



Notice of Annual General Meeting - 24th July 2018

Members of the Ashby de la Zouch U3A are hereby formally notified that their 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 2pm on Tuesday 24th July 2018 at Ashby Congregational Church, Kilwardby St, Ashby de la Zouch. All paid up members of Ashby U3A may attend, make nominations and vote.

AGM Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Group Co-ordinator's Report
7. Election of Committee
8. Any other business

Please send any items you wish added to "Any other business" to the Minutes Secretary at minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk. Items must be received by Tuesday 17th July.

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

As always at this time of year, we are seeking new committee members. James Bloor is standing down this year, after giving many years of service, and the committee is the smallest it has been for many years. No special skills are required, just a willingness to help move our U3A forward.

Some of the present committee members, helped form our U3A when it was set up in 2010, - we need "new blood" to help keep our U3A vibrant and interesting. Please consider putting yourself forward – we would be very happy to have you "on board"! The amount of time and effort required is quite small!

If you feel you could help us, please contact any member of the committee for a nomination form.

Present committee as elected or re-elected in 2017

Position	
Chairperson	Tony Smith
Group coordinator	James Bloor†
Membership secretary	Iain Banns !– co-opted to replace Dorothy in March
Welfare	Sheila Dean
Business secretary	Anne Donegan*
Minutes secretary	Peter Clement
Speaker seeker	Isobel Salt*
Treasurer	Colin Ellis*
Communications	Mike Stow
Without portfolio	Dorothy Chapman*

† Standing down * Seeking re-election ! Seeking election after being co-opted onto the committee

Interest Groups Timetable for July

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 2nd	10 am	Italian	Lynda's house
Mon 2nd	7-9 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 3rd	9:15 for 9.30 am start	Walking	The Harrington Arms at Thulston DE72 3EY
Wed 4th	10 am	Music Appreciation	43 Cambrian Way
Wed 4th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 5th	10 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way
Thu 5th	10 am	Recorder	TBA
Mon 9th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Station Rd, Shackerstone
Mon 9th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 10th		Calligraphy	No meeting this month
Tue 10th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 11th	2 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 12th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	Robin Hood, Spring Lane, Swannington, LE67 8QQ. See booking list to pre-order food
Mon 16th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Mon 16th	7-9 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 17th		Walking	TBA
Wed 18th	10 am	Drawing and painting	16 Winchester Way. Provisionally
Wed 18th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Bull and Lion, Packington
Thu 19th	10 am	Gardening	Coach trip to Wollerton Old Hall Gardens, Shropshire. Coach and entry £17.50. Depart from Royal Hotel at 10 am
Thu 19th	10 am	Recorder	TBA
Fri 20th	10 am	Short Walks	Meet at Bradgate main car park
Mon 23rd	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Wed 25th		Industrial Heritage	Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at RAF Conningsby + Tattershall Castle
Thu 26th	10 am depart	History	Self-drive visit to The Holocaust Centre
Thu 26th	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	The Winery, Manor Dr, Burton, DE14 3RW Fixed price menu. Pre-order and £10 deposit required
Mon 30th	7-9 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club

Early August

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Wed 1st	10 am	Music Appreciation	TBA
Wed 1st	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 2nd	10 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way
Thu 2nd	10 am	Recorder	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 MEETING

June 26th – Julie Ede – Wonderful Wicked Wallis

Julie Ede entertained us all with a very amusing and interesting account of the life of Wallis Simpson who became the wife of King Edward VIII following his abdication from the throne.

Julie's story started in the basement of a posh London house in 1918 during a Zeppelin raid on the capital towards the end of the first world war. One of the guests taking shelter in that basement happened to be Prince Edward the then Prince of Wales who was later to become King of England on the death of his father King George V in 1936. Through contacts with one of the other guests sheltering alongside Prince Edward, Lady Furness became the prince's consort on many foreign visits abroad.

Julie told us that Wallis was born on 19th June 1886 in Pennsylvania and that her father died from tuberculosis when she was still a baby. Wallis's father had been well off and her rich uncle took Wallis and her mother under his wing providing for them both financially. Wallis married Earl Spencer on 8th November 1916 but he was a heavy drinker and the couple were separated for months at a time when, as a naval aviator, he was posted to San Diego when the USA entered the first world war. Wallis travelled alone in China holding lavish parties and only returned to the USA in 1925. In 1927 the couple divorced and then Wallis became involved with Ernest Simpson a wealthy shipping executive. Wallis married Ernest in 1928 and they moved into 5 Bryanston Court which was a very lavish property.

They held many cocktail parties and at one of these Wallis was introduced to Lady Furness, Prince Edward's escort. Wallis got herself presented at court in June 1931 and then both Wallis and Ernest became regular invitees to all manner of parties as guests of the prince. Edward gave Wallis expensive jewels as well as lots of money and they holidayed together in Europe in the mid 1930's.

When George V died in 1936, Edward became king but didn't seem to take the job seriously. Wallis divorced Ernest and only a few months into his reign, Edward proposed to her. This presented Prime Minister Baldwin and the government with a constitutional crisis as the British people were unlikely to accept an American twice divorced as Queen of England. Wallis went off to the South of France and Julie told us how Edward made it clear to all that he loved Wallis and was not prepared to let her go.

Consequently, he abdicated and then married Wallis in 1937 after her Decree Absolute of divorce from Ernest had been granted. Edward and Wallis honeymooned in Austria. After the second war they spent their life in France until Edward died in 1972.

Julie's talk was extremely well received.

Next Monthly Meeting on Tue 24th July at 2 pm includes the AGM:

After the completion of the AGM, our guest speaker Mark Walsh will talk about the Variety Theatre

Tea Rota etc. for the monthly meetings

Month	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters	Reporting Groups
July	Pat and Terry Bithell, Julia Fraser and Henry Sharples	Carol Land & Mary Wilson	Recorder & Short Walks
Aug	The Committee	The Committee	No groups reporting

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Shirley Bunting 01530 415755

8th June

As today's meeting had only 2 people, we have decided to suspend the group for the summer and re-start in October if anyone is interested.

Bird Watching - birdwatch@ashbyu3a.co.uk

The group are looking for a new leader. If you would like to help please contact our Group Co-ordinator James Bloor on interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk

The group have not been out this month and the date 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 venues. They 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

June 12th

Five members and a guest met on Tuesday June 12th at Diane's house.

We continued working on Gothic Textura Quadrata. This was a new font to all of us and at first we struggled with it. Eventually we began to improve and enjoyed the challenge.

We are not meeting in July and August.

We discussed plans for the rest of the year and in September we will work on writing a Haiku poem, in the font and style of our own choice. (A traditional Japanese haiku is a three line poem with seventeen syllables written in a 5/7/5 syllable count.)

In October and November we will write a Cinquain poem. This is an unrhymed poem consisting of five lines arranged in a special way.

As our original date for our Christmas lunch clashed with the December monthly meeting, we are looking for a new date. Lots to look forward to.

Canasta – Leaders Tom & Gillian Massey 01283 212380

Tom and Gill's canasta group will be taking a break for the summer due to Tom having other pressing duties. Meetings will resume sometime around September, notice will be given in the newsletter and on the website.

Meetings are normally on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings each month at 10 am to 12 so if you are interested in joining them when they restart, 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.

June 6th

Six attended today and discussed a variety of topics.

Scanning and cropping several photos simultaneously. It is important to keep a clear space between pics on the platen, or the scanner cannot separate them. The distance varies with the type and size of scanner.

Scams. We discussed several types of scams, both via computer, phone and at the door. John H showed a short extract from East Midland Today TV in which a local specialist gave a presentation to a group of older people, one of whom was our very own Colin Ellis.

There was a general discussion on computers in avionics and the difficulty of the military keeping up to date.

Finally, John H offered a copy of Steven Hawkings' 'A Brief History of Time' for us to read for those brave enough to tackle it.

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.

June 7th

Today 6 of us went on location to the Lime Kilns at Ticknall. The site was well overgrown, so there was lots of greenery to photograph.

The kilns were buried in the greenery, but we explored them, and the old workings, pretty thoroughly before repairing to the Coffee Shop on Ticknall's Main Street. We will review our photos next time.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

June 20th

Just 4 of us met in central Ashby to follow the Ashby Arts festival "Art about Town" gallery. There were 28 major boards, and 9 boards in the Children's gallery at Huntingdon Court. The interpretations of "Transport through the Ages" were varied and colourful. We each had a personal favourite but it was hard to select from such a great exhibition.

Next meeting, provisionally : 18th July, 10am at Winchester Way.

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

June 13th

Despite two absences we had a good turnout of five today.

Audrey is getting on with her history, but struggling a bit with the 1939 Register. This is a new area and has presented some with difficulties searching . More work needed here.

Eileen has be making great strides and is now working back up her mother's line. She is looking at her DNA results. With only her own results to use it is early days yet to see what emerges. The watchword is: keep waiting to see if any links are put up by Ancestry, but take anything it says as a useful guide not a cast iron guarantee of a link.

John has made great strides in identifying his Irish grandparents and great grandparents. He needed to verify the likelihood that a woman named as 'Casey' on one transcript is actually the same as his ancestor 'Carey' on another. We agreed it was almost certain.

Iris has a new problem. Some time ago, believing that she had completed work on her Tree, she closed her Ancestry account, under the mistaken belief that as she had paid for the work, she now owned the Tree and all that it contained. This, as we now know, is not so. Her son managed to get Ancestry to re-activate the account, but all the personal photos, (but not the Ancestry provided images), have disappeared. There seems to be some sort of glitch in the storage, but we were unable to clear it. It seems likely she will have to go through all the photos on her file which is on a pen-drive and change the embedded file ID, which is a featureless number, to the name of the person on the image. Then re-attach each photo to the Ancestry Profile.

The recommendation is that once this is done, the whole file of photos, should be copied to the laptop for safety. Then work through all the names on the Tree copying any images attached via Ancestry (as, say, Censuses and BMD docs) to folders on the laptop.

The fact is that when you download a .gedcom file of your Ancestry tree, the images that are attached to it by Ancestry and the user are not downloaded with it, so can be lost if they have not already been saved. They should return if you reactivate your account, but this does not seem to have happened here, and we have not enough info to determine why.

A full day.

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.

June 21st

The group made a visit to the garden of Graham Wagstaff, garden judge, lecturer and showperson.

History – Leader Jane Harris 01530 838025

June 28th

At our History Group Meeting in Packington Village Hall on Thursday 28th June, Malcolm Bird, one of our U3A members, gave a fascinating and informative talk on aspects of slavery.

Malcolm outlined that slavery had been in force for as long as historical records exist and in virtually every part of the world including Britain. Indeed, until comparatively recently it was accepted and even regarded as right and justified almost everywhere. No doubt this was a result of the vast amounts of money to be made, which also led to a great deal of hypocrisy. For example Ulysses S Grant, Commander of the Union Army in the American Civil War, owned slaves as did many Christian Clergy and even freed slaves went on to own slaves themselves.

The numbers involved were vast, with millions being transported by British slave traders. However, it should be remembered that these traders were not responsible for the capture of the slaves, they merely purchased them from the African locals. Their activities also enabled numerous ancillary industries to flourish in shipping, provisions, ironwork etc. - a bit like the modern car industry. Not that we were the only ones - at different times many others were involved - Arabs, Muslims, Japanese, Barbary Pirates, Vikings, Maoris and others. Prisoners of war were often taken into slavery.

It is only in the last two hundred years that any real effort has been made to abolish the practice, led by the British outlawing the trade and using the Royal Navy to enforce it. This lead has been followed by most industrial nations, although there are still places in the world where it continues on an at least semi-official basis. Sadly, elsewhere, the practice still continues illegally and there are, even today, slaves in countries like Britain. It might seem logical that this illegality would have driven up the cost, but this does not appear to be the case. It is reported that the cost of a slave is now only about \$60, considerably cheaper than in the 19th Century.

A very thought provoking and horrifying tale.

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

June 27th

Six members braved the rigours of the M1 rush-hour to travel in two cars to the National Museum of Computing, which is inside Bletchley Park but separate from the main Bletchley Park code-breaking museum. There should have been ten of us but four had to drop out and so missed a very interesting tour.

The museum is usually closed on Wednesdays but is open for pre-arranged tours. Our tour was supposed to start at 10am and last about 2 hours. In practice it started a bit late and finished at 1pm. Our guide covered the start of computing from the mechanical Bombe machine used to break the Enigma code via Colossus which broke the Lorenz code, the Harwell machine later called Witch and the Edsac computer. These were all valve based digital computers with very limited power and memory measured in a few thousand bytes rather than the current millions and billions of bytes. We then moved onto transistor based computers. We were shown magnetic core memory and early disks. The latter were about 1 metre in diameter and storing 200 megabytes where current disk drives hold terabytes of data (that's 10,000 times more) and are about 5 cm diameter (40,000 times smaller in area)

We finished at the internet display area. The only part there wasn't time to cover was the history of software section which was a bit of a disappointment to the ex-programmers in our group.

Our guide was excellent and was ready to answer all our questions. We had not realised we had overrun our allotted time by almost an hour.

At 1pm we went for lunch in a 40s-themed local hostelry, the Eight Belles. Afterwards, three of us decided to travel home but the others returned to the Park to visit the Amateur Radio Museum within Bletchley Park but were unable to get in without paying the full £17.50 Bletchley entrance fee.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

June 13th

Another tough day. We listened to a conversation about shopping and where people shopped. The speed and complexity of the grammar kept us on our toes.

Manual exercise followed in the use of the formal and informal forms of 'You'. Tough again, as the sentences were larded with words like 'le' which were NOT the clue!

Then another listening exercise listening to students telling where they were from, who they lived with, what they liked to do and lots more.

A good workout.

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

The Group met on the 12th June to discuss "Deaf Sentence" by David Lodge. This month they are reading "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland 01530 413867

June 14th – Gelsmoor Inn, Griffydam

Some twenty-odd people (not twenty odd people!) arrived at the Gelsmoor for lunch. We were shown to the usual party room at the back and seated at two large tables. The menu was as large as ever, and despite the huge choice, the service was to their usual excellent standard and all the food turned up promptly and looking and tasting delicious. The conversation flowed even better than the drink and everyone had a great time.

If you would like to join in the fun, please sign up at the monthly meeting or contact Colin and Sharon Woodland on 01530 413867 or email luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk

Music Appreciation – Leader David Oakley 01530 563409

June 6th

Despite David & Ann and Neil & Lesley being unable to attend, nine of us gathered at Lesley's house for our June session.

After some hectic shuffling of chairs, chatting and providing of refreshments, Dorothy settled us down with a very relaxing Mozart woodwind piece; the Adagio from his Serenade in B flat "Gran Partita" which featured in the film Amadeus. She followed this with the somewhat different but equally relaxing and thoughtful "If ever I lose my faith in you" by Sting.

Mike then reminded us that today was the 74th anniversary of D-Day and so played the only suitable music he could find which was the theme to "The Longest Day" by Maurice Jarre. He followed this with son Jean-Michel Jarre's "Oxygene Pt4".

Nev continued a slightly WW2 theme with two tunes from that era which were particular favourites of his father; Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Serenade" and Artie Shaw's "Moonglow". To show how serendipitous our choices can be, Sally had heard Tommy Steele being interviewed about the Glen Miller Show, in which he stars, on Radio 4 this morning so she brought along Tommy "Singing the Blues" and followed it with Steele's inspiration, Buddy Holly singing "That'll be the Day".

Jill & Malcolm had both brought music burnt to CD but Malcolm's disc appeared not to work so we played Jill's interesting choices of Neil Young's "Helpless", Bryan Ferry's "Where or When" and Enya singing "Orinoco Flow" This seemed to sort out the technical problems with Malcolm's disc and so we were treated to two pieces by Dory Previn (one-time wife of André), one of the vanguard of female folk-based singers of the 60s and 70s who the rest of us had never heard of but who has a very distinctive, clear voice and who writes some very witty, clever lyrics. The pieces were "Mythical Kings and Iguanas" and "Hollywood Sign". One to investigate.

Paul gave us Andy Williams' "I Won't Last a Day Without You" followed by the Military Wives now iconic, and haunting, "Wherever You Are". Trisha's choice was The Pro-Arte Guitar Trio playing "Galante" from "6 Spanish Dances" by Granados and then James Galway playing "The Wind Beneath My Wings" made famous by Bette Midler.

After a fairly quiet and relaxing morning's listening, Lesley woke us up firstly with two compositions by the Britain's Got Talent winner Tokio Myers, firstly "Bloodstream" and then "Red" both featuring his amazing range of styles of piano and keyboard playing. We finished off with the rousing "Radio Gaga" by Queen.

Our usual mixed selection of tracks was again interesting, enlightening and, best of all, good listening. The next meeting on July 4th will be back at Ann's house.

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.

June 20th

Twenty members turned out for the June quiz. The questions were put by Steve Sinfield, who had clearly done a lot of research. There was the usual hilarity and loud groans of anguish but everyone seemed to be smiling at the end.

The next quiz will be on 18th July when Malcolm Bird will be the quiz master.

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.

June 7th

I understand that the recorder group met at Joan's house as usual on two occasions this month and their next meeting is due on July 5th. Venue to be confirmed.

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

This group visits local pubs and restaurants for an evening meal. We usually meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7 for 7.30 pm.

If you would like to join in us, please sign up at the monthly meeting or contact Colin, by phone or by email, so we can book the relevant number of seats. If you need transport please see Colin and we will try to arrange for some car-sharing.

June 20th – Great Central Railway

Another record turnout for the Supper Club saw 18 members gathered on the platform at Loughborough station to await boarding the Wine and Dine Special for a trip to Leicester and back. Once we were all settled in the first class dining car and with the drinks and first course served, the train left promptly at 7.30pm. It stopped on the viaduct overlooking Swithland reservoir whilst the main course was served and to allow us to view the wildlife, including a huge herd of swans (yes that is the collective name for swans!), settling down for the evening. Some 30 mins later and with desert also served we steamed gently down to Leicester North where the loco transferred to the other end of the train ready to haul us back to Loughborough and coffee and chocolates were served. There was a brief pause at Rothley station, where on darker nights the platform is lit by gaslight, before returning to Loughborough. There was no rush to leave and we had time to sit and finish our drinks and conversations.

The carriage was beautifully furnished and the seats comfortable, the food and wine (included with the meal) excellent, the service very good and of course the company was scintillating! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and it was even suggested that it might become an annual event..

WALKS

The walk leaders 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.

June 19th. Biggin in the Peak District

After about an hour's drive from Ashby 17 of us met at the Waterloo Arms in Biggin, nr Hartington in Derbyshire. The weather was perfect for walking dry and sunny with a breeze. We ordered our lunch and set off over a couple of fields to Dalehead and then down Biggin Dale. After a about an hour, where Biggin Dale join Wolfscote Dale we stopped for a coffee break. Three Peregrine Falcons, presumably a pair and one young one, were perched high on Peaseland Rocks, were pointed out to us by a couple of other walkers here. We then followed the River Dove up stream through both Wolfscote and Beresford Dales, both very different in nature, passing a number of fly fishermen. We walked through Hartington, up past the Youth Hostel and then along Highfield Lane back to Biggin. The walk was about 7miles and took us about 3hours.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman 01530 222634

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

June 11th – Beacon Hill

9 of us set off on a lovely sunny morning from Beacon Hill Country Park lower car park. The route took us up to the summit of Beacon Hill and then across to the Outwoods, just outside Loughborough before heading back to the car park. Just under 5 miles but a walk of diverse terrain and landscape. We all enjoyed the chainsaw carvings in the Park and the impressive crags at the summit of Beacon Hill, which are amongst the oldest found across the world. The Outwoods is an area of ancient woodland. Fortunately, there was plenty of shade along the way as the sunshine was very fierce. For some it was the first time in this area and all found it enjoyable.

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.

June 15th From Staunton Harold around Lount Wood

With Cynthia, our walk leader, having an unexpected early appointment was not able make the start in order to lead the walk, and with her deputy and the group leader both being away, Mike was rapidly promoted to 3rd substitute walk leader. Nine gathered at Staunton Harold with the promise that our original leader would arrive later and walk the wrong way round the route to meet up part way round, so there was pressure on our substitute leader to take the correct route or we may not have met up at all!

With a mix of sun and cloud and a light breeze, it was a perfect day for a walk so we set off back down the approach road to the first corner, going straight on into a green lane. Some 600 yds further on we turned sharp right and a little later, right again through a gateway into Jaguar Car's walnut plantation, part of Lount Wood. We noted how rapidly the trees have grown since first planted such a seemingly short time ago. The path then meandered through various plantations of oak and ash until we met our leader with about half an hour to go. Mike happily relinquished the lead as we all headed back to the car park and on to the important part - the coffee shop. A lovely morning's walk but unfortunately, in the rush to organise a leader, no-one remembered to bring a camera, so there are no photos to record it.