

Anouar is bitten by the bug....

GO on the Hajj once and you get the bug, says pilgrim Anouar Kassim.

With his wife Maryam, the community leader, and many other Muslims from Milton Keynes, went on the momentous trip of a lifetime to Mecca in 2006.

At their Eid ul Ad'ha celebrations city Muslims who attend prayers at Cranfield University observed the tradition of recalling the previous year's pilgrimage.

Anouar went on to say that the bug was not a virus. "It is that you want to go every year," he said.

Dr Kamal Beachoum, a regular visitor to Milton Keynes and a leading exponent of the Middle Way in Islam, gave the sermon and remembered Abraham's character and his interacting with others, be they friends, neighbours, strangers and non-Muslims.

"His interaction was based on being considerate without belittling and denigrating other people's belief.

"Some of us, perhaps unwittingly, treat their religion as a rigid structure, as a series of outward actions they impose on themselves and others without any consideration to priorities, circumstances or the mix of people they are addressing."

● Anouar also recalled his meeting Prince Philip (pictured above right) during the recent Royal Visit and before then at a Buckingham Palace garden party and chatting to him about aspects of Islam.

