



Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting
to be held at 2pm on 27th November 2018
at The Congregational Church, Kilwardby St, Ashby De la Zouch.

Members of the Ashby de la Zouch U3A are hereby formally notified that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Ashby de la Zouch U3A will be held on the above mentioned date, and before the usual monthly meeting, to pass a resolution amending the Constitution of Ashby De La Zouch U3A. Full details of the proposed changes are available on www.ashbyu3a.co.uk . All fully paid-up members of Ashby de la Zouch U3A are entitled to attend, make nominations and vote.

Interest Groups Timetable for November

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Thu 1st	10:00 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way.
Thu 1st	10:00 am	Recorder	Joan's house
Fri 2nd	10:00 am	Canasta	The Masseys'
Mon 5th	7-9 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 6th	9:45 for 10:00 start	Walking	Barley Mow, Milford, Stafford ST17 0UW
Wed 7th	2:00 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Wed 7th	7 pm	Music Appreciation	Soirée at 43 Cambrian Way
Thu 8th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	Wolferstan Arms, Shuttington, B79 0DP
Mon 12th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Zouch LE12 5EQ. Take the A6006, cross the Zouch river bridge, then 200 yds on the right is the entrance to the car park
Mon 12th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 13th	10:00 am	Calligraphy	Megan's To write a Cinquain poem in your own choice of style and script but different from previous month
Tue 13th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 14th	2:00 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 15th	10:00 am	Recorder	Barbara's
Thu 15th	2:00 pm	Gardening	Packington Hall "New Year's Resolutions". A talk by Gerald Ingram, owner of Planters Garden Centre. £3.00 pp.
Fri 16th	10:00 am	Short Walks	Meet at Waterside court
Fri 16th	10:00 am	Canasta	The Masseys'
Mon 19th	2:00 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Mon 19th	7-9 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 20th	TBA	Walking	TBD
Wed 21st	10:00 am	Drawing and painting	16 Winchester Way Theme 'Lest we forget'
Wed 21st	2.30 pm	Quiz	Bull and Lion, Packington

Thu 22nd	2:00 pm	History	Packington Hall Tim Coltman - 'William Harold Coltman VC'
Thu 22nd	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	Smisby Arms, Smisby
Mon 26th	10:00 am	Italian	Lynda's house
Mon 26th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Wed 28th	8.50 am at Featherbed Lane	Industrial Heritage	Museum of Timekeeping, Upton Hall, Notts, NG23 5TE
Thu 29th	2:00 pm	Arts & Crafts	Shirley's house

Early December

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Tue 4th	TBA	Walking	leader required please
Tue 4th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 5th	2:00 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 6th	10:00 am	Recorder	Joan's house
Thu 6th	12.30 for 1 pm	Lunch	Willesley Park Golf Club for Christmas Lunch.
Fri 7th	10:00 am	Canasta	The Masseys'

*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
Nov	Jenny & Pete Slawson, Bridget & Jim Fairway	Jenny & Pete Slawson	Bird Watching & Bridge
Dec	The Committee	The Committee	No groups reporting

MONTHLY MEETING

October 23rd – “You cannot be serious!” by Alan Grey

This afternoon we had a very entertaining talk from Alan Grey MBE, a Wimbledon Umpire and line judge. Born in Scotland, he was introduced to tennis when he was taken to watch four of the top players of the time play a demonstration game at the local ice rink and that started a love affair with the game. He has been involved with tennis for about 60 years as a spectator, player and line judge and umpire, covering 6 Wimbledon finals. He also helped train the ball boys and girls, finally retiring in 2012.

Alan spoke about how he thought that Wimbledon rated as one of the 3 greatest sporting events. To keep up its standards it has a committee including past and present players who help decide on how the tournament can be improved. He explained that if you hadn't been to Wimbledon for 10 years or so, you would hardly recognise it now. Wimbledon has just purchased the neighbouring golf club to enable it to expand. It's big business, with 18 show courts and 22 practice courts and the Wimbledon fortnight watched on TV by 180 countries.

To inspire the players, just above the doors in the players area leading onto court are the words from Kipling's If.... "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster, And treat those two impostors just the same". Alan also explained about some of Wimbledon's improvements; of Hawkeye making line calls easier, the roof on centre court extending play, how the ball girls and boys from the Borough of Merton schools are trained.

But how to get a ticket! - you can join a tennis club as each gets an allocation, or you can go into the public ballot which is held between September and December, or just write to Wimbledon sending a SAE, you might just get lucky.

He gave us many anecdotes about some of the players, such as having to accompany Boris Becker to the toilet in the middle of a match and of Serena Williams being sick after eating her dog's food as she thought it looked nicer than her own meal! He also spoke of the controversy brought about by a few players, like John McEnroe, along with Jimmy Connors and Ilie Nastase, and how their on-court antics became so outrageous that it brought in the code of conduct and how Serena Williams has famously become the latest to be penalised under that code for allegedly receiving coaching signals from the bench.

But the player he spoke of mostly was his fellow countryman, Andy Murray. Alan has known him since he was 8 years old and spoke of his determination to succeed. He also spoke of a side of Andy the public doesn't see, the fact that he gives his prize money from certain tournaments, plus a certain amount from every ace he serves, to charity.

Alan said that his best day ever came 8 years ago, on the first Tuesday of the tournament, when the Queen visited. She watched an hour of wheelchair tennis and then the British juniors play followed by Andy Murray playing. Alan spoke of dreaming about shouting 'OUT' at the Queen, and as he was line judge for the match right beneath her seat he got to shout 'out' 8 times!!

It was a very enjoyable talk, even for those who have little interest in the actual tennis, he gave a good insight into Wimbledon life with plenty of humour.

Next Monthly Meeting on Tue 27th November at 2 pm

Roger Hailwood will talk about the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas.

CEILIDH SOCIAL EVENING

It was a dark and chilly evening on Friday 26th October but inside Packington Village Hall the atmosphere was electric and exciting and the temperature was sizzling as a motley crew of Ashby U3A members danced to the strains of a ceilidh band called 'Five Go Off'. In fact there were only 4 of them but none the less they rattled off a steady stream of folk dances which our U3A members performed with gusto.

The 'caller' whose name was 'Denny' took everyone through the steps of each dance teaching us how to 'promenade' and how to 'gallop' and how to perform the 'dos a dos' before the music struck up again and we stomped our way up and down the hall trying to remember the steps which had just been demonstrated for us. Half way through the evening we took a break to refresh ourselves at the bar and to enable the raffle to be drawn. Before you could say 'Jack Robinson' we were back on our feet again learning even more steps and pounding the boards even more loudly so much so that the producers of Strictly Come Dancing would have been proud of us.

The evening finished around 11pm when the tables and chairs were put away into their cupboard and the hall returned to some semblance of normality. Suffice to say that, thanks to 'Five Go Off' and the vast experience that they have had over many years of running ceilidh events we all had a thoroughly great evening dancing away to our hearts content amongst friends. and fellow U3A members. It was a most memorable evening.

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Shirley Bunting 01530 415755

Numbers attending have been dwindling and only one person came to the last meeting, so there will be one final meeting on the 29th November, then the group will unfortunately close.

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

October 9th

Six members of our group met on Tuesday and displayed and discussed our Haiku poems (completed in a font and decoration of choice). We then discussed the display and it was agreed that the Haiku project was enjoyed by all. We also discussed aspects of modern calligraphy, ideas for our meetings in 2019 and our Christmas lunch date!!! For our next meeting members have been asked to write a "Cinquain poem", a poem of 5 lines which do not rhyme with each line having a set number of syllables. Date of next meeting 13 November at Meghan's home.

Canasta – Leaders Tom & Gillian Massey 01283 212380

No-one turned up for Canasta this week and only two came last time. If you would like to play, or learn to play, canasta please contact Gill on the number above or email canasta@ashbyu3a.co.uk otherwise the group is in danger of closing.

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.

October 15th

Due to half term and other commitments, we were only four today.

There was some talk about Windows 10 updates affecting document folders, although hopefully this (a known glitch) has been corrected by Microsoft.

We talked about the strategies involved in migrating to a new computer: mainly concerning ensuring a full back up of files, and that backups of favourite software and all your photos, music and any other data are secure and on CD/DVD-R discs, not the re-writeable -RW discs as the later are more prone to degradation over time.

Offline a member suddenly 'lost' their laptop keyboard. That is, it ceased to function. Online suggestions didn't seem appropriate, or were outside the technical expertise of the owner, so the laptop was put through a 'System Restore' process which cured the problem.

Another (now familiar) offline problem cropped up in which despite all indications that the Internet was available and working for a 'hardwired' computer, laptops running on the house Wi-Fi net were unable to connect. The solution was to 'forget' the connection, and then reinitialise with the password..

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.

October 4th

Three turned out on a cloudy but pleasant day to go to Thornton Reservoir in search of autumn colours and wildlife. There was plenty of wildlife, most of it apparently gathering for the flight to warmer climes, plus a few gulls. Part grown cygnets and their parents were plentiful too.

We were greeted on the path round the lake by two tiny Shetland ponies. Well, one tiny, the other miniscule!

Unfortunately the trees had not yet fully taken on their Autumn raiment, but were well on the way.

New cameras were much in evidence and we expect great things at the showing...

A pleasant stroll around the reservoir turned into a brisk march back to the car to get home in time for lunch, but like the Three Wise Men, we decided to take a different way home and had a pleasant wander through autumn countryside.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

October 17th

October meeting; there was plenty of inspiration for "the shades of Autumn": Leaves, berries, nuts, confers, pumpkins, all challenging shapes and richly coloured. A good morning's session.

Next meeting: "Lest we Forget" . Wednesday 21st November, Venue TBA.

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

October 10th

A very good table full today, with five plus the Leader. Nobody had any real problems and everybody was hard at work with their projects.

JD is due to take an online course in Irish Family History in November, and will report back. He is also about to submit a piece for inclusion in the Journal of the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society.

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.

October 18th

The gardening group held our annual harvest lunch in October. Our usual 'home venue' at Packington village hall again proved to be the perfect place to welcome our members. All those who attended on the day brought an item of food to share and what a fabulous selection there was. We had ample time to chat to friends and new members and we had a lovely afternoon enjoying the company of our very friendly group. The meal was followed by a free raffle, and Dorothy Chapman made the best dressed vegetable - congratulations to her. All members helped to tidy away and the work was done quickly.

History – Leader Jane Harris 01530 838025

October 25th “Tudor Food and Feasting” by 'Yogi' Godwin

'Yogi' is a participant in the Future Learn programme and entertained a record turnout of 54 with an account of life and times in Tudor England and he began by taking us through the Tudor Era, from 1485 with the defeat of Richard III and the accession of Henry VII to the death of Elizabeth I in 1603.

He outlined the key features of Tudor life, and the important changes that occurred in internal and external economics and politics and in people's lives,

Death, disease, weather, the improvements in health and increasing population were vital drivers of change, but above all were the changes in relationships between the population in general and the powers that be. The Dissolution of the Monasteries forced a complete turnover in social conditions, bringing into existence a new order in the rural landscape, and new economics. Education was changing, with the availability of printed books in English. Ashby Grammar School was founded during Henry VIII's reign.

'Yogi' majored on Henry VIII. We were fascinated by the details of his early life and something called the 'Bedding Ceremony'.

We then began to get an insight into courtly dining and feasting. There was a huge emphasis on meat eating, with menus for courtly meals which yielded up to 5,500 calories per day. But on Fish Days the menus included sea creatures which are not fish, such as seals and porpoises, crayfish and sea ducks.

Two meals a day were taken, and the courtiers might spend up to 5 hours a day at table. Eating was governed by protocols covering the use of knives and spoons (no forks!) and the napkin, laid over the left shoulder for wiping the hand which was used for handling food!

No dogs were allowed, you ate quickly and there were elaborate systems for insuring the absolute minimum of wastage. That's very different when compared with today, where it is calculated that restaurants waste up to 40% of the food they buy and families 30%+. The audience was stunned, as our generation wastes very little indeed.

The kitchens were very dangerous places, and served up to 600 meals twice a day. The diners would drink at least 8 pints of ale and 12-18 glasses of wine in the day, so the court must have been a very jolly place!

There was a much more, but time runs out for the recorder, as it did for 'Yogi'! A delectable session, indeed!

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

October 17th – Triumph Motorcycles

Our much delayed trip to Triumph Motorcycles Factory Tour took place on the 17th. We had planned to go last year but the Visitor centre was not completed in time. So 13 members arrived at the Triumph factory gates on their huge site in Hinckley. The whole operation looking much larger than expected.

Triumph bicycles started in Coventry in the 1880's but inevitably turned to motorcycles in 1902. Having survived several previous bankruptcies and mergers it was rescued from bankruptcy yet again in 1983 by John Bloor of Bloor Homes fame, who invested £80m into the company, before he eventually broke even in 2000. He is still the sole owner but his son Nick is now CEO. The company owns 3 factories in Thailand making components and in India and Brazil assembling bikes for the local market. They currently make 50,000 bikes a year.

After the obligatory cup of coffee, we were introduced to our guide for the morning, Roy. In a slick operation we were divested of all cameras, smartphones and coats and kitted out with high-viz jackets and radio earpieces so that we could hear Roy over the noise of the factory. (Actually most of the noise seemed to come not from the machines but from a piercing siren which notified that the production line had stopped. This continued almost the whole time we were there as it also coincided with the workers lunchtime!

The tour started with the huge warehouse where all the incoming components and outgoing bikes are stored. Computerised forklift trucks put all the parts away in the right place and then take them out again when production needs them. From there we went into the factory proper and Roy explained how the various parts particularly the engine crankshafts and camshafts are machined to extremely tight tolerances. We then saw the engine-building line and the bike assembly. Different bikes come down the line and all the right parts miraculously arrive just in time to be fitted. Everything is very much state of the art. Such was Roy's enthusiasm that our 90 min tour was nearer 2 hours as everything was explained in detail yet there was still more to see.

After some lunch in the visitors' café, we had a look round the museum which includes some famous bikes such as Richard Gere's from 'Officer and a Gentleman' and Steve McQueen's iconic fence-leaping bike from 'The Great Escape'. Triumph bikes seem to have been the first choice for the movie makers at one time, having also starred in 'The Wild One' with Marlon Brando amongst others, but recently Japanese bikes seem to prevail.

An excellent tour and so very different to the equally excellent tour of Norton bikes last year where almost everything was done by hand.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

October 29th

We worked today on our shopping. Surprisingly tricky as we also had to deal with the changing forms of the Definite Article as the person referred to changed. Our knowledge of different materials and the items they were used for was also tested. Sometimes to destruction!

We meet again on the 26th November.

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

The book which we read for October was Waterland by Graham Swift. This month we shall be reading The Father by Anton Svensson. At the September meeting we 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

October 11th – The Unicorn Inn, Orton on the Hill

The Luncheon Club gathered at the Unicorn Inn on Thursday 11 October. Nineteen of the 24 that had booked enjoyed a substantial lunch. One was unable to attend due to a hospital appointment; two had to attend a close friend's funeral and one, having had an unexpectedly busy week, decided it would be too much.

The Unicorn provided a good and varied menu including a choice of roast dinners with any pudding on the menus for just £9.95. Everyone was completely satisfied with the food and happy with the very friendly and helpful service. A good time was had by all and most have already signed up for next month's lunch at the Wolferstan Arms, Shuttington on Thursday 8 November where they offer all meals two for the price of one!

All U3A members are welcome to join us, just sign up at the Monthly meeting, email luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk or call 01530 513867 to book a place.

Music Appreciation – Leader David Oakley 01530 563409

October 3rd

With a gathering of nine members at Trish and Paul's we were almost a full house. We welcomed new member Brenda and had an apology from Dorothy.

Sally set us away with a tinkling of the ivories. First was a piano arrangement of Percy Grainger's 'English Country Garden' followed by Erik Satie's 'Gymnopedie No 1'. At some time earlier Satie had described himself as a 'Gymnopaedist'.

Mike followed these with two tracks by Emmylou Harris, a singer and songwriter in the country/folk style. The first song was 'Boulder to Birmingham', in memory of her mentor Gram Parsons. Emmylou is from Birmingham, Alabama. The second track was O'Evangeline'.

Neil was next with Elvis singing 'Blue Moon', followed by the Beatles 'I am the Walrus', a song he described as having lyrics that really don't make any sense but are said to be based on Lewis Carroll. We were unfortunately reminded that it is now more than 50 years since 'The Magical Mystery Tour' album.

Lesley's choice was related to Quincy Jones, having recently seen a film about his life she realised what a musical genius he is, having been named one of the most influential jazz musicians of the 20th century. Her first choice was his recording of 'The Chase' followed by Michael Jackson's 'I can't stop loving you' from his 'Bad' album, which Quincy Jones produced.

To mark the passing of Charles Aznavour Nev chose Jeff Lynne's version of 'She' and then to remember Chas Hodges, of Chas and Dave, 'Ain't no pleasing you'. After so many recent losses, let's hope we don't have to play as many future selections 'In memoriam'.

Trish chose the Jacques Loussier Trio and 'Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor' then, with the harp being a favourite instrument of hers, a piece called 'The Rose Garden'.

Ann has long been a Gilbert and Sullivan fan, although it is rarely heard these days. She had picked the overture from 'Cox and Box', an early piece by the partnership. Her second choice was 'The Washington Post' played by the band of the Royal Marines.

David had decided on opera and played two pieces from Puccini's 'La Boheme' with Luciano Pavarotti and Elizabeth Harwood.

Paul followed this with 'Rainy days and Mondays' by the Carpenters and Neil Diamond's 'He ain't heavy'

And as a final reminder of Chas Hodges, we had 'Rocking Glow Worm' by Chas and Dave.

November 7th is our candlelight supper meeting, 7pm at 43 Cambrian Way.

Quiz group - Leader Malcolm Bird 01530 563872

The group meet at the Bull and Lion, Packington. The Start time is 2.30pm. You do not need to arrange a team before the meeting as teams will be drawn by lots 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.

October 17th

Twenty-two people turned out for the October quiz. Neil Roberts posed the questions this month, introducing some new style brain teasers. As ever there was a lot of laughter and rivalry between the teams which, as usual were picked randomly. Next quiz is on November 21st. We are planning for a quiz every month in 2019.

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

Saturday October 6th – Uttoxeter U3A Recorder Group Playing Day

Joan reported: Marion and I had a brilliant time at Hilderstone. We were part of a group of around 70 players (number limited). The playing was led by Ruth Burbidge, who was inspirational. We played a variety of music, just about within our comfort zones, and even managed to watch her from time to time. She complimented us all on this, and our sight-reading ability: nice!

The cakes provided with the tea and coffee were amazing, too. Chocolate brownie to die for!

A repairer and seller of recorders, Anthony Barrett, was there with some stock and advice. There was some sheet music on sale, too. We bought a few items to try.

It was good experience, playing in a larger group. Perhaps, one day, we might achieve something similar.

Next year the event will be on 5th October, with Helen Hooker leading the playing. She is a well-respected teacher, performer and director. It should be well worth going.

Marion said: It was brilliant to be making music as part of a big enthusiastic group of players. On the face of it they all seemed extremely competent, but talking to one's neighbours after various bits, one discovered that they hadn't managed to play it all either. Very reassuring!

More players in our group would definitely be a welcome addition.

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.

Thursday 25th October. Copt Oak Inn, Markfield

The last time we attempted to eat at the Copt Oak was with the lunch group 6 weeks ago. Unfortunately at the time they had a major water outage which meant that they couldn't operate and we were forced to go elsewhere at very short notice.

This time there were no such problems and we were welcomed to take our places. After a slight delay whilst we waited to see if everyone would arrive, orders were placed from a somewhat confusing but extensive menu of mostly grilled food and eventually everyone seemed to find what they wanted. The pub was fairly busy but despite that the food arrived reasonably promptly and almost everyone seemed to enjoy their meal (There was a small problem of a missing salad and a less than tender steak). The puddings were well received by those wanting something sticky and calorific but then isn't that what puddings are all about! The service was attentive and friendly and we all left suitably replete into the cold night air.

Trips Group – Contact John or Margaret Howlett 01530 461774

“Blood Brothers” and “The Magic Flute” at Theatre Royal Nottingham

John and Margaret are now taking bookings for two outings to the Theatre Royal Nottingham to see “Blood Brothers” on February 12th and “The Magic Flute” on March 19th. See the website for more details or contact Margaret on the number above if you are interested to go. Payment will be needed by the December monthly meeting at the latest.

Thursday 4th October. Birmingham Symphony Hall

Colin had organised a trip to BSH to hear Beethoven's 7th and Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No1 and as the concert started at 7.30pm he had also arranged for us to eat at Carluccio's beforehand. Unfortunately as our numbers increased from 16 to 20, Carluccio's declared that they were unable to cope and left Colin looking for another restaurant at short notice. Fortunately Bistrot Pierre was able to take us in.

We travelled down in 5 cars and all went well until reaching the Aston Expressway which was anything but express! Roadworks around Paradise Circus meant that access to the planned car park was near-impossible, although one driver managed it somehow! Nonetheless we all managed to park somewhere and arrive at the restaurant in time. Service was slow and hence desserts were rushed in order to get away in time, but the food was very good.

The concert was excellent. The young Russian piano soloist, Yulianna Avdeeva, was outstanding in the Tchaikovsky and received multiple ovations. She apparently was the winner of the Chopin Piano Competition in 2010. One didn't need to be an expert to hear that she was very talented indeed.

After the interval, the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra treated us to a marvellous rendition of Beethoven's 7th played with considerable gusto. An excellent evening's entertainment.

Thank you Colin for picking this concert and arranging everything.

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.

16th October. Bradgate Park

17 Walkers left Cropston, walking on a parallel path to the reservoir, then entered Bradgate Park where we climbed to the summit of Old John, which was wreathed in mist on the rather overcast day. Very atmospheric. We stopped here to drink our coffee and get our breath back and enjoy the view. The stags in the park were looking magnificent at this time of the year. We next walked a circuit of Swithland Wood trying not to get lost and on across fields towards the road. There 3 brave men decided to do their good deed for the day and rescued a sheep that was stuck on its back. We finished by walking across the Cropston Dam and back to the Badgers Sett pub in Cropston for an interesting meal!

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman 01530 222634

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

8th October. Saltersford Valley

The walk started at Saltersford Valley and headed north across fields on well-defined paths. It then plunged into the undergrowth where it followed a single file, slightly muddy, path to Oakthorpe Colliery. From there, the route was in Willesley Woods on green paths until the Golf Course was reached. After crossing the golf course the route followed Willesley Lane to Willesley Woodside. Along Willesley Woodside and again into Willesley Woods on green paths, which gave exciting views across the A42. The two brave souls enjoyed warm but overcast weather. Total distance was 4.8 miles.

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.

19th October. Burton Washlands

5 ladies arrived for our October walk around the Washlands at Burton on Trent. It was a lovely autumn day with the sun shining and the trees of all different colours of autumn were a lovely sight. We paused at times to study the wild life, then stopped at the library for our usual coffee and tea break. We then carried on to complete the other half of our walk going over the beautiful painted bridge back to our starting point.

Your Committee

Tony Smith	Chairman	chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 831822
Colin Ellis	Treasurer	treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 272592
Anne Donegan	Business Secretary	secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01283 760348
Iain Banns	Membership Secretary	members@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 416697
Peter Clement	Minutes Secretary	minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 560894
Sheila Dean	Welfare	welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01283 295997
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Mike Stow	Communications	comms@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 469152
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