



Burns Night Supper, Willesley Park Golf Club, Saturday January 26th at 7pm

A reminder that we are holding a Burns Night Supper at the Golf Club on the 26th. Tickets are available from Bill Wilson 01530 413182.

See and hear the piping-in of the haggis and address to the haggis.
Traditional fayre of Soup; Haggis, chicken, neeps and tatties; Cranachan.

£27 including wine and a wee dram.

Interest Groups Timetable for January

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Tue 1st		Bridge	
Wed 2nd	2:00 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 3rd	10:00 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way
Mon 7th	10:00 am	Italian	Lynda's house
Mon 7th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 8th	12.30pm	Calligraphy	At Zamani's Our New Year Meal
Tue 8th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 9th	2:00 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 10th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	Beeches, Ashby
Mon 14th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Meet at The Bradgate Pub, Main St, Newtown Linford, LE6 OAE
Mon 14th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 15th	9:45 for 10:00 start	Walking	Featherbed Lane, Ashby
Wed 16th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Bull and Lion, Packington
Thu 17th	2:00 pm	Gardening	Packington Village Hall Talk by Sally Cunningham (writer, ecologist, professional gardener) on plants from the past. £3 pp
Fri 18th	10:00 am	Short Walks	Meet at 16 Winchester Way
Mon 21st	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Mon 21st	2:00 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Wed 23rd	8.45 at Featherbed Lane	Industrial Heritage	Coventry Transport Museum
Thu 24th	2:00 pm	History	Packington Hall The Metal Detectorist
Sat 26th	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	Burns Night Supper at Willesley Park Golf Club. 3 course meal with wine, Piping in of the Haggis, Address to the Haggis performed by Bill Wilson.
Mon 28th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre

Early February

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 4th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 5th		Walking	Leader required please
Wed 6th	10:00 am	Music Appreciation	Neil's at 40 Willesley Gardens
Mon 11th	TBA	Bridge	TBA
Mon 11th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Dimminsdale CP

*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
Jan	Wendy Somers, Judith Wardell, Jill Carr, Jane Harris	Jim & Bridget Fairway	TBA
Feb	Glenys Morrice, Maggie Rice, Avril Wilson, Beth		

MONTHLY MEETING - Tuesday 11th December

Our Christmas Meeting brought us entertainment from the Church Gresley based Leaside singers.

Dressed in a very festive red, they started with several contemporary songs including Abba's 'Dancing Queen' and 'Lion King' by Elton John.

Then we were entertained by two soloists singing 'Love changes everything', 'Scarlet ribbons' and a humorous Christmas poem. Next followed more traditional music sung by the whole choir.

When the carol sheets appeared we all knew it was audience participation time and we all sang heartily to the Christmas favourites like 'We three Kings' and 'O little town of Bethlehem', finishing with a rousing rendition of 'Oh come all ye faithful'.

The committee then provided tea and coffee with mince pies, shortbread and stollen for everyone.

Next Monthly Meeting on Tue 22nd January at 2 pm

John Winter will give a talk on Intercare, a charity providing medical Aid to Africa and Bob Lilley will give a short talk on the use of defibrillators, where to find them and how to access them.

GROUP REPORTS

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 usually 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.

However, due to refurbishment we will not be able to play at the Ivanhoe Club in January, and probably in February too. In the meantime all sessions will be afternoons at Hood Park.

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

December 11th

Six members met at Gill's house to discuss next year's projects. Lots of ideas were discussed and we settled on an exciting and varied programme of work. After coffee and mince pies we worked on individual pieces on a Christmas theme. The next time we meet will be for our annual meal on January 8th at Zamani's.

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.

17th December

For our last meeting of 2018 5 turned up.

Peter had a problem with his laptop, as two keys were not responding. Unfortunately he could not bring his separate, fully functional keyboard.

John D had a series of issues to discuss:

- 1: He needs to add a larger Hard drive to his laptop. Should he add one installed in the DVD drive bay, or swap out his much smaller Hard Drive? The former solution was much the better, as there could be problems with installing a new copy of Windows on the new Drive otherwise.
- 2: How big and what sort of drive would be compatible. Solved by inspection of the laptop as a) up to 500 Gb, and b) the laptop has a modern SATA architecture
- 3: He cannot get his laptop to print to his Wi-Fi printer, despite it being visible on the list of available printers. Solved by installing the drivers from disc.
- 4: He has a temporary PC to replace his old, flaky, one. He needed to know how to manage things if he extracted the Hard Drive from the old PC and install it in the new. Solved: it is easy to do this and it will also be a good idea to keep all files on the old Hard Drive, but use the new for software. This tactic is advised for the laptop as well.

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.

December

The Group didn't meet this month as the date clashed with the Christmas Lunch. We shall be back in the New Year refreshed and energised. Maybe Santa will have brought some new photographic toys to play with!

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

December

December was meant to be a group visit to Loughborough but only the leader went.

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

December 12th

Our last meeting of the year drew 6 historians and one helpful assistant who also brought mince pies!

The team generally got on with their projects whilst the Leader worked with Keith. Keith has been given access to one side of his Tree that he wants to progress, but unfortunately only as a guest. So he cannot edit it. He will have to request a GEDCOM so that he can upload it to his own Tree software, whether or not he takes out a subscription to an online site.

Meanwhile we took a look at what he could do in research and editing, by using the Leader's own Tree.

Eileen brought some tasty, posh biscuits, and we were served with drinks and mince pies by the Lady of the House.

We meet again on the 9th of January.

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.

December 20th

The group had their Secret Santa meeting at Packington Hall where everyone brought along a small wrapped gift and some food to share.

History – Leader Jane Harris 01530 838025

December

The group did not meet in December but they have a full program of events for 2019 starting with a talk at Packington Hall on 24th January on metal detecting and detectorists.

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

December 12th – Planning Meeting

About a dozen or so members turned up at the Beeches pub in Ashby to decide on what places to visit next year. the list is still provisional at the moment but our first trip will be to Coventry Transport Museum on January 23rd.

Details of other trips will appear on the website soon.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

December 3rd

We continued shopping, with much dialogue and exercises in noun/adjective agreement. This was tested with listening to the CD and practicing purchases and vocabulary.

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

Last month the group read and discussed "The Keeper of Things" by Ruth Hogan and next month will be reading "Lady's Maid" by Margaret Forster

Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland 01530 413867

December 6th – Christmas lunch at Willesley Park Golf Club

63 members sat down to lunch to some excellent food with the usual good company. In order to help with service, the Club had asked for a seating plan in advance which caused a few headaches for the organisers, Anne and Mike, as they had to decide who sat with whom. Hopefully everyone was seated with the right people! The Golf Club did us proud.

We are back to normal on January 10th at the Beeches, Ashby

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

December 5th

Sallie gave us a cosy welcome on a damp December morning with the extra added benefit of her home-made mince pies. With our hostess there were nine of us in number, with an apology from Neil.

Sallie launched the morning with two pieces from the seasonal Nutcracker, 'The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy' and 'The Dance of the Mirlitons'.

Mike followed with a new one for us, Donald Fagan's 'I.G.Y, (International Geophysical Year)' and a second choice of 'These Foolish Things' from the Stephen Grappelli and Michael Petrucciani Flamingo album.

Paul continued with Andy Williams' 'I won't last a day without you' and the Andrew Lloyd Webber song written for the Barcelona Olympics 'Amigos Para Siempre' sung by Sarah Brightman and Jose Carreras.

David had picked an old favourite, 'The folks that live on the hill' sung by Peggy Lee and with a nod to the coming year end, 'The Perfect Year' from Lloyd Webber's Sunset Blvd.

Nev took a real Christmas theme with 'Santa Baby' by Eartha Kitt and 'This is the truth / Sing, sing all earth' by Maggie Prior and the Carnival Band.

Ann continued the festive theme with 'Ding dong merrily on High' and 'Joy to the world' by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Trish chose John Denver's 'Wild Montana Sky' and the overture to Rossini's opera 'Il Signor Bruschino'.

Dorothy kept us on the Xmas track with 'I'll be home for Christmas' by Michael Bublé and the German carol 'O du frohliche, o du selige, gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit'.

Last but not least, Lesley chose Wagner's 'Ride of the Valkyries'.

Another very enjoyable session and Sallie completed the morning by playing 'Once in Royal David's City'.

As usual our group doesn't have a January meeting but we assemble again on Wednesday 6th February, so you have plenty of time to sort out your music choices. The meeting will be hosted by Neil at 40 Willesley Gardens.

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.

December 12th

Several of our regular players were abroad at the time of the December quiz and at least three more were unwell. However, 17 people turned out and enjoyed questions provided by Steve Sinfield. We now look forward to 2019 which will be our fifth calendar year - completing the 60th meeting in October. Best wishes, Malcolm.

The Bull and Lion has now been booked for the third Wednesday of each month for the whole of 2019.

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

The recorder group is a small but enthusiastic group. However more players in our group would definitely be a welcome addition.

December 12th

It was our last meeting of the year, so we played some Christmas carols this morning (surprise!). Our recent purchases of music included 3-part arrangements of 20 carols, so we tried a few of those. The level of difficulty was just about right.

We are going on a trip in January, to an event organised by "Music for All" in Nottingham. On Saturday, 5th January, we are off to the Albert Hall (in Nottingham) to "Dust off" our instruments. This involves playing in a larger group of recorder players during the afternoon, and performing in a concert at the end of the day. It will be great to meet other "local" recorder players. We have been sent the music, so we have been doing some practising.

In March (9th), there is an opportunity to join the Warwick branch of the Society of Recorder Players at Stoneleigh, for a playing day, led by Marg Hall, a lady well known and respected in recorder circles. As well as directing recorder groups, she is a teacher, and composer of playable music. We have been playing one of her suites this morning.

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.

December

We did not meet in December as it fell on the day after Boxing Day and in January the Burns Night Supper is only two days after our usual date, so we shall join the Burns revellers at the Golf Club. Tickets for that are available from Bill Wilson at the Dec 11th monthly meeting. £27 including wine.

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.

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.

18th December. Gelsmoor, Coleorton and Swannington

It was a cloudy, cool, sometimes drizzly winters day with heavy rain forecast. We did a linear walk, of about 6.5 miles, to Swannington starting at Featherbed Lane, Ashby. 16 walkers set off at 10am passing M&S, over the M42 at Flagstaff Island to go down the short permissive path off the A512, and join the track which took us through Rough Park to the New Lount Nature Reserve. We stopped here for our mid-morning break of coffee, bananas etc. before setting off again to Gelsmoor, through Coleorton and up to Hough Mill. It was downhill from here, over Swannington Common into Swannington village, and the warm Robin Hood pub for a lovely lunch. Here we met others of our group who had not braved the threat of rain and driven there. After lunch, it was raining, and those who didn't scrounge lifts back with the drivers caught the No 29 bus back to Ashby.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman 01530 222634

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

10th December. East Midlands Airport led by Barry Quelch

Five men attended the venue in Diseworth Road to accompany the leader along The Airport Trail. It was a fine, dry day, warmish with some cold breeze. There was a little shower later on. We set off clockwise along the North side fence of the airport, mostly on made paths, with some grass and tarmac. Along the way we stopped to examine the art installations provided by the airport to the designs of various local groups. As we approached the Eastern end we saw the huge warehouse site under construction on former farmland. Turning South we left the fence and followed the line of the A453 across a field and through wooded areas. Turning West we followed the South side of the airport boundary, passing the various hotels, through a plantation area parallel to the new A453. Continuing over the various airport entrances we carried on through the trees, seeing the large carparks and the DHL warehouses. We also passed more art installations and balancing ponds. There wasn't much wildlife along the way, maybe better luck in the Summer. We did manage to fit in one stile on the way. Reaching the Western end of the boundary we turned North, declining the alternative route through the picnic/viewing area, and then East. After examining the final art installation we left the airport grounds and walked along the roadside verge and into the Aeropark carpark. One final section of trees led back to Diseworth Road and the cars. The path was well defined and in good condition, there are a few slopes but no steep hills. Total distance was 6.2 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.

14th December. Walk around the lake at Hicks Lodge

6 intrepid walkers met at Hicks lodge for a walk around the lake. It was gloriously sunny if cold. The walk is just under 1 and 1/3 miles which we completed it in less than an hour. We admired the new information board, more a work of art, several of which are appearing all over the National Forest. After the walk we had tea and cake at the Hicks Lodge Cafe.

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
Isobel Salt	Speaker seeker	speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01283 222869
Mike Stow	Communications	comms@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 469152
Colin Woodland	Groups Coordinator	interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413867
Val Reed	Member	val@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 564279
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