



Newsletter December 2017

Interest Groups Timetable for January 2018

Interest group	Mtg Date	Time	Venue
Arts & Crafts			No meeting in January
Bird Watching			Nothing yet planned for January
Bridge	Mon 1st Mon 8th Mon 15th Mon 22nd Mon 29th	7 pm 2 pm 7 pm 2 pm 7 pm	Ivanhoe Social Club – To be confirmed Hood Park Leisure Centre Ivanhoe Social Club Hood Park Leisure Centre Ivanhoe Social Club
Calligraphy	Tue 9th	10 am	Jenny's house. Planning meeting for next year
Canasta	Thu 11th Thu 25th	10 am 10 am	The Masseys' The Masseys'
Computer	Wed 3rd Mon 15th	2 pm 2 pm	16 Winchester Way 16 Winchester Way
Digital Photos	Thu 4th	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	Wed 17th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Family History	Wed 10th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 18th	2 pm	Packington Hall. A talk on the creation of Cascade Gardens. Entry £3
History	Thu 25th	2 pm	Packington Hall. David Oakley – “Seek and you may find”
Industrial Heritage	Wed 24th	9.30 am	Pickford’s House & Derby Museum & Art Gallery
Italian	Mon 29th	10 am	Lynda’s house
Literature	Tue 9th	1.30 pm	28 Willesley Gardens
Lunch	Thu 11th	12 for 12.30 pm	White Hart, Ashby
Medium Walks	Mon 8th	9.45 for 10 am	Meet at Ferrers Arms, Lount. Walk to Dimminsdale and back.
Music Appreciation			No meeting in January
Quiz	Wed 17th	2.30 pm	Bull and Lion, Packington
Recorder	Thu 4th	10 am	TBA
Short Walks	Fri 19th	10 am	Meet at the Green for a walk around Ashby
Supper Club	Thu 25th	7 for 7.30 pm	The Globe Inn, Snarestone
Walking	Tue 2nd Tue 16th	9.45 for 10 am 9.45 for 10 am	The Robin hood Inn, Swannington The Albion Inn, Shobnall Rd, Burton, DE14 2BE

Early February 2018

Interest group	Mtg Date	Time	Venue
Bridge	Mon 5th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Computer	Wed 7th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photos	Thu 1st	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Music Appreciation	Wed 7th	10 am	9 Ashtree Rd
Recorder	Thu 7th	10 am	TBA
Walking	Tue 6th	9.45 for 10 am	TBA

*For trips, outings, walks and other events which meet away from the usual venues, see further details in the relevant Group Reports below, or on our website www.ashbyu3a.co.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS

2017-18	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters	Reporting Groups
January	Jane Harris, Wendy Somers, et al	TBA	Computers & Digital photography
February	Glenys Morrice, Maggie Rice, Bill & Avril Wilson	TBA	Drawing & Painting, Family History

Last meeting – 12th December – Ashby Spa WI Singers

This month, for our last meeting before Christmas, we were entertained by the Ashby Spa WI Singers who include some of our own members amongst their number. They sang an eclectic mix of numbers, including “I'm Beginning To see The Light”, Flanders & Swann’s “The Gas Man Cometh”, the Military Wives anthem “Wherever You Are” and “California Dreamin’”. We were then all encouraged to join in and sing some Christmas songs and carols. A thoroughly entertaining session, thank you.

The afternoon was finished off with mince pies, shortbreads, tea and coffee served by the committee.

Next Monthly Meeting on 23rd Jan at 2 pm: John Wilton will give a talk on railway journeys around the world

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Shirley Bunting 01530 415755

The group didn't meet in December but the pictures from their photo-shoot of their newly completed teddy bears are now on the website.

They are not meeting in January and so their next meeting won't be until 22nd Feb.

Bird Watching – Leader Anne Donegan 01283 760348- birdwatch@ashbyu3a.co.uk

The group have not been out this month and the date and venue for their next trip has yet to be decided.

Bridge – Leader Neil Roberts 01530 455957

This is Bridge for players of all levels playing friendly Contract Bridge with some chatter. Several of our number are "beginners" or "returners" and we have experienced players who are happy to help others improve their game. We now have about 20 active players.

The group has 2 new venues. They now meet at the Hood Park Leisure Centre in the 1st floor function room for afternoon sessions and at Ivanhoe Social Club in the front lounge for the evening sessions. Free car parking is available at both venues, but must be signed in at Hood Park.

If you would like to know more contact Neil on 01530 455957 or Pat Ford on 01827 830672

Calligraphy – Leader Jenny Slawson 01283 229718

12th December

We met for our Christmas meal at the Tap House Annwell Lane, Smisby and will next meet at Jenny's house on the 9th Jan for a planning meeting to decide on a program for next year.

Canasta – Leaders Tom & Gillian Massey 01283 212380

Tom and Gill's canasta group has been running for some months now and last week they were up to 6 members. There is space for more. Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings each month at 10 am to 12. If you are interested in joining, then contact them on the above number or email canasta@ashbyu3a.co.uk

Computers – Leader John Howlett 01530 461774

We meet twice monthly to try to solve anyone's computer problems and to better learn how to use them whether they are PCs, Macs, iPads or Android Tablets. All are welcome. No experience necessary.

18th December 2017

The last of the year, this time a foreshortened meeting at 2 Marlborough Way.

David's problem of a missing 'Google' bar on his Android phone's home screen was solved by Mike S and Steve who worked to retrieve the 'Widget' (a correct term!), but it still won't respond to voice activation. Dave will try a series of reboots to see if that clears it up. In addition, as the slowness of his laptop is related to a plethora of shopping ads coming in, he will download 'Malwarebytes' to hopefully clean them off.

As John D had then to hurry away to the dentist, tea and biscuits (courtesy of Eileen from the Family History Group!) were taken early and we all dispersed for Christmas.

Digital Photography – Leader John Howlett 01530 461774

We meet to try to understand how to get the best out of our digital cameras whether they are simple compact cameras or full-blooded DSLRs and how to edit or modify the pictures afterwards. We try to get out and practice every other month. We do not as yet enter competitions.

There was no meeting this month as it clashed with the Christmas Lunch. We will meet again in January.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

18th November

After meeting at 2 Marlborough Way the group went to Burton for a group festive outing to Burton library gallery and coffee shop.

The next meeting will also be at 2 Marlborough Way, at 10 am on the 17th January, when the theme will be 'Pantomime'

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

13th December

This was our last meeting of the year, and we had five round the table.

John H worked with Chris D to see if he could make any sense of the alternative possibilities for an ancestor in Ireland. Marriages are so difficult to follow. The search continues.

Sue has been making great strides with her grandmother's line, but so far hasn't been able to pin down her paternal grandfather. He won't get away!

Eileen is deep into assembling and verifying her paternal line back to 5xgrandfather and beyond.

John D spent some time with Eileen checking Poll and Electoral registers. It seems as if in the 1860's the Poll lists showed whom you voted for. A revelation in these days of secrecy and privacy!

He also set to to add some more to the story of his great grandfather's early life as a head teacher.

An attempt to devise a romance for him with the lady who would become his wife. Possibly the most difficult task yet!

Best of all, Eileen provided a huge box of delicious cookies for us. Thank you Eileen!

Gardening - Leader Paul Dean 01283 295987

The Gardening Group is one of the largest interest groups. The committee try hard to provide a selection of activities suitable for all, including talks on various topics, trips out to well-known gardens and social events where plants are swapped and garden problems are solved! There is always food and drink at the end of each meeting and occasionally prizes to be won! Please come along and meet us and give the gardening club a try.

21st December

The Group gathered at Packington Hall for their annual Christmas buffet and Secret Santa gift-giving.

History – Leader Jane Harris 01530 838025

The History Group didn't meet in December

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

13th December – Planning Meeting

A dozen or so members overcame the snow and ice to venture out to The Beeches for our annual planning meeting. It was agreed that last year's trips were successful especially our overnight trip to Chatham, so we decided to try to plan something similar next year. Possibly to the somewhat less exotic locations of Swindon and Didcot for a celebration of all things Great Western Railway. We also have a full itinerary planned for the rest of the year, although all trips will remain provisional until the planners have done further research on the viability of each trip.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

The Group didn't meet in December and so the next meeting will be on 29th January

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

The Group met on 5th December to discuss "Persuasion". This concluded their Jane Austen season.

Luncheon Group – Leader Ray Bentley 01530 412505

We are a group of men and ladies who enjoy a meal together, we take it in turn to choose a venue and organise it. Everyone is welcome, all we ask is that you sign the form below the notice board at the monthly meeting prior to the lunch, so we can book the relevant number of seats. If you cannot make the monthly meeting please use the contact phone number.

7th December This was our Christmas lunch held, as last year, at Willesley Park Golf Club. The Club did us proud again, serving a very good lunch in very convivial surroundings. The service was also excellent. Thank you to the staff at Willesley Park and also to Dorothy Chapman and Ann Thompson for organising it.

Music Appreciation – Leader David Oakley 01530 563409

Wednesday 6th December.

There were seven of us assembled at Ann's house for our final 2017 get-together and where there is usually an absence of biscuits, the festive season encouraged several members to treat the group to Mince Pies and Stollen, while Ann provided the coffee.

With a distinctive Christmas flavour to the music selection Sally launched us off with two tracks from a recording of her grandson's Kent College Choir singing 'People look East' and 'As Joseph was a-walking'. A later choice was Michael Ball and Alfie Boe singing 'I'll be home for Christmas'.

Mike, in keeping with the Christmas flavour, chose Nat King Cole and 'The Christmas Song' which Nev reminded us had been written by Mel Torme. He also had 'Santa Baby' sung by Kylie Minogue as he couldn't find his Eartha Kitt version. A later choice was Bing Crosby and David Bowie's duet of 'Little Drummer Boy'.

Paul chose 'Bridge over troubled waters', a track this time by Glenn Campbell one of his favourite singers, with a second choice of 'Jerusalem' by Hubert Parry, with of course William Blake's words.

Nev had researched his CD collection and had brought along Kate Rusby singing 'While Shepherds watched their flocks by night', but to a different tune to the one we usually think of. This was followed by two American-composed carols, 'Away in a manger' and 'Poor little Jesus' both sung by Maddy Prior who later sang 'Ding Dong Merrily on High'. His last choice of 'Have yourselves a very merry Christmas' was by a singer none of us initially recognised but it was Bob Dylan! Let's just say it was an acquired taste.

Ann delved into her collection of the King Singers and chose 'Joy to the world' and then the choir of King's College Cambridge singing 'The Holly and the Ivy'.

David had once again chosen two obscure show songs, but both at least with a Christmas theme. These were 'Twelve days to Christmas' from 'She Loves Me' and 'Be a Santa' from 'Subways are for sleeping'.

Dorothy wanted to choose the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from the Messiah, and we managed to just about play that, well some of it, until technical gremlins intervened.

That was our year end meeting and once again we had a wide and interesting selection of music. We hope those who haven't been able to come to recent meetings will join us in 2018. There is no January meeting but we will assemble again at 10 am on Wednesday 7th February, which will be kindly hosted by Paul Bennett at 9 Ashtree Road. A very Merry Christmas to one and all.

Quiz group - Leader Malcolm Bird 01530 563872

The group meet at the Bull and Lion, Packington. The Start time is 2.30 and involves tables of four. You do not need to arrange a team before the meeting as teams will be organised on the day. This enables single individuals to take part - and to make new friends by joining an ad hoc team. Tea and coffee are served. Total cost £1.20 of which 20p goes to a kitty for prizes.

The December quiz was on 20th and we next meet on the 17th Jan.

Recorder group - Leader Joan Gibson - recorder@ashbyu3a.co.uk

The recorder group meet to make music in a relaxed, fun way. I would hope that we would be able to cater for a wide range of experience and skill. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings each month. New members would be very welcome. Complete beginners would find it difficult to catch up though.

I believe that the December 28th meeting may have been cancelled due to family commitments. They should be meeting again on Jan 4th.

Supper Club – Contact Colin Ellis 01530 272592 - supper@ashbyu3a.co.uk

This is a new group which aims to visit local pubs and restaurants for an evening meal. At the moment we aim to meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7 pm for 7.30 (This is a fortnight away from the Lunch Group), but the date may change depending on what the Group decide. The intention is that we will jointly decide on venues and members will take it in turn to organise it.

Everyone is welcome, all we ask is that you sign the sheet by the display board at the monthly meeting prior to the supper, or contact Colin or Mike, by phone or by email, so we can book the relevant number of seats.

There may sometimes be a limit on numbers depending on the venue's ability to cater for larger groups, in which case places will be offered strictly on a first come, first served basis. There may also need to be a cut-off date for bookings. This will be stated on the bookings list.

Our first outing will be to the Globe Inn at Snarestone on January 25th.

We will shortly be contacting those who have signed up for the Globe, as the pub wants us to choose from the menu in advance. However they have yet to supply an up-to-date menu.

Trips and Outings Group - Contact Margaret Howlett 01530 461774

“Warhorse” at the Theatre Royal Nottingham on Wed 21st March at 2 pm. Price £37.50.

There are 7 tickets remaining, but these must be returned in mid-January if not sold, so this is your last chance to book.

See the 'Trips and Outings' page of the website for more details.

The trips to Birmingham Symphony Hall for the Grieg Piano Concerto, to De Montfort Hall for the ballet, and the coach trip to Bristol and now all sold out.

Walks

The walk leader will be at the meeting place whatever the weather and will only cancel the walk in consultation with those who turn up on the day. All dogs must be kept under control at all times. Walking boots or strong shoes are recommended. Be prepared for bad weather by taking warm waterproof clothing. Leaders act in a voluntary capacity. All ramblers walk at their own risk.

Walking Group - Leader Bob Baxendale 01530 481435

The walking group usually does walks of between 7-8 miles, twice a month, and we normally have a lunch stop at a pub near to, or at the end of, the walk.

19th December. Ashby, Heath End, Smisby

We set off today up Featherbed Lane through the tunnel under the by-pass and followed the Ivanhoe Way in the direction of Heath End. Just before Heath End we turned off the Ivanhoe Way and followed the footpath through South Wood, passing Wicket Nook and Through Pistern Hill Farm. From here we crossed the Derby Road and into Smisby where we had a lovely lunch at the Smisby Arms. After lunch we walked back into Ashby via Cliftonthorpe and Hood Park. The distance walked about 7miles and the weather was cool but dry, but the recent snow and rain resulted in lots of mud!

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman 01530 222634

The Medium Walk group do walks of up to 6 miles. Anyone interested please contact Carole.

11th December

The planned walk from and to the Ferrers Arms via Staunton Harold and Calke was unfortunately cancelled at the last moment due to the heavy snow and ice. The roads were very slippery and the paths even more so, so we all decided to postpone the walk until next month. It also meant that our planned Christmas lunch at the Ferrers was also cancelled.

Short walks Group – Leader John Howlett 01530 461774

The short walk group organises walks using well defined paths and routes without stiles. The maximum length is 3 miles. All are welcome.

15th December. Hick's Lodge

This walk was also cancelled due to the (un)seasonal weather. The footpaths around the lake would have been too icy, as were the roads to Hick's Lodge.