton House garden restoration)

30 Apr – 3 May Fine food and wine show

15 May Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band concert

<http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/events/3/>

### **Local Special Events:**

14 March Mid Hants Railway – Mothers’ Day Event

2-11 April Mid Hants Railway – Days out with Thomas (Also 7-15 Aug)

24-25 April Mid Hants Railway – St George’s Day Event

16 May Alresford Watercress Festival <http://www.watercressfestival.org/>

5-6 June Mid Hants Railway – War on the Line

<http://www.watercressline.co.uk/mhralp/special10/events.html>

### **“CPD” Events**

17 Mar (am) Reading old handwriting (lecture) Win Discovery Centre

17 Mar (even) Discovering King Alfred (lecture) Win Discovery Centre

24 Mar (even) The Architecture of Hyde - 1110-2012-Dr John Crook

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/wdc/whatson-wdc.htm>

ongoing Lectures and Walks associated with Hyde 900

[www.hyde900.co.uk](http://www.hyde900.co.uk)

## Winchester City Council Update (Alison Woods)

### **Staff update**

The Economic and Cultural Services team have managed to secure five new posts under the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) scheme. Funded by the Department of Work and Pensions (at no cost to Winchester City Council), the scheme offers unemployed 18 to 24 year olds six months work in posts that will bring community benefit. The tourist information centre has taken on a FJF employee, Luke Mort, to help implement the recommendations of the destination audit for Winchester City Centre. Luke will start work on 1 March 2010 and will work Monday to Thursday. This is his first post since leaving Brunel University with an English degree in June 2009. Please do say hello to Luke as you are passing and let him know about how we can continue to improve the Winchester Welcome for all our visitors.

As part of the Chief Executive's 2010 organisational change programme, Alison Woods, Tourist Information Centre (TIC) Manager, has been asked to work two days a week on the council's health and wellbeing agenda. She will continue her TIC Manager role on the other three days. The new role, will initially involve engaging young people in the democratic process (starting with linking local councillors to our five main secondary schools). Providing services for young people is one of the council's statutory duties.

### **Local arts and crafts on sale in the tourist information centre**

Our new display cabinets have enabled the tourist information centre to support the local economy and showcase local artistic talent by selling items produced by local artists and craftspeople, with new displays approximately every three months. This has generated much interest, particularly over the Christmas period.

The current offerings include a cosy "Tea with the Bennets" theme with two shelves occupied by Nancy Norton's lovely Jane Austen themed bears. They depict characters from Pride and Prejudice including Mr Darcy (aka Colin Firth!) coming out of the lake at Pemberley! Other cabinets feature Linda Miller's lovely knitted tea cosies and cup cake pincushions and a range of jewellery, including items by photomontage jewellery maker Rose Hallam who uses Winchester Cathedral as her inspiration. We are sure that the city guides will have no problem identifying which areas of the Cathedral have inspired her work.

### **Walk off into the Winchester Sunset**

The tourism marketing unit is encouraging local residents to take advantage of the spectacular skies that grace the city just before dusk by revising the popular Sunset Walk leaflet. The leaflet now also includes a list of city centre Hampshire Hospitality Award winning restaurants. It is hoped that, after treating themselves to the spectacular views that the walk affords, people will go on to dine at one of Winchester's many high quality eateries.

The FREE leaflet is available from the tourist information centre while stocks last and can also be downloaded from [www.visitwinchester.co.uk](http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk) The website also contains a gallery of sunset images of Winchester taken in the last fortnight.

### **Hyde900: Treasures of Hyde Abbey**

The Treasures of Hyde Abbey exhibition, celebrating the 900th anniversary of the founding of Hyde Abbey, opens on 6 March 2010 in the Gallery at Winchester Discovery Centre.

Treasures of Hyde Abbey will be one of the highlights of a year of celebrations inspired by Hyde resident Edward Fennell, under the auspices of Hyde900, a community-based organisation. The exhibition, which has been given a £50,000 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is being created by Winchester City Council's museums service, with loans from national institutions such as the Bodleian Library, British Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum.

This will be the first time in over 450 years that the Saxon and Medieval treasures of the abbey will be reunited. The exhibits will include the original Hyde Abbot's crozier; precious manuscripts such as the Book of Life ('Liber Vitae') and Book of Hyde ('Liber Monasterii de Hyda') and beautifully decorative archaeological finds from the museum collections.

Entrance to the exhibition is free. Through the colourful, interactive design, visitors of all ages will be able to find out more about the abbey, and the lives of its monks and the people who lived in the streets around it, as well as its rural estates.

The exhibition will also be accompanied and supported through a series of free gallery tours, interactive workshops, lectures, guided tours and craft demonstrations. Families will be able to fill the Easter Holidays with inspiring events such as a medieval day in the Discovery Centre, where for one day all visitors are able to 'meet' the medieval community of Hyde.

In the City Space gallery on the ground floor of the Discovery Centre, meanwhile, local artists have come together to produce works inspired by Hyde900. Many creative professionals live and work in Hyde. Their exhibition – called Re-imagining the Treasures of Hyde Abbey – will provide a modern interpretation of some of the themes and events brought out by the exhibition upstairs. It will also be free to enter.

Guides can find out more about Hyde900 at [www.hyde900.co.uk](http://www.hyde900.co.uk)

### **Family Friendly Rural Pubs leaflet – “Eat Out, Get About”**

If you are ever stuck with ideas on where to take the children or grandchildren over the Easter or Spring break? “Eat Out, Get About” is a new guide to family friendly pubs and activities in rural Hampshire. Produced by the Hampshire Tourism Partnership it will be available from the tourist information centre from mid March. To order your copy in advance contact the TIC.

### **The Kingsgate Street Ludlow Post Box (Michael Fielding)**

On Friday 20th November last, I had a small group for a tour of Winchester whose members came from the Oxford / Didcot area. In my pocket I had a greetings card to be posted but which I forgot to post each time a post box was passed. As we walked along College Street, having left the so-called Jane Austen's house behind us, I said I would hurry along to the end to post a card before I forgot yet again.

As the visitors caught up with me, outside the newer houses which adjoin Kingsgate, I got ready to continue with the tour and made a point, in passing, that the box was something of a rarity. Their interest was fired and they wanted to know more. I tend to be a bit wary about foisting some of my enthusiasms on the paying public and have only spoken about the box in question on one other occasion. That was at the end of May when a ghost tour for an international group were due to finish their tour at the Wykeham Arms, where they were to dine. They had wanted a group photograph to end their tour but we were ending rather promptly so I wondered what

to say for a few minutes and realised that the clue was behind my back – the letter box which faces Canon Street.

A year or two before I started training for the Green Badge, I became interested in Street Furniture. The interest was sparked by two friends who had been closely involved with The Letter Box Study Group / LBSG since its creation during that long hot summer of 1976. Letter Boxes, you will know by casual observation come in differing shapes and sizes. Some are pillar boxes, some were designed to be fitted into walls and others are lamp letter boxes which more often are found in country areas. It was Anthony Trollope's suggestion which had led to the installation of the first pillar boxes in the British Isles. This was in the Channel Islands in 1852. For the first seven years Post Office engineers commissioned pillar boxes for their own areas but in 1859 Cochrane and Company started manufacturing the 'first national standard' design. Should you go to The Bat and Ball (supposedly at Hambledon but the address is Clanfield, Walterlooville) then you can see an example of this in Fareham Road, World's End.

...But back to the letter box in Kingsgate Street. It is an example of a Ludlow box designed to be installed in a wall. At one time it is thought that there were between 5,000 and 7,000 such boxes in the country but perhaps 450 remain. Most were built by James Ludlow and Son of Birmingham and whose name became the generic term; earlier models were made by Eagle Range and Foundry Company and others by E Cole of Birmingham.

In 1912 James Ludlow won a contract to supply their boxes to all country sub-offices. Generally, the boxes came in two sizes: small and large. Whereas traditional post boxes were made of cast iron, were heavy and expensive, the advantage of the Ludlow was that it was relatively cheap and light for it was mainly made of timber but had a cast iron front. Until 1954 such boxes were made with an attractive enamel plate, as in the photograph. The main part of the box being inside a building, generally a sub-post office, there was little need for cast iron other than on the side facing the street.

The box in Kingsgate Street is an example of a large variety and carries the maker's name plate, namely E Cole Manufacturer Birmingham. The only other example of one of these large Cole boxes is to be found at Matlock Green, Matlock but I believe that one does not carry the E Cole name plate.

There are around 116,000 post boxes in the country, all but 14,000 have been located by the LBSG and catalogued: amazing, is it not, what some people do in their spare time. The original post box colour was green but people found it difficult to see them and, from July 1874, boxes in London started to be painted red, in a national project which took ten years to complete. Curiously, letter boxes in Ireland were painted green after independence to distance themselves from the standard red used previously but then it is the Emerald Isle.

Should you find yourself in Bath with time to spare then a visit to the Postal Museum\* in Northgate Street can be recommended.



<http://www.bathpostalmuseum.co.uk/>;

<http://lbg.org/>;

<http://www.postalheritage.org.uk/>;

### **The Amazing Mr Gully ('Tina Reid)**



I have lived with Mr Gully all my life. His picture (a print of an 'original picture in the possession of Sir H. Smith Bart.')

position he enjoyed in my childhood home. He is dressed as a Regency gentleman, a fashion which allows him to display his rather too obvious personal endowments to their greatest advantage. Based on the inclusion and prominence of the classical statue of wrestlers, a knowledgeable friend suggested some time ago that he might have been a professional wrestler.

Recently, while researching Marwell Hall as part of the Blue Badge Course I came across the following:

'In the middle of the nineteenth century (1841 to 1852) Marwell Hall was owned by a gentleman by the name of John Gully. He survived, but lost, a 64 round boxing match (before the days of the Queensberry rules), trained racehorses at Danebury (but not, it seems at Marwell), had two wives, twenty -four children, and became MP for Pontefract.'

A Google search confirmed that this was my Mr. Gully and after some more surfing of the net I found a recent article from the Northern Echo which is backed up by other sources:

**Ex-con fights his way to Colliery Fame**  
**The Northern Echo**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008**

John Gully was born in Gloucestershire, in 1783. His father was an innkeeper who became a butcher in Bristol, and then died leaving young John to run the business. Appropriately for a novice butcher, he fell deeply into the red and in 1805 was imprisoned in the King's Bench Prison for Debtors in London.

John was "a fine, strong young man, over six feet high, with rather an open and ingenuous countenance, rather an innocent tip-tilted nose and beautiful hands of which he was all his life extremely proud". He also had a reputation for being rather useful with those hands. In jail, he received a visit from Henry "the Game Chicken" Pearce, the champion bare-knuckle fighter of England. They sparred, and the Game Chicken realized that Gully would be a worthy opponent, if he were free.

The Fancy became involved. The Fancy was a group of aristocratic prize fight enthusiasts. It paid off Gully's debts, released him from prison, and put him into training.

The fight was in Hailsham, Sussex, on October 13, 1805, before a large crowd drawn from all classes. The Duke of Clarence, later King William IV, rode from Brighton to see it. Bare knuckled and footed, it lasted 64 rounds – one hour and 17 minutes – before Gully failed to come up to scratch. The Game Chicken gamely retained his title and told John: "You are a good fellow. You are the only man who has ever stood up to me."

Soon the Chicken retired. Gully was matched against Bob "the Lancashire Giant" Gregson, who came from Lancashire and was fairly tall. They fought "a terrific maul" in Newmarket, on October 14, 1807, over 36 rounds after which Gully was declared the champion. He won the rematch in Hertfordshire the following May, in front of a

crowd so large that locals thought the French had invaded and called out the Volunteers to see them off. From the ringside, Gully announced his retirement.

He became a pub landlord in London, and developed an astute eye for a horse. He became the Prince of Wales' principal betting agent, and in 1829, Gully heavily backed his own horse Mameluke to win the Derby. When it failed, he graciously paid out £40,000. Still he was in the money.

In 1832, Gully bought the Ackworth estate near Pontefract, entered Parliament as a Liberal MP and won £85,000 backing the winners of the Derby and the St Leger. It must have been this money that he used the following year to pull together the partnership that sank Thornley Colliery, and in 1840, he invested in the sinking of nearby Trimdon Colliery.

In 1846, his horse, Pyrrhus the First, won the Derby, a feat repeated by Andover in 1854. Gully also owned the winners of the 1846 Oaks and the 1854 2,000 Guineas.

There is no mention in this Northern article of Marwell Hall or Hampshire, but the naming of his successful Derby winner of 1854 (Andover) certainly suggests a Hampshire connection.

My picture of Mr Gully has clearly been composed to emphasize Mr. Gully's success, his strength and his masculinity: he had two wives, each of whom had presented him with 12 children.

### **Winchester College Glass at the V&A (Angela George)**

The newly opened Victoria and Albert Mediaeval & Renaissance Gallery contains really beautiful manuscripts, books, stained glass and other artefacts – it's well worth a visit. Particularly, it contains a wonderful set of stained glass panels by the glazier Thomas of Oxford, originally from Winchester College, as well as a few other items from Winchester.

The Winchester College panels were sent off for cleaning and restoration during the Victorian period and when they came back were very much admired for being bright and colourful [after years of being obscured by dirt and grime]. It wasn't until many years later it was discovered they were not the original panels but newly made replacements. In the intervening years most of the old panels had been sold off by the restorers. The College has recovered some of them.

These notes come from the College literature.

One of the glories of the mediaeval Chapel was its scheme of stained glass windows by Thomas of Oxford – the head of one of the outstanding firms of glaziers working in the late fourteenth and early fifteenth century who was also responsible for the chapel glass of the sister foundation, New College Oxford. Thomas provided a portrait of himself as operator istius vitri at the base of the original east window and

on the other side, to the same scale, are depictions of the master carpenter (Herland), the master mason (Wynford) and the Clerk of Works Simon Membury.

Quite who was responsible for the overall design is unknown. Research suggests that Richard II, by whose licence the College was founded and who visited it twice in 1393, had such an international court that the Bohemian and North German influences discernible by experts in some of the glazed figures, show the designer had had contact with these influences and thus worked in a broad and eclectic style. Wykeham ensured that building work on his Foundation was done by the best available workers whatever their provenance. In many ways Chapel might seem to have been designed chiefly as a frame for its stained glass.

In the east window was represented the Stem of Jesse: that is the generations between Jesse, father of King David and Jesus Christ. In the side windows was a collection of Old Testament prophets, apostles and other saints from the early church. The glass miraculously survived the ravages of time, boys and doctrinaire reforms until 1821 when it was taken out for repair and sent off to a Shrewsbury company, Messrs. Betton and Evans. However, even the best workshops of the day did not have the technology to deal with the oxidation that had taken place on the outer surfaces of the panels. What came back to the College were copies and not the originals, apart from three small panels in the upper tracery. The glass was re-positioned in November and December of 1822 and was described in the Literary Gazette of September 1826: "Of the modern execution we cannot speak too highly; perhaps there is not another example to compare with it throughout the kingdom".

Later generations have not been quite so generous in their opinion as shown by a writer in *The Wykehamist* (No 648 pp 496-97): 'Of the grim array of misshapen monsters which frown from Wykeham's lovely traceries, with a baseness of form and colour that never loses its poignancy, perhaps the vilest is the figure of St Mary ...'. It would be fair to say that opinion these days is much in favour of the original but at the time the Warden and Fellows were evidently satisfied and the side windows soon suffered the same fate: those of the south side in 1825-6 and those of the north in 1827-8. The character of the copies of these latter windows is not as skilled as the east window and one assumes that the company lost enthusiasm for such painstaking and quite possibly financially un-remunerative work.

At the time, Messrs. Betton and Evans's 'restoration' would by many have been considered an improvement, albeit a costly one, and so they presumably felt justified in selling some of the old glass to collectors. It is as a result of the traceability of this glass that the College has been most fortunate in having some of it returned as a result of donations. It is now possible to view it in two locations: Thurber's Chantry on the south side of Chapel, and Fromond's Chantry set within the cloister-garth of Chapel.

## A Passage to India (Colin Cook)

Having accepted the invitation to take part last month in a National Immunisation Day to eradicate Polio in India with Rotary International, some of our party for whom this was their first visit to the sub-continent stayed on for a few days to visit the 'Golden Triangle' - Agra, Jaipur and back to Delhi.

The visible history of this part of India is bound up very much in the monuments, mausoleums and palaces left behind by a succession of Islamic rulers from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the most familiar of which is the Taj Mahal. In advance of my trip I was very fortunate to have been given *A Traveller's History of India* by S.Tammita-Delgoda, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed 2007, which I can highly recommend.



The harem at **Fatehpur Sikri** - supported by 84 columns (7 planets times 12 signs of the zodiac - astrology had great significance to eastern religions)

system with a federal state with 18 provinces each ruled by an imperial governor, and each province divided into districts and sub-districts. He safeguarded Hindu temples from destruction, abolished the hated 'jizya' (poll) tax levied on non-Muslims, and the pilgrimage tax on Hindus visiting their many shrines. As William did in 1086 in England, all the cultivated land in Northern India was recorded and graded for its crop-bearing potential and the existing land-tax system revised to make a fairer assessment.

From the Turkish invasions of Northern India during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the rise of the Turkish and Afghan dynasties thereafter, until the founding of the Mughal Empire (1527-1707), India's predominantly Hindu population was largely subservient to its Muslim masters, despite frequent and bloody conflict. It was the genius of Akbar (1542-1605) who, having secured victory over the Rajputs (1568-9) secured the co-operation of the Hindu majority, by replacing a feudal





Detail of the west elevation showing inlay of semi-precious stones and Islamic calligraphy of texts from the Koran

With revenues secured, a lavish building programme ensued, and structures such as the Red Fort at Agra, and Fatehpur Sikri, remain as a testament to the power and wealth of these 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century rulers. But even with its stunning beauty, it is the Taj Mahal which provides us with the eternal monument to the inevitability of death, and the erosion of that power. Built by Akbar's grandson, Shah Jahan, as the mausoleum for his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal who died in 1630, it took 22 years to complete with over 20,000 craftsmen working around the clock. Unlike the indigenous red sandstone that earlier buildings used, Jahan ordered that all

facing stone should be of white marble quarried hundreds of miles distant. 15,000 tons alone was used to construct the dome. Now having seen it for myself, and despite the thousands of other tourists swarming through its Persian gardens, I can echo Eleanor Roosevelt's observation *'This is a beauty that enters the soul. With its minarets rising at each corner, its dome and tapering spire, it creates a sense of air, almost floating lightness...'* The Taj is also Jahan's resting place, but only after illness had led to his son imprisoning him in the Red Fort for the last 8 years of his life, its glistening dome a constant reminder each sunset of his ultimate fate.

I could not do justice in this short article on my initiation into Indian culture and history, but suffice it to say that it certainly provided me with a new perspective. Tourism is an important source of income to developing countries such as India. It was Robert Louis Stevenson who said that 'travel broadens the mind', and from this experience, I can certainly support his view.



Agra's Red Fort - Shah Jahan's prison for the last 8 years of his life, from where he could see his beloved wife, Mumtaz's 'Crown of Palaces' (Taj Mahal) - it was a misty morning!

## **"In Love and War" by D Rooney and M Scott (Judy Simmons)**

This is the true story of the lives of General Sir Harry and Lady Smith – possibly the most famous marriage in military history.

It starts with Captain Harry Smith's first encounter with Juana, his aristocratic Spanish bride. They met dramatically in 1812 during the lawless mayhem that followed the capture of Badajoz by Wellington's army. Juana, a fourteen year old

convent girl with blood streaming down her face, begs for help from Harry. They fall in love and marry just two weeks later with Wellington himself giving her away. Juana went on to share the danger, hardship and eventual triumph of the Peninsula campaign. They became inseparable. On one occasion Juana was decorated by Queen Victoria for riding an elephant whilst under enemy fire! (*wow!, do they still make wives like this? Ed*) General Harry was appointed Governor of Cape Province and the towns of Ladysmith and Harrismith in South Africa remain as their legacy.

In the acknowledgements for this book, David Rooney and Michael Scott thank Ken Gray of the Rifles Museum, Winchester for his help and for permission to publish Sir Harry's portrait.

"In Love and War : The Lives of General Harry and Lady Smith" by David Rooney and Michael Scott, Pen & Sword Military (19 Nov 2008) £19.99.

- *Is available from Amazon and gets rave reviews on their site Ed.*

### **"Hidden Heroes of the Great Hall and Winchester Castle"** **– a new HCC booklet**

This is a new HCC booklet written by Great Hall curators, Jill Clements and Margaret Doores. It is to complement the "Hidden Heroes" exploration trail for young people, but contains fascinating facts about a wide variety of historical characters associated with the Great Hall and Castle. Costs just £2.50 (info from Judi Simmons.)

### **A word from the Editor (Denis Howe)**

Many thanks to all the contributors for making this another "bumper" edition. Well done!

I'm interested to get feedback on how you use the Newsletter. Relatively, a lot of effort goes into collecting the information for the "Dates for your Diary". Do you make use of this section? Do you follow the links there??

Finally, a "manhunt" – do you recognise this guy? - any idea of where he is now??

