



SOCIAL EVENING - Ceilidh

An evening of dancing to Scottish music

Friday 26th October 2018
at Packington Memorial Hall
7:30 to 11:00pm
Licenced bar - Raffle
Tickets: £3 inc. raffle tickets

**See any member of the Committee to order your tickets
or buy them at the Monthly Meeting.**

Tickets will also be sold at the door.

(There will be no food provided, but feel free to bring your own)

Interest Groups Timetable for October

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 1st	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 2nd	9:45 for 10:00 start	Walking	The White Hart, Duffield, Derby. DE56 4GD. Car park access via Wirksworth Road on the left. 45min drive
Wed 3rd	10:00 am	Music Appreciation	9 Ashtree Rd
Wed 3rd	2:00 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 4th	Dep 9.45 am	Digital Photography	Thornton Reservoir. Meet at 2 Marlborough Way to carshare. Stay at 2MW if wet
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. This is now fully booked.
Fri 5th	10:00 am	Canasta	Canasta Group is restarting at The Masseys' after a summer break. Note the new day.
Mon 8th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Meet at Saltersfoot CP on Willesley Lane, just before Donisthorpe, on the LHS from Ashby. 5 miles?
Mon 8th	7-9 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club

Tue 9th	10:00 am	Calligraphy	At Ann's. To write a Cinquain poem in your own choice of style and script but different from the previous month
Tue 9th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 10th	2:00 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 11th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	Unicorn Inn, Orton on the Hill, CV9 3NN
Mon 15th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Mon 15th	2:00 pm	Computer	2 Marlborough Way
Tue 16th	9:45 for 10:00 start	Walking	The Badgers Sett Inn, Cropston, Leics. LE7 7GQ
Wed 17th	TBA	Industrial Heritage	Triumph Motorcycle museum and factory tour
Wed 17th	10:00 am	Drawing and painting	2 Marlborough Way Theme 'Shades of Autumn'
Wed 17th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Bull and Lion, Packington
Thu 18th	10:00 am	Recorder	TBA
Thu 18th	2:00 pm	Gardening	Packington Hall Harvest lunch. All members attending are asked to bring an item of food to share.
Fri 19th	10:00 am	Short Walks	Meet at car park near St Peter's Church, Stapenhill
Fri 19th	10:00 am	Canasta	The Masseys'
Mon 22nd	7-9 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Thu 25th	2:00 pm	History	Packington Hall. Yogi Godwin talk - 'The eating habits of Henry VIII's court'
Thu 25th	2:00 pm	Arts & Crafts	Shirley's house
Thu 25th	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	Copt Oak Inn, Whitwick Rd, Markfield, LE67 9QB
Mon 29th	10:00 am	Italian	Lynda's house
Mon 29th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre

Early November

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Thu 1st	10:00 am	Recorder	TBA
Fri 2nd	10:00 am	Canasta	The Masseys'
Mon 5th	7-9 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 6th	9.45 for 10 am	Walking	TBA. Leaders Kevin & Chris Green
Wed 7th	2:00 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Wed 7th	7:00 pm	Music Appreciation	Soirée at 43 Cambrian Way

*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

Tea Rota etc. for the monthly meetings

Month	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters	Reporting Groups
Oct	Jean Preece, Brenda Dummer, Cynthia Wells and Sandra Fox	Mike Stow, Trev Reed	Walking and Arts & Crafts
Nov	Jenny & Pete Slawson, Bridget & Jim Fairway	TBA	Bird Watching & Bridge
Dec	The Committee	The Committee	No groups reporting

MONTHLY MEETING

September 25th – “The Baby Killer and the Thief” by Ann Featherstone

Ann Featherstone recounted to us all two quite separate and true stories set in Victorian England. Ann's background is that she is a retired university lecturer as well as a writer. Ann has written non-fiction books and is a historical novelist with two published books to her name. Ann's particular interest is the 19th century. Ann has appeared on the 'One Show' TV programme and on the BBC in documentaries about fairs and circuses.

The first story that Ann related to us was about a young unmarried domestic servant who at a young age found herself to be pregnant. In Victorian England this was all too common but of course quite often led to the unfortunate girl becoming a social outcast. The young lady in this story concealed her pregnancy from everyone around her and moved jobs 3 times in a matter of months in order to do so. The girl then gave birth to a child in secret in the privy behind where she lived. The child being dead was wrapped in cloths and it's body hidden in a tin in the corner of a pig sty.

The body was found some months later in a state of advanced decomposition which led to the arrest of the girl and a police investigation. The girl was later charged with two counts, the first being that of murdering the child and the second being the offence of concealing the birth. Had the girl been found guilty on the first count then she would have been sent to the gallows.

The outcome of the case was that the judge found insufficient evidence that the child was alive at the time of the birth and subsequently killed despite the fact that the girl admitted to cutting the baby's throat with a knife. Consequently she was acquitted of the murder charge but sentenced to 18 months hard labour on the second count of which she was patently guilty.

The second story that we heard about involved a 16 year old boy from Nottinghamshire. He stole his employer's silver watch and then took it to a pawn broker to see how much he could get for it. The pawn broker being suspicious of the boy contacted the police and the boy was later charged with the theft of the watch. At the trial the judge sentenced the boy to 7 years deportation to the colonies.

Ann explained to us that children so sentenced had often to live on board prison hulk ships until either they were old enough to be sent to the colonies or until a suitable ship arrived to transport them. This boy spent a whole year on board such a ship in very squalid conditions before being taken to Australia. Once there he was given to an English business man as effectively a slave for the duration of his sentence.

All records of what happened to him after that are lost save for a single letter sent back to his parents sometime later. This letter told how 'freed' transportees (freedom was gained once the sentence had been served and a Certificate of Freedom given to the transportee to prove the fact) could earn good wages and urged his parents to consider joining him in Australia. Unfortunately his father died shortly after and Ann could find no further trace of the lad or his mother.

Ann's two stories had us all sitting on the edges of our seats in disbelief at the cruelty shown to these unfortunate children for whom we could not help but feel sorry despite the crimes that had been committed.

Next Monthly Meeting on Tue 23rd October at 2 pm

Ex-Wimbledon umpire Alan Grey, who was due to talk to us last year but had to cancel, will give us a talk called “You cannot be serious!”. I wonder what that’s about!

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Shirley Bunting 01530 415755

The group have finished their summer break and are resuming on October 25th at Shirley's house.

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

September 11th

Just four of us met for the first session after our summer break, with lots of catching up to do! We spent time drinking tea and coffee whilst organising our Christmas meal, discussing the possibility of attending a Modern Calligraphy workshop in London (Linda knows a great restaurant for lunch!) and comparing the Haiku poems we had found on the internet or written ourselves. (A Haiku poem consists of three lines with 17 syllables - 5-7-5) We also looked at a new font and spent time practising it before we attempt to write our own Haiku poem at the next meeting which is at Ann's house on Tuesday Oct. 9th.

Canasta – Leaders Tom & Gillian Massey 01283 212380

The meeting dates have changed this year and will now be on the 1st and 3rd Friday mornings each month at 10 am to 12 with the first meeting on Oct 5th.

So if you are interested in joining them, 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. If you have a computer problem, come along and we'll see if we can fix it.

September 17th

We had six today with a variety of problems.

John D's PC is very slow to boot up, so Mike S suggested using CCleaner to look at the list of programmes which open automatically on start up, and disable any not needed right then. These will start anyway at the time they are needed e.g. for printing.

Steve has a problem with the Bluetooth function on his phone not working. This was not solved at close of play.

There was a general discussion of the utility of various operating systems, such as Windows, Android, Unix, Linux and Apple's iOS. It was not recommended that a user of, say Windows, try to migrate to one of the others. Rather start fresh when buying new.

Peter worked with Steve exploring photo editing software and how to use 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.

September 6th

Four of the five who went to Beacon Hill last time met to review our photos. There were some interesting shots of wildlife, fungi and trees, with perhaps the best being a beautiful shot by John H of a butterfly resting. John also took a series of paired shots using two different cameras. Oddly, we generally thought those with the less sophisticated, but newer, device looked better.

There was some talk about advancing technology, in particular focussing systems, and a look at Mike's new mirror-less SLR.

We will meet again next time at 2 Marlborough Way at 9.45 to go out to Thornton Reservoir. If wet we'll stay at 2MW.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

September 19th

Three of us enjoyed an "Art Deco" morning; good themes and bold colours. Next meeting, Wednesday 17th October, 10am. at 2 Marlborough Way. The suggested topic is "Shades of Autumn".

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

September 12th

Another good session today.

John H has identified possible great-great-great grandparents. There is a twist: there is either one man who could be the ggg grandfather, with the same daughter but different wife, or two different men with the same unusual first name, in the same small locality. The likelihood is that there were two marriages, as the daughter was born before the 'second' marriage's children.

Ana is doing very well. We talked about the function and use of the Gedcom download: that is, that it is for uploading to family tree software as backup, or an alternative tree located on the local PC/laptop.

Eileen worked on her own tree, forging ahead, whilst Audrey has been looking at splitting her maternal and paternal trees, and reports that her husband has achieved this.

John D helped Ana and John H, and also looked at correcting false birth and death locations on the Profile/Life Story section of his brother's tree. Work needed, as although editing worked on his brother's story, the amendments did not properly update the matching references in his siblings and parents' trees. (Offline: a solution was found after much digging into the original tree data)

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.

September 20th

Unfortunately the planned visit to Cascade Gardens at Bonsall was cancelled due to the bad weather.

Next month on Oct 18th it will be our Harvest Lunch. All members attending are asked to bring an item of food to share.

History – Leader Jane Harris 01530 838025

September 27th

The History Group undertook a visit to the Century Theatre in Coalville where our enthusiastic volunteer guides kept us entertained for some two and a half hours and also provided the most excellent cream scones and cake.

The theatre has a fascinating history - at the end of World War Two many facilities had been damaged and a small group hit on the idea of a mobile theatre. Funds were raised - £22,000, equivalent to £500,000 today, and construction took place in Hinckley between 1948 and 1952 when the opening production was performed.

The design was unique - a theatre of about 250 seats could be easily dismantled and folded up into four ex-military trailers before being transported to its next destination for re-assembly, often in only a single day. There were numerous other living and miscellaneous trailers in the convoy, so that all that was required was a reasonably level space and drinking water at the next stop.

The size of the theatre prevented it from being a financial success and the impression is that those participating did so from love of it rather than financial reward.

Unfortunately, changes to the traffic regulations meant that the 15mph, unbraked convoy could no longer tour after 1974 when it settled at a static site in Keswick. Keswick got its own permanent theatre in 1996 and the Century Theatre made one last journey to Coalville, where it re-opened in 1997.

Essentially, it remains the original touring theatre, although a new entrance building has been added to provide quality foyer, bar and toilet facilities. The auditorium, stage and dressing rooms are the old structure, refurbished internally. From the outside, the original design can be appreciated, with the wartime military trailers still supporting the structure.

It now houses regular performances - plays, musicals, bands, ballet, films etc. After almost 70 years, this unique touring structure continues to fulfil its original function - a tribute to those who designed and constructed it and tremendous value for that original £22,000 investment.

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

September 26th – Cadbury World and Bournville model village

Despite some fluctuation in numbers in the days immediately before, 20 members eventually set off in 5 cars for the delights of the M42 in the morning rush hour in an attempt to reach Cadbury World by 10am. As it happened the traffic was somewhat lighter than expected and we all arrived in a bunch at 9.30 to find that it didn't actually open until 10. Not even for coffee or chocolate.

Once the doors were opened and with the merry band suitably refreshed, we ventured into Cadbury World along with 3 school-loads of young children! After wandering through the Aztec jungle and viewing the story of chocolate production and the Cadbury family's marketing of same, we were allowed to regress to our childhood and to taste, eat and play with chocolate to our hearts' content. We finished off with a so called 4D ride - a 3D cinema ride complete with added chair movements - as we fell into vats of chocolate, ascended to the sky and fell back onto a roller-coaster with the inevitable broken section! We all returned safely, but I suspect the some of the young stomachs of our school companions, now full of chocolate, were a bit queasy.

As an antidote to all that excitement, we next walked the short distance to Selly Manor in Bournville village where our guide Gillian gave us an introduction to the village's history before leading us on a walk around the village green and gave us a fascinating insight into the history and present state of Bournville and the Bournville Village Trust (BVT) which oversees the whole area. Amazingly Bournville consists of over 8000 homes and 25,000 residents. That is twice the size of Ashby according to the 2011 census! Approx. half the homes are owner-occupied and the remainder rented, but the two are thoroughly intermixed so that you cannot tell owned from rented properties. All are controlled by BVT so that owners cannot change the character of the houses. The model village was set up by George Cadbury at his own expense in 1893 to "alleviate the evils of modern, more cramped living conditions" There are also schools, shops, a library and several places of worship. (Although the Cadbury's were/are Quakers, they allow all religions and sects to build a place of worship there, if there is a need).

Interestingly you never had to work at Cadbury's to live in Bournville, nor do workers have to live there. The village Trust was separated from Cadbury's the factory in 1900 and BVT still have several of the family on the committee, whilst the Cadbury business is now owned by Mondelez International, formerly Kraft Foods.

After looking at all this chocolate, and resisting eating too much of it, we were now hungry and so set off to the delightful Barnt Green Inn for a late lunch. The food and service was excellent although a misunderstanding over our previously paid deposit cheque, amongst other things, caused the payment by each individual to be reduced to a long drawn out farce and, as we were now late leaving, we had to endure the rush hour all the way back to Ashby.

Nonetheless it was agreed that we all had a great day out and, as is the intention of the U3A, we all learned something new. We must say thank you to Gillian for our excellent guided tour and we are now pictured on their website as an encouragement to other adult groups to visit Bournville.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

September 24th Our first day back after the holidays was tough. Lynda gave us a hearing test: always difficult. It was a telephone conversation between two men one of whom was giving detailed instructions to the other as to how to recognise someone they were meeting at a station. Physical descriptions, clothes, hair eye colour etc etc. Then we were plunged straight into the shops, and buying presents. A good work out!

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

The book which we read for September was Once in a House by Andrea Ashworth. At the September meeting we also decided on the next ten books which will take us up to July.

I think this is a very exciting group of books that will provide us with some very interesting discussions. -Sandra

Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland 01530 413867

September 13th – The Ferrers Inn, Lount

Little did we realise the fiendish machinations of our leader prior to him fleeing the country! The unsuspecting group gathered as instructed at the Copt Oak near Markfield. Then the appalling nature of our plight was revealed - not a pub with no beer but, for a lunch group, even worse - a pub with no water! Apparently Severn Trent had been trying to restore supplies all morning but had failed to succeed. No water means no catering.

A couple of our members decided to leave us, but the remaining 10 stalwarts were determined not to go hungry so easily. Full of the spirit that made the Empire what it is today, we decided to try our luck at The Ferrers Arms in Lount. Although they were not expecting us, we were able to obtain three tables in the corner and were quickly provided with an excellent substitute belated lunch.

Join us for our next adventure at the Unicorn Inn, Orton on the Hill on October 11th.

Who knows what may transpire? As our leader should be back by then, I expect everything will run like clockwork.

Music Appreciation – Leader David Oakley 01530 563409

September 5th

There was a group of eight assembled for our September meeting, with an apology from Trish.

Various anniversaries and events impacted on the music selection this month and with this in mind David had chosen two pieces by Leonard Bernstein, as it's 100 years since his birth. The first item was from his 1944 ballet 'Fancy Free', a production that influenced his first musical On the Town and it was the 'Lonely Town Pas de Deux' a dance piece from this show that was the second choice.

Nev reminded us of earlier discussions about female singers and he had brought a Jo Stafford album from which he chose her singing 'You belong to me'. He followed this with another Joe, Joe Brown and his delightful rendition of 'See you in my dreams', with obvious ukulele accompaniment. A later choice was 'The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea' by George Harrison with Joe Brown and Jools Holland etc.

Mike was the one to acknowledge the passing of Aretha Franklin with two of her songs. Oddly, her albums didn't seem to be part of other member's collections. The songs Mike chose were 'Never let me go' and 'Drown in my own tears'.

Dorothy then took us in another direction with the Proms in mind. After a brief history of their background she chose the finale of Tchaikovsky's '1812 Overture', followed by Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance', Land of Hope and Glory.

Ann picked up on the 40th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley. She had chosen two songs with lyrics that meant a lot to her, the first was 'In the Ghetto' followed by 'Always on my mind'.

Sally had chosen two pieces by Richard Strauss, not to be confused with the two Strauss composers of waltz fame. Her first choice was the opening of 'Thus spake Zarathustra' as memorably used for the film '2001 a space odyssey'. Her second choice was 'Im Abendrot', or 'At Sunset' the last of his 'Four Last Songs'.

Lesley had picked out the Beatles song 'Blackbird singing in the dead of night', a song from their White album, which is about the civil rights movement in the USA. Her second choice was 'One hand, one heart' from the film version of West Side Story.

Paul brought up the rear with two Glen Campbell songs, a long-time favourite of his. First was 'Rhinstone Cowboy' which was followed by 'Country Boy, (you got your feet in LA)'.

Another enjoyable two hours with our usual wide variety of enjoyable music. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday 3rd October hosted by Trish and Paul at 9 Ashtree Road.

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.

September 19th

Twenty players fought it out at the September quiz for prizes of a pen, a pencil (with an eraser on top) and a notepad. There was some degree of groaning as subjects were announced but as usual there was much laughter. The quizmaster had to ring his bell from time to time to be heard as quiet debate escalated into ribaldry. The next quiz will be on October 17th. All are welcome.

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.

The recorder group has only 3 members at present, but we still enjoy playing. We would welcome new members. It would be helpful if any new member could already play a recorder at some level.

We have a mascot, Squeaky, who acts as our scapegoat!

We recently bought ourselves identical descant recorders, so we could play descant trios together without pain. It worked well, and then we played a few pieces for 2 descants and one treble.

We like both to work on pieces to improve them, and to try new ones, for variety.

Above all, we have fun.

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.

September 27th - Pinocchio's, Burton

The Supper Club ventured out to Burton this month for an Italian meal at Pinocchio's in the High Street. The fifteen of us, including 3 newcomers to the group, were seated at one of several long tables at this obviously popular restaurant. The lively atmosphere made conversation a little difficult at times but we managed. A wide selection of food "like mama used to make" along with many delicious looking cream laden desserts was available on the set menu or to choose individually. All looked to be very good and everyone seemed to enjoy their meal. The company of course was excellent as usual.

Next time we shall try the Copt Oak Inn at Markfield which had to turn away the Lunch Group earlier this month because of a water shortage that Severn Trent couldn't fix in time.

Trips Group – Contact John or Margaret Howlett 01530 461774

John and Margaret are looking for "expressions of interest" for two outings to the Theatre Royal Nottingham to see "Blood Brothers" in February and "Magic Flute" in March.

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.

September 18th – Darley Bridge

Eleven happy but slightly damp souls set off in fine rain from the Square and Compass, Darley Bridge a little later than usual 10:30. From the experience of the recce crew RB/SJ it was determined that the route needed to be shortened significantly to fit in our normal 3 1/2 hours. So we set off south across the river up to Oaker then on to Snitterton and the wonderfully named Jughole Wood! Somewhere en route our Weather Fairy reconsidered our situation and switched off the rain, which allow us to enjoy great views over the valley below. At Jughole Wood we turned to follow the contours in a westerly direction towards Brightgate then turning north towards the clearly visible Wensley and then onto our finishing point, The Square and Compass, where we enjoyed excellent good value fare and as usual great company. And the ale was good too.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman 01530 222634

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

September 10th - Packington

Six of us met at the Bull and Lion, Packington on a cloudy, cool but dry morning for this walk. We followed footpaths across open fields to Normanton le Heath where we crossed through the churchyard noticing a good display of autumn cyclamen. We stopped here for a short coffee/banana stop before setting off over yet more fields to enter the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Woodland, where the leader had a memory lapse (despite having pre-walked the route two weeks ago) and took our merry band the wrong way.

This proved to be a 'happy accident' as we discovered walks through the woodland that not many of us had done before and thanks to Barry's excellent knowledge of the local area, we navigated our way to where we should have ended up. On the way we discovered a lake and the excellent Memory Barn which has a lot of information and history about the area, picnic benches and an impressive mosaic on the floor of the Barn.

It was noticeable seeing the trees en masse that Autumn is on the way with colour apparent in some of the trees. We eventually got to the Bridle Way heading towards Packington where along the way we saw a herd of deer and a herd of Llamas (or were they Alpacas?) We arrived back safe and sound at the Bull and Lion having done a distance of almost 6 miles but still back by 12.30.

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.

September 21st – Willesley Woods from Oakthorpe picnic area

Seven of us met at the Oakthorpe picnic area car park. We studied the tribute to Thurtit colliery (Actually Oakthorpe Colliery but always known locally as 'Who'd have thought it') We then set off towards Willesley Woods and met up with two of our regular walkers.

We stuck to the good path as it had been raining recently and went as far as the Willesley Woodside entrance. We discussed places of interest and decided to visit the Royal Legion Memorial glade. We then continued on the well-made path and left the Woods near the Colliery shafts and walked around to the shaft marker stones and read the panel about the Ashby Canal which the colliery had used for supply and removal of coal. From there it was but a short walk back to the car park. The weather had stayed sunny with cloudy patches until the end when it started to rain, so we repaired to The Hub Cafe at Moira Furnace for refreshments.

Your Committee

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