



Interest Groups Timetable for September

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 3rd	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 4th	9:45 for 10:00 start	Walking	Horseshoe Inn Tatenhill, DE13 9SD.
Wed 5th	10:00 am	Music Appreciation	NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE - 43 Cambrian Way
Wed 5th	2:00 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 6th	10:00 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way
Thu 6th	10:00 am	Recorder	Joan's house
Mon 10th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Met at the Bull & Lion, Packington. 5 miles approx. Flat walking with some stiles
Mon 10th	7-9 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 11th	10:00 am	Calligraphy	Sue's house. To write a Haiku poem in your own choice of script and style
Tue 11th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 12th	2:00 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 13th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	The Copt Oak, Whitwick Rd, LE67 9QB
Mon 17th	2:00 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Mon 17th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 18th	9:45 for 10:00 start	Walking	The Poets Corner, Ashover, Derbys, S45 0EW
Wed 19th	10:00 am	Drawing and painting	2 Marlborough Way. Theme 'Art Deco'
Wed 19th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Bull and Lion, Packington
Thu 20th	10 am depart	Gardening	Cascade Gardens, Bonsall. Coach trip departing from the Royal Hotel. £17.50. A follow up to our talk in January.
Thu 20th	10:00 am	Recorder	TBA
Fri 21st	10:00 am	Short Walks	Meet at Oakthorpe Picnic site off Willesley Road just before you reach Donisthorpe.
Mon 24th	10:00 am	Italian	Lynda's house
Mon 24th	7-9 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Wed 26th	Depart 8.15 am	Industrial Heritage	Cadbury World and Bourneville village
Thu 27th	TBA	History	Self-drive visit to the Century Theatre Coalville
Thu 27th	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	Pinocchio's, 86 High St, Burton DE14 1LJ

Early October

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 1st	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 2nd		Walking	leader required please
Wed 3rd	2:00 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Wed 3rd	7 pm for 7.30	Music Appreciation	43 Cambrian Way
Thu 4th	10:00 am	Recorder	TBA
Thu 4th	7:30 pm	Trips and Outings	Birmingham Symphony Hall. Beethoven's 7th Symphony and Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto #1. Meal beforehand if wanted.

*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

August 28th – The Annual Cream Tea Event

As has become a tradition at Ashby U3A, the August monthly meeting is devoted to the consumption of scones, clotted cream, jam and tea.

As is also tradition, this is organised and served by the committee. After a few announcements, which mostly seemed to be about other food or drink related events, ie a Ceilidh in September, a possible Burn's Night supper in January and mention of the next Supper and Lunch Clubs, we were allowed to get to the food.

Unfortunately, after the wonderful summer we have had this year, the weather was not quite as kind as it could have been but a few brave souls did venture out into the church garden to eat their scones. Otherwise the remainder of the members (72 in total) squeezed into the back room.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the food, the drink and, most importantly, the natter. The committee, especially some of the newly-elected members, managed to serve everyone in good time, keep the jam and cream pots topped up, and then cleared away and did all the washing-up, tidying-up and putting away in record time. Thank you to them all.

Next Monthly Meeting on Tue 25th September at 2 pm

Next month we are back to normal with our guest speaker, Ann Featherstone, due to talk about "Victorian crimes - the baby-killer and the thief"

Tea Rota etc. for the monthly meetings

Month	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters	Reporting Groups
Sept	Phil & Sue Bloor, Joan Benton	Liz Banns Mary Jager	Supper and Trips & Outings
Oct	Jean Preece, Brenda Dummer, Cynthia Wells and Sandra Fox		Walking and Arts & Crafts
Nov	Jenny & Pete Slawson, Bridget & Jim Fairway		Bird Watching & Bridge
Dec	The Committee	The Committee	No groups reporting

GROUP REPORTS

Several of the groups are taking a summer break because of holidays etc. and so there are fewer reports than usual.

Arts and Crafts – Leader Shirley Bunting 01530 415755

The group are taking a summer break and will resume in October.

Bird Watching - birdwatch@ashbyu3a.co.uk

James Bloor has offered to run the group again and is working on a program of events.

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

The group are taking a summer break and will resume in September.

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.

August 20th

Only three turned up today. After a discussion on databases we broke up before tea.

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.

August 2nd

Five of us set out today to Beacon Hill. From the Lower Car park we enjoyed a quiet 2 mile stroll in beautiful sunshine, photographing woodcarvings, trees and many other features of the woodland. Once on top there were great views all round for miles and spectacular rock scenery.

We were late back to the cars, so curtailed our coffee stop, only leaving time for one of our number to purchase a case of Tynt Meadow ale from the newly opened Trappist brewery at Mount St. Bernard Abbey.

We should review our photos next time.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

August 15th

Three of us met at Lesley's house: Lesley, Val and John.

Next meeting 19th September, 10am, at 2 Marlborough Way.

Suggested topic - "Art Deco"

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

After a summer break, we had five to sit down today.

John D worked with Ana who's making great strides digitising her family information. We looked at ensuring married couples were properly connected, how to export/download a Tree, the best tactic for controlling that urge to dash off in all directions at once and research in a disciplined way, the proper way to use 'Hints' (Which is to ignore them until you are well established and can check the Hints!), how to save and import hard copy documents like certificates to a Tree, and how to research for certificates and their references for buying from the GRO. NEVER via Ancestry!

Rosemary is closing in on her search for a connection to Grace Darling: she found an account on the web of Grace's siblings and family, which gave her fresh impetus.

Eileen is also well on, but needed to know how to import a photograph and place it as her relative's profile picture. Also we looked at what 'Potential Mother' might mean: (It is a sort of Hint direct from Ancestry, and needs just as much care in checking as any other Hint) There was also a mysterious pound sign in place of a profile picture. We decided it was another example of Ancestry trying to be 'helpful'.

John H had a try to locate John D's 4th great grandparents (parents of a known and established 3rd great grandpa) in Ireland, but could find nothing. More work needed here!

A good session.

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.

August 16th - Grafton Cottage, Barton-Under-Needwood

The group had a self-drive visit to this garden which was featured on BBC's Gardeners' World in 2017

History – Leader Jane Harris 01530 838025

August 23rd

After travelling to Newark to the Holocaust Museum for last month's meeting, Wendy Freer came to give us an insight into the history of a building closer to home and one of its residents, Ann Healey.

The building in question is 'The Ravenstone Hospital' which is over 300 years old and was built for the purpose of providing a home for elderly single ladies of good reputation and which is still occupied today.

Ann Healey was a nurse who was awarded a medal from Queen Victoria for services to nursing in the Crimea. There was a short film dramatizing the award ceremony as she was too frail to travel to London in person. A few familiar faces were to be spotted in the film!

We were also fortunate to have Mary Danahar who was once a Trustee of the Hospital, and a long-time resident of Ravenstone who informed us of the Heritage week in early September and the unveiling of a plaque to Ann Healey who has remained rather overlooked until recently.

As a bonus we also saw a recent film by Wendy's company Pudding Bag productions which featured the pupils of Gracedieu Prep School and told the story behind the Ghost who haunts the Priory!

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

August 17th - Swindon and Didcot railway weekend

The second Industrial Heritage two day trip was to Swindon and Didcot, with a mainly railway theme. Fourteen participants were able to go.

For a Friday morning, the traffic was very co-operative on the M42 past Birmingham so we arrived at the Steam Museum of the Great Western Railway in good time to adjourn to the Cafe. The Museum is in part of the old Swindon locomotive works and its buildings date from 1840 and 1865 - they continued in use until 1986. Eventually we all gathered and proceeded round the exhibits which give a very good impression of what life in various parts of the works was like, although without the former noise and grime. The second section is arranged to illustrate various facets of the Great Western Railway. As a museum, it is very well thought out and informative.

We had intended that afternoon to go to the Crofton Pumping Engines on the Kennet and Avon Canal but, unfortunately, shortly before our trip, we discovered that they would be closed for building work. Some (dare I mention the ladies?) decided to go to the nearby Designer Shopping Outlet whilst those of us of a less frivolous disposition went to the Railway Village. When the railway arrived in 1840, Swindon was only a hamlet some way to the south. Having decided to establish its locomotive works there, the Great Western had to arrange accommodation for the workforce. Brunel designed a complete Railway Village, all of which still survives largely unaltered. In due course, a church, school, hospital and educational Mechanics Institute followed, all largely financed by the Railway. As the Village included pubs, and after a long and arduous survey, it seemed only right and fitting to adjourn to the Glue Pot for a pint in a building designed by the great engineer.

We stayed overnight at the Holiday Inn Express at Swindon, which provided excellent value for money with comfortable rooms and a good buffet breakfast. Dinner was at Sally Pussey's, a pub and restaurant at nearby Wootton Bassett which provided an extensive menu in satisfyingly large portions.

Saturday morning saw us at Didcot, home of the Great Western Society. Here, a former locomotive shed dating from 1932, houses over 40 locomotives, 40 carriages and numerous wagons. Although the historic buildings remain in their original condition, extensive locomotive and carriage workshops have been constructed. A replacement turntable has been installed as have two traditional signal boxes with signalling. There is also a museum and a newly opened signalling centre which houses the 1930s Bristol East signalling panel (when colour light signalling and electrical control over a wider area were relatively new) and the 1960s Swindon panel. At the far end of the site is the Transfer Shed, which stood in the junction at Didcot from around 1860 to trans-ship goods from broad to narrow gauge wagons. It houses replica broad gauge track, two locomotives and two carriages. Looking at these, it is easy to believe the fabled coroner's verdict (no one has ever traced the original) 'Died from cold and exposure whilst travelling in a Great Western Railway second class carriage'!

Two demonstration lines were in operation offering train rides; one with a tank locomotive which would have worked local services in places like Birmingham and London and the other with the steam railmotor, a self-propelled coach, forerunner of our current multiple units.

From Didcot, we proceeded to Pendon, a museum in the nearby village of Long Wittenham. In 1925, an Australian named Roye England arrived in Wiltshire and fell in love with the Vale of White Horse. Even then, change was beginning to erode the traditional landscape and Roye determined to capture it in model form. It has since grown into a truly wonderful landscape exhibition. The models are 4mm to the foot scale (the same as Hornby trains). The scale is huge - trains disappear into the distance and as, they pass, you can appreciate the detail. For example, the dining car has all the tables correctly laid for a meal. If a cottage is thatched, it is really thatched using hair; if tiled, the tiles are applied individually. The smallest model is a cabbage white butterfly - even if you do need a microscope to see it properly!

The traffic also co-operated for our return journey, arriving back in Ashby around 6pm.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

Like many other groups, the Italian Group didn't meet in August due to holidays etc.

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

The Literature Group didn't meet in August either.

Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland 01530 413867

August 9th – The Appleby Inn Hotel

Many of the usual faces and some new ones turned up at the Appleby Inn which was surprisingly busy for a Thursday lunchtime. Nonetheless they promptly served up some lovely food even though we didn't order until everyone had arrived. Whilst nobody had a starter, a few managed to tackle the pudding menu!

Music Appreciation – Leader David Oakley 01530 563409

August 1st

With apologies for absence from both Dorothy and Neil, seven of us met for our August meeting, kindly hosted by Ann.

Nev set us away with two songs written by Bob Dylan, but not performed by him. Firstly, 'Times they are a changing' by Peter, Paul and Mary, a song with lyrics still relevant today. This was followed by Billy Joel's version of 'To make you feel your love', a song some of us knew but weren't aware it was written by Bob.

Mike had made his choice expecting it to still be a hot and steamy summer and was looking for something laid-back and so took us back to the 60's with Astrud Gilberto and the Bossa Nova song, 'Girl from Ipanema'. His second choice was Sarah Vaughan singing 'Lullaby of Birdland', and we got into the conversation of who first started singing improvised scat?

Ann then took us in a classical direction with Mozart's 'Horn Concerto', a piece she had heard playing while being held in a telephone queue. Mike suggested that companies could offer a choice of music for callers put on hold. Press 1 for classical, 2 for pop etc! Ann followed this with Shirley Bassey singing 'Where do I begin', from Love Story. She once again bemoaned the apparent lack of modern singers being able to hold a note.

Trish had selected 'All I ask of you' from Phantom of the Opera, this time sung by Chris Corcoran and Lesley Garrett. Her second choice was 'La Donna é Mobile' from Verdi's Rigoletto, a song that was one of her father's favourites.

Paul was next with his choice of George Michael and Elton John's excellent live recording of 'Don't let the sun go down on me' and his second choice was George singing 'A different corner'.

Lesley had chosen George Formby 'When I'm cleaning windows' with reference to ukulele player Mark Walsh who had been such a big hit at our last main meeting. Keeping in the Variety Theatre mood we then had 'Big Hearted' Arthur Askey and 'The Bee song', so smiles all round.

David had selected opera this month, and as it happened it was Rigoletto again. This was a 1971 recording with Luciano Pavarotti, Joan Sutherland and Sherrill Milnes. The tracks chosen were 'Questa o quell' and 'Bella figlia dell'amore'.

Finally we had tracks from Mike and Paul. Mike selected The Doors' 'Riders on the Storm' mostly for the thunderstorm backing track being more suitable for the current weather than his previous choice, and Paul chose 'Sultans of Swing' by Dire Straits.

Our September 5th meeting is to be hosted by Ann again (not as originally said, Trisha & Paul's) and, at Lesley's suggestion, either the October 3rd or November 7th gathering will be in the evening rather than the usual morning. It will be hosted by Ann at 43 Cambrian Way, 7 pm for 7.30. We will agree the date and who is to bring what, drinks or nibbles, at the September meeting. An evening meeting will last more than our usual two hours so members will be able to bring longer tracks than usual if they wish.

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.

August 16th

The August meeting attracted 16 players and a lively event was enjoyed. The prizes were packets of Brillo Pads so every winner should be shining by now.

The new managers - George and Lynn - have taken over the Bull and Lion and everything went smoothly, i.e. tea and coffee were served dead on time. The next quiz is on Wednesday 19th September at the usual time of 2.30pm.

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.

There were three of us this morning; the usual suspects. We decided to try some new music, and it turned out to be quite a challenge! Our brains had definitely had a workout by the end of the session!

We played:

Sellenger's Round (not new, but a good starting point)

Four Handel Minuets

Earle of Salisbury (Pavan and Galliard) by William Byrd

'Try a Trio!', by Paul Clark

We felt we made progress with these, and, after a few play-throughs, got on quite well with the combinations of notes and rhythms thrown at us. We still have some practice to do, before we are happy with them.

It's three weeks until our next meeting, on 6th September, at my place.

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.

August 23rd. The George Inn, Coleorton

We're all doomed! On a rainy evening, and owing to a last minute cancellation, a potentially unlucky 13 of us arrived at the George Inn, Coleorton for our August meal - several of our regular participants were away on holiday. However, we found that we had been allocated two tables so catastrophe was averted.

The extensive menu proved to be served in such large portions that I believe only two of us found the stamina to cope with three courses. The food was excellent as was the company, so everyone appeared to enjoy the 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.

August 21st - Ticknall, Milton and Ingleby

Despite altering the start only a day or two before and the earlier start time, thirteen turned up at the Staff of Life in Ticknall for our long walk. There was also one late comer, who had overlooked the start time and had to trot along at the rear to catch up! There's always one! An easily followed route to Milton and Foremark, where we paused by the church for coffee (a lucky few were able to share the seat) was followed by the footpath to the Trent at Anchor Church Caves. From there, the leader was not paying attention and managed to deviate slightly from the approved route resulting in the negotiation of a barbed wire fence. Fortunately size 12 boots were of assistance in holding it down for those more vertically challenged. After passing through Ingleby, we proceeded to Woodend Cottage before entering the woods. Here one participant, either wiser or more anxious to reach the pub, abandoned us to proceed by a faster alternative route. Hence thirteen of us arrived back at the Staff of Life to find our compatriot already seated ready for lunch. The distance was 8.6 miles but it only looked like 7.5 on the map. Honest!

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman 01530 222634

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

July 9th – Shackerstone

The walk started from Willington, where 10 people met, and proceeded to walk along the canal towpath towards Findern. We crossed the canal by a footbridge and walked towards Mercia Marina, for a few of our members to see. Following the road then to Findern, which was our coffee stop. We sat on the village green, decorated with WW1 statues and poppies, a lovely site to see. Then across a field to the very edge of Findern, passing an Indian restaurant with beautiful views looking over the canal. It was along the towpath again, and then crossing the very busy train line, by footbridge, and walking beside the train line back to Willington playing fields, and then back through Willington to our cars. A very pleasant 4 mile walk with no hills and only a few stiles.

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.

August 17th - Conkers to Spring Cottage, then YHA and Moira Furnace

Six ladies and one lady dog met at Conkers for our walk to Spring Cottage. the weather sunny with a slight breeze ideal for walking. We walked through the foot tunnel and had to wait for the tourist train to pass before we crossed over and made our way to the old railway bank where we turned right and made our way to Spring Cottage. After a while we arrived at the road, turned left, and took a short walk down to the footpath to the youth hostel. We made our way up the winding path and on arrival we enjoyed coffee and cake. Thoroughly refreshed we made our way back onto the railway bank and made our way to Moira furnace, stopping there for a breather, then set off for Conkers seeing lots of wild life busy with their young and eventually arriving at our cars nicely exhausted but having enjoyed plenty chatter and laughs and very pleasant company.

Your Committee

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