



# Ashby U3A



## Newsletter April 2019

### A REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your membership renewal **was due on 1st April**. The fee this year is £16.50, or £13.00 if you are the 2nd member at one address or a fully paid up member at another U3A.

If you have already renewed, thank you, and please ignore this reminder. If not, then please read on.

Renewal forms are downloadable by clicking on the "Information" tab on the website at [www.ashbyu3a.co.uk](http://www.ashbyu3a.co.uk) or from the Membership Sec., Iain Banns, on 01530 416697.

**Please don't just send money, we need the completed form to comply with Data Protection legislation.**

**Those who have not renewed by May 7th at the very latest will no longer receive Third Age Matters magazine and cannot unfortunately be considered as members until they do rejoin.**

## **Interest Groups Timetable for May**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Venue or Meeting point</b>
Wed 1st	10 am	Music Appreciation	Lesley's 75 Leicester Rd, Measham, DE12 7JG
Wed 1st	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 2nd	10 am	Recorder	Joan's house
Thu 2nd	10 am	Digital Photography	Church interiors. Meet at Winchester Way
Mon 6th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 7th	9:45 for 10 start	Walking	Crown Inn, Debdale Hill, Old Dalby, LE14 3LF
Wed 8th	2:00 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 9th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	Cross Keys, 9 Worthington Lane, Newbold, Coleorton, LE67 8PJ
Mon 13th	9.45 for 10 start	Medium Walks	Rawdon Rd entrance to Conkers
Mon 13th	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 14th	10 am	Calligraphy	At Anne's. Precisely presented text - free choice.
Tue 14th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 15th	9.30 at Featherbed Lane	Industrial Heritage	Belper North Mill tour plus walking tour of Belper
Wed 15th	10 am	Drawing & painting	Meet at Hood Park Gates at 10am To walk Ashby outdoor Art Trail
Wed 15th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Bull and Lion, Packington
Thu 16th	9:30 am depart	Gardening	Depart Royal Hotel for visit to Hidcote Manor Gardens
Fri 17th	10 am	Short Walks	Meet at Waterside entry to Conkers
Mon 20th	2 pm	Computing	16 Winchester Way
Mon 20th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 21st	10 am start	Walking	Peveril Castle CP, Cross Street, Castleton, Derbys. S33 8WH
Wed 22nd	9.:30 am	Italian	Lynda's house
Wed 22nd	Concert starts at 7.30pm	Trips and Outings	Birmingham Symphony Hall. A concert of Russian music.
Thu 23rd	2 pm	History	Packington Hall. John Whitehead - 'Richard III'
Thu 23rd	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	The Otter, London Rd, Kegworth, DE74 2EY (On the A6 between Hathern and Kegworth)
Mon 27th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre

## **Early June**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Venue or Meeting point</b>
Mon 3rd	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 4th	10 am start	Walking	TBA
Wed 5th	10 am	Music Appreciation	TBA
Wed 5th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 6th	9:45 am	Digital Photography	Holme Pierre Point Country Park. Meet at Winchester Way for Car share

\*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](http://www.ashbyu3a.co.uk)

## **Tea Rota etc. for the monthly meetings**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Tea and Coffee Rota</b>	<b>Meeters and Greeters</b>	<b>Reporting Groups</b>
May	Margaret Baxendale, Neil Roberts, Leslie Roberts	Kevin & Chris Green	Italian and Literature
June	Anne Donegan, Lesley Thomas, David Thomas, Maureen Broad		Lunch and Medium Walks

### **MONTHLY MEETING** - Tuesday 23rd April – “There will never be another you”

Paul Newsham, a retired forensic expert witness, gave us a talk on Biometrics which is the technical term for body measurement and calculations.

Paul who is now a social historian and lecturer on forensics explained about the various uniquenesses of human beings and how these are being used in today’s modern society and environs as a means of identification. However all is not new as fingerprints were being used to identify workers and their work as early as Egyptian times so that their masters knew who to pay and how much work each individual had done.

He told us how eyes, teeth, ears, feet and of course DNA may be used as unique identifiers of individuals as well as the more familiar fingerprints. Imprints of body parts other than fingers can be left at a crime scene and these too may be used for identification.

He also pointed out that humans are capable of identifying others by simpler methods such as size, gender, body and facial characteristics whether from the front, sides or even behind, although even trained observers are not as accurate as we sometimes think.

Through a number of stories, anecdotes and demonstrations using members of the audience he informed, interested and amused us for an hour or more whilst also bringing in elements of theology, philosophy, biology and ethics as well as the forensics and biometrics which formed the basis of the talk.

There are so many things about us which are different to everyone else and which may be used to uniquely identify us from others, and so we all left a very enjoyable talk knowing that “there will never be another you.”

### **Next Monthly Meeting on Tue 28th May at 2 pm**

Leslie Powell will be telling us all about Guide Dogs for the blind

## **GROUP REPORTS**

### **Arts and Crafts**

I understand that the Arts and Crafts Group is being resurrected. Details are a bit scarce at the moment but if you are interested in joining please contact our Groups Co-ordinator, Colin Woodland, on 01530 413867 or [interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk) if you haven't been in touch yet.

### **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 every Monday alternately 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 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**

9th April

This morning 6 members of the Calligraphy Group met with the intention of continuing with the theme of planning and organisation needed for a piece of work.

There is so much more to calligraphy than just producing a nice piece of writing.

Things to consider include letter ascenders and descenders, spaces between words, thickness or thinness of letter strokes, decorations and illustrations - we need to practise more!

'Calligraphy paints words'.

### **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.

18th March

Five today.

Steve worked with Carolyn to install Open Office as a replacement for Windows Office and Outlook. Her work license for MS Office from a previous job is no longer valid. She also needed to get Open Office to be the default software to open existing documents.

She also wished to delete old work-related files and a discussion ensued on the best way to tackle this: Sort files into groups then delete en bloc, or work through the complete list deleting them one by one? We managed to find a way that Carolyn could group files for block deletion.

Mike and JD talked further about clearing data from old laptops and looked at JD's Windows XP and Office 2000 CDs to establish a tactic for wiping any sensitive data from old laptops before sale.

### **Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148**

17th April

Four of us met to draw and paint something beginning with B.

Lesley painted a budgerigar,

Megan drew a bay she had visited,

Sharon painted a brown Bulmer's bottle (how is that for Bs)

and John painted a butterfly (a painted lady).

Christine could not be present but sent a coloured drawing of Beryl the Peril.

## **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.

### **4th April**

Five of us went to the Attenborough Nature Reserve south west of Nottingham to see what we could see. It was a very cold and blowy day, but we had a good hour of wandering about this superb facility trying to catch glimpses of rare birds.

The facility is based around the Centre which is on an island, with spurs off into the surrounding lakes. Overall it is vast, so we concentrated on locations within easy walking distance of the Centre and its cafe. There was still a great deal of wildlife activity to see.

Among the birds we caught sight of were Tufted Ducks, Red Crested Pochards (quite rare this far north it seems) the spectacular Egyptian Goose (at least two breeding couples with young) a Heron and Sand Martins. These latter were concentrated at a large wall next to the main hide and devilish hard to photograph.

There were plenty of the usual suspects, such as swans, ducks, coots, geese and Canada Geese. Sightings of a Golden Eagle and an Albatross have been discounted.

We had plenty of opportunity to try out our techniques, but with frozen fingers we welcomed the obligatory retreat to the café.

## **Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148**

### **10th April**

A very pleasant session today in the sunshine, with seven 'hunters' present. Everybody continues work on their trees, with Audrey developing her paperwork and research files.

John H had a conundrum with two baptisms for the same name child to the same parents in the same location but two years apart. It is possible that the first child died and his name was re-used for the second but there is so far no sign of a death recorded.

Ana has been tracing her first name back but it seems to originate from out of the blue in the 19th century.

Eileen had no issues, but Rosemary was puzzled by an entry in the 1939 Register in which a family name was altered to one she does not recognise. As far as she knows this is not a name change on marriage, but will see if there was a second marriage unknown in the family.

Keith found a child on the 1911 Census, listed as 'grandson', but with only one candidate for mother, who was, however, listed as 'Unmarried'. Later he found this woman, still unwed, naming another with the child's surname, in her Probate documents. He is now off on the hunt for this lady.

We had a general discussion on DNA testing types of which there are three. Only one will be of much use to Family Tree hunters, and then only for about 200 years back, when it becomes too diluted.

Later John D located a simple 'Janet and John' routine from a Facebook page for uploading the results of a DNA test to various resources. He will email this directly to the Group.

## **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.

### **18th April**

We had a craft based meeting today given by Tina on making an Easter wreath which seemed to go down very well with our members. We had a circular metal frame and we were shown how to attach a ribbon then some moss into which we attached our flowers. It was nice to learn a new craft, very good for a first attempt.

We also held a free raffle with 6 plants as prizes.

## **History – Leader Jane Harris 01530 838025**

### **25th April**

The History Group undertook a self-drive visit to the Civil War Museum in Newark on 25th April. All the participants somehow found their way into the café during the morning. The museum is sited alongside a theatre almost a century old and shares reception facilities. We were fortunate in being able to enjoy a short tour into the auditorium, which was a most excellent medium sized theatre with original features. As with so many such buildings, it fell onto hard times during the middle of the past century but has since been rescued and restored with a secure future. Our group then split into smaller parties for lunch.

We gathered again for a brief introductory talk before starting our independent tours. There was a film show which told the story of Newark during the sieges of the war from the viewpoint of individual families who suffered plague, hunger and bombardments. The various exhibits told the history of the Civil War with examples of the weapons, clothing, armour and medical instruments of the period.

It makes one glad to live in the 21st Century, even if we do have to live through Brexit!

The Museum also contained exhibits relating to the other local history of the town including a fabulous iron age necklace or torc weighing 700g and dating to between 200 and 50 BC and found again in 2005.

After a fascinating afternoon, we made our way back home: the hardy to participate in Supper Club later, those less adventurous, perhaps to cocoa by the fire.

## **Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152**

### **24th April – Taylors Bell Foundry, Loughborough**

Loughborough's Bell Foundry is truly part of our Industrial Heritage. The company was founded in the middle of the 14thC when Johannes de Stafford was active only 10 miles from the present site. From 1784 the business was operated by the Taylor family and in 1839 moved to its present location. It is now the last remaining bell foundry in the country and the largest in the world.

As they weren't casting on the day of our visit, we 24 were shown a short film showing how the bell moulds are created and how the bell-metal is poured into the moulds. Bell metal is similar to bronze but with a higher tin content 22% rather than 12%, the composition of which was discovered in China 3000 years ago. Above all other materials, it gives a nice sound and also doesn't corrode.

We were then let into the bell museum back room and allowed to strike the many various old bells, of various tones and some of various metals, all to our hearts' content. It is surprising how little force is needed to make a loud noise!

From there we entered the factory proper to see bells both old and new being prepared for installation. Taylors do not just cast the bells. They make the headstocks from which the bells hang, the frames in which they sit and the steelwork or woodwork which fits into the bell towers. They also make the wooden bell wheels to which the rope attaches and which is used to make the bell swing. Everything is made pretty much by hand or by ancient machinery.

We then saw the only bit which is modern, that being the bell tuning. As cast, the bells are not necessarily in tune either to themselves (bells make several notes when struck) or to other bells in a set. Taylors themselves developed the Five Tone Principle in 1896 by which all five principle harmonics are fine-tuned to give a purity of tone. The tones are nowadays measured by computer but it is still down to one man to machine small amounts of metal off the bell by hand at the right places to get the bell in tune. Take off too much and the bell will sound flat and would be scrap!

Taylors claim to have cast more large bells than any other foundry in the world and have made more than 200 bells larger than 2 tons since 1862. The largest is Great Paul for St Pauls Cathedral in London weighing in at almost 17 tons and cast in 1881. However the largest functioning bell in the world was cast on New Years Eve 2000 in China and weighs a staggering 116 tonnes.

We then looked at the foundry shop itself, where the bell moulds are buried in the ground before casting. This is to get them low enough to be able to pour into safely but mostly so that they cool down slowly without cracking.

After a return to the museum shop for some of us to buy trinkets and mementos, we retired to the Three Nuns pub for lunch and to discuss all that we had seen and heard. Another great day out.

Next month's outing will be a week earlier than usual, on May 15th, with a visit to Stott's North Mill at Belper, one of the very first factories in the world followed by a guided tour around the old town to show its connections to the mill.

### **Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922**

#### **29th April**

The usual suspects were all in class, although SOME did not do their homework!

Today we worked on the use of the past tense with Avere and Essere. Our subjects were people who were telling of their holiday and leisure activities.

We followed a group of people who went on a short break to London. First we heard them describing their daily activities, whilst trying to follow them with pictures. Then we had to test whether one of the characters remembered correctly what he had been doing.

Then followed an exercise in using Siamo or Abbiamo and agreement, taking examples from each day of their visit.

We next meet on Wednesday May 22nd at Lynda's house at 9.30 am.

### **Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653**

Last month the group read and discussed "The L-shaped Room" by Lynne Reid-Banks and next month will be reading "The Hidden Figure" by Margot Lee Shatterly

## **Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland 01530 413867**

### **14th March**

The Luncheon Club began to gather at 12 noon at the Angel in Coleorton. Sixteen in all sat down to choose from a substantial and well thought out Menu. A good number chose the very reasonably priced Lunch carvery while others opted for something slightly more exotic.

Conversation flowed throughout the meal and one or two new attendees got to know those who were more regular "Luncheoners".

The staff were very attentive, pleasant and helpful. The meals were well cooked and very well presented. By 2.30 all were satisfactorily "fed and watered" and we all went on our way rejoicing in the knowledge that we will meet again at the Cross Keys, Newbold LE67 8PJ on 6 May 2019 for another jolly good time.

All U3A members are welcome to join us, just sign up at the Monthly meeting, email [luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk) or call 01530 413867 to book a place.

## **Music Appreciation – [musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk)**

### **3rd April**

It is with regret that we have to say goodbye, or at least adieu, to four of our members this month. David and Ann have decided to withdraw from U3A and Paul and Tricia are moving away from Ashby. We are sorry to see you all go and thank you all for all you have contributed to the Group especially to David for leading it so well and for so long. We hope to see you all about in the future.

We therefore needed a new leader and so, without too much arm-twisting, Lesley has agreed to take over. Emails to [musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk) will now go to her and her phone number is also on the website. Here is her first report:

"As it would appear that I have volunteered myself as leader of the music group it beholds me to write this news letter, not something that comes easily to me so bear with me.

We were a select group at Sallie's house and we thank her for hosting this month.

Bob started us off with "Jackie" from "The Scott Walker Collection" (yet another artist to have departed recently) and continued with an artist few of us had heard before - Camille O'Sullivan and a live performance of "Look Mummy" from the CD "La Fille Du Cirque"

Mike gave us a different rendition of "From A Distance" by Nanci Griffith followed by "Love At The Five And Dime" both from "The Best of Nanci Griffith".

Nev brought the amazing Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong singing, topically, "April In Paris" from "Ella and Friends". He continued with two little known pieces by Harry Nilsson, "Mr Richard's Favourite Song" and the lullaby "Little Cowboy".

Lesley had Don Mclean's CD "American Pie" and played two of the lesser known songs "Empty Chairs" and "Everybody Loves Me Baby".

Brenda gave us an older recording of "Tenderly" by Sarah Vaughan from "The Jazz Selection Vol 1", and after all those classic songs she woke us all up with Jerry Lee Lewis and "Great Balls Of Fire".

Sallie, from "The Greatest Classical Stars On Earth" CD, played Grieg's "Morning" from Peer Gynt and followed it with "The Flight Of The Bumblebee" because she had seen one in the week.

We ended with some great tunes from Sir Tom Jones from a CD Nev got free with the daily paper."

Next month's meeting is on 1st May at Lesley's house, 75 Leicester Road, Measham DE12 7JG



### **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.

#### **17th April**

After having a number of guest quizmasters recently, Malcolm returned to the hot seat with his usual mix of brain-taxing questions. Approximately 20 quizzers took part and had an entertaining afternoon.

### **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.

“O joy, O rapture! We have a new member! Well, she's coming to give us a try. We are meeting on Thursday 2nd May, at my place, usual time. She plays with Lichfield U3A, and is planning to come next week. Fingers crossed!

Trios again! I must try not to get over-excited. I might scare her off.”

Joan.

More new members would still be welcome.

### **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 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.

#### **25th April – The Unicorn, Orton on the Hill**

It was nice to drive out to the pub in daylight, sunshine even, for the first time this year. Spring is here at last. Because the History Group were on an awayday that afternoon and because of the proximity to Easter we were down to just nine members. Two of them, Colin and Caryl, are new to Ashby U3A and trying out the Supper Club hospitality. I hope we didn't let them down.

The pub was a little quiet, again probably due to the closeness to Easter, but it made a change from some of the noisier venues we have been to before and we could all hear each other to talk to.

There was ample choice on the menu and specials board for everyone to find just what they fancied and the food all came up looking delicious, which it was. As ever, the usual suspects managed to get through three courses while most at least managed a dessert. Always a good sign of good food. We have been here before with the lunch group and the evening meals were as good as lunchtimes.

Next month (May 23rd) we shall be trying somewhere new to most of us – The Otter just south of Kegworth on the A6 and which backs on to the River Soar. Hopefully it will live up to expectations.

### **Trips Group – Contact John or Margaret Howlett 01530 461774**

There were no trips organised this month so nothing to report, however coming up next month is

### **27th May – “A concert of Russian music” at Birmingham Symphony Hall**

22 people have signed up for this and it is now sold-out. Colin will be arranging car-sharing and has arranged a meal at Bistrot Pierre before the concert. Details are being sent out to those going.

### **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.

#### **2nd April. Wysall, Notts. Led by James Bloor.**

19 members of the Long Walks Group took heed of the weather forecast and dressed accordingly for a 7.5 mile stroll through rolling Nottinghamshire countryside. From Wysall we walked north-east to the outskirts of Keyworth, where we turned south-east uphill on Wolds Lane before heading south to North Lodge Farm. Here a thick hedge offered shelter from the wind and rain for our coffee stop. We continued through the delightful village of Widmerpool before enjoying extensive views over fields and woods to the south. Our route now took us westwards, through fields and small woods back to the lovely village of Wysall for a well-deserved lunch at The Plough Inn. We had an interesting encounter with a dozen young and inquisitive bullocks and walked through a couple of fields holding horses.

#### **16th April. Middleton-by-Wirksworth. Led by Paul McKay**

Starting at the Rising Sun Inn in Middleton-by-Wirksworth, 19 walkers set forth on a cool but dry morning. After a short way along the main road we entered the car park for the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, and walked along a narrow gauge railway. This was a restored remnant of the many quarry railways in the area. We climbed up steps to the site of very old lead mine workings and spoil heaps, The Gang Mine Nature Reserve. From here, we had a panoramic view of a huge working quarry. Retracing our steps, we followed a footpath and crossed a road to Black Rocks. After a steady climb to the flat top of the rocks, we enjoyed a glorious (but misty) view of the Derwent valley with Riber Castle on the horizon. After a meander through the woods above the rocks, we descended to the High Peak Trail for a short coffee break. Then it was the challenge of the Middleton Incline, with artefacts of the mechanism that lowered wagons full of limestone and raised empty wagons between the railway levels. Thankfully, at Middleton Top, there was seating for a short recovery period and time to take in the information on the very old steam engine that powered The Incline. Westward, to a footpath past a derelict farm and a short road section before entering a footpath on a disused quarry road. This led us upward through a wood which cleared to give us better views of the valley to the north and of Black Rocks. Descending steep steps we arrived back on the main road through Middleton with the pub only a short level walk away. Overall, a walk of varied terrain and quite challenging at times at 6.4 miles duration.

### **Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman 01530 222634**

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

#### **8th April. Newton Regis. Led by Barry Quelch**

Six members completed this walk. The walk started out cool and overcast with a cold breeze, later the sun attempted to come out. Much of the walk was on bridle paths and farm roads, there were some crops, mostly ankle deep, to walk through, and some grass fields. The going underfoot was generally good although the Salt Street was uneven with standing water. The walk went NE from Newton Regis to Salt Street (apparently so named because of the transport of salt from Cheshire in the Middle Ages), Eastward across the M42. From there we went along a bridle road to Austrey. Going Southwest then Northwest we re-crossed the M42 to re-enter Newton Regis from the South. Walking along Main Street, past the church and large duck pond, we reached the car park at the Village Hall. The walk was 5.9 miles and took 2h35m.

### **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 April – A walk in Calke Abbey grounds led by John H**

A glorious Easter had been promised and Good Friday certainly lived up to that description. Ten of us met at Ticknall village hall, which was busy organising the Ashby Art Club Easter Exhibition. We took the normal path towards Calke but stayed outside the main park until we reached the new entrance. The path and carpark was complete but not yet in use. We met a group probably of volunteers building what they called a human scale badger sett to allow children to see what a badger sett looks like from the inside. We took the path towards the main house and cafes passing a large group of mainly families doing an Easter egg hunt. We thought with the number of people present the café would be crowded but it was not, so we had our drinks and planned the next three walks before returning to the cars and home. The walk was about 3 1/2 miles – a bit longer than usual but we all agreed that on such a lovely day we could walk a bit further..

### **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	Social Secretary	val@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 564279
Avril Wilson	Member	avril@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413182
Bill Wilson	Member	bill@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413182