



Ashby U3A



Notice of Annual General Meeting

23rd July 2019

Members of the Ashby de la Zouch U3A are hereby formally notified that their 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 2pm on Tuesday 23rd July 2019 at Ashby Congregational Church, Kilwardby St, Ashby de la Zouch.

All fully paid up members of Ashby de la Zouch U3A may attend, make nominations and vote.

AGM Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Group Co-ordinator's Report
7. Election of Committee
8. Any other business

Please send any items you wish added to "Any other business" to the Minutes Secretary at minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk. Items must be received by Tuesday 16th July.

Following the AGM our guest speaker Graham Short will give a talk called "The Hands of Genius"

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

As always at this time of year, we are seeking new committee members.

Tony Smith is standing down from the post of Chairman this year, as required by the constitution but hoping to remain on the committee, and two other committee members are resigning. We therefore would like some new members on the committee. No special skills are required, just a willingness to help move our U3A forward. We need "new blood" to help keep our U3A vibrant and interesting. Please consider putting yourself forward – we would be very happy to have you "on board"!

If you feel you could help us, please submit the following form or speak to any member of the committee.

Present committee as elected or re-elected in 2018

Position	
Chairperson	Tony Smith†*
Business secretary	Anne Donegan
Membership secretary	Iain Banns
Treasurer	Colin Ellis
Group coordinator	Colin Woodland
Minutes secretary	Peter Clement*
Communications	Mike Stow*
Speaker seeker	Isobel Salt†
Welfare	Sheila Dean†
w/o portfolio	Bill Wilson
w/o portfolio	Avril Wilson

† standing down * seeking re-election

Committee Nomination Form

Name	
Signature	
Proposer	
Proposer's Signature	
Secunder	
Secunder's Signature	

Completed nomination forms should be to be sent to the secretary, Anne Donegan, 41 Park Rd, Moira, Swadlincote, DE12 6BJ, or handed to any committee member, to be received no later than 7 days before the start of the AGM. The Proposer and Secunder can be any paid-up member of Ashby U3A.

Newsletter June 2019

Interest Groups Timetable for July

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 1st	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 2nd	09:45 for 10:00 start	Walking	Staunton Harold Car Park see note.
Wed 3rd	10 am	Music Appreciation	Brenda's at 36 Willesley Gardens
Wed 3rd	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 4th	9:30 am	Digital Photography	Visit Donington either the air museum or track. Meet at Winchester Way for car share
Thu 4th	10 am	Recorder	Joan's house
Mon 8th	9.45 for 10am start	Medium Walks	Meet in High St Milton opposite the pub
Mon 8th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 9th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 10th	2 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 11th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	The Odd House Inn, Snareston, DE12 7DQ
Mon 15th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Mon 15th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 16th		Walking	TBA
Wed 17th	10 am	Drawing and painting	Meet at Megan's house. Suggested theme: Something beginning with M or S
Wed 17th	2:30 pm	Quiz	CANCELLED. See group report for more details
Thu 18th	9 am	Gardening	Powis Castle (National Trust) Coach trip. Departs Royal Hotel 9 am
Thu 18th	10 am	Recorder	Joan's house
Fri 19th	10 am	Short Walks	Meet at Conkers main car park
Mon 22nd	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Thu 25th	2 pm	History	Packington Hall. Brian Johnson - 'Made in Leics'
Thu 25th	7 for 7:30 pm	Supper Club	The Rising Sun, Shackerstone, CV13 6NN
Mon 29th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Wed 31st	TBA	Industrial Heritage	Cliffe Hill quarry near Markfield

Early August

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Thu 1st	9:30 am	Digital Photography	Holme Pierre Point Country Park. Meet at Winchester Way for car share
Thu 1st	10 am	Arts and Crafts	2 Marlborough Way.
Tue 6th	9:45 for 10am start	Walking	TBA
Wed 7th	10 am	Music Appreciation	TBA
Wed 7th	2 pm	Computer	TBA

*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
July	Pat & Terry Bithell, Julia Fraser, Henry Sharples	TBA	Music Appreciation and Quiz
Aug	The Committee for Cream Tea	A Committee member	none

LAST MONTHLY MEETING - Tuesday 25th June – “From Barrow to Baghdad and back again” by Philip Caine

We did not know what to expect from the title "From Barrow to Baghdad" But Once Philip Caine started talking we were all fascinated.

Philip talked about his working life in remote and dangerous places across the world.

After declining his father’s recommendation to start an apprenticeship in the Barrow in Furness shipyards, he decided he wanted to train as a chef and he quickly worked his way up through the ranks of prestigious hotels in Europe eventually managing a hotel back in Barrow. He then took a step down, but for more money and time off, to go cooking on oil rigs for the vastly differing palates of the Scots and French workers. He again quickly progressed to managing not just the food but the whole accommodation arrangements for several oil rigs.

Philip then took us off to Africa, working in both Algeria and Nigeria to co-ordinate the building of accommodation blocks for oil companies, in the very differing terrains of the desert and the jungle.

Then returning to Barrow for leave back to his wife and family between times.

We were then transported to Kazakhstan and building of an accommodation block for an American gas company, with the added excitement of Alexei the Russian KGB colonel and his connection to the Russian mafia. he entertained us with stories of bandits stealing food from the road convoys and how the KGB helped out by arranging for charter planes to fly the supplies to a nearby airfield.

After being persuaded by Alexei to first build, and then run, a casino for the workers in Kazakhstan, he decided to personally invest in the building of a hotel out there, but the timing turned out to be terrible as his lender, the bank Enron, collapsed and he lost a lot of money when the hotel was repossessed.

So he went back to work to pay off his debts, this time to Baghdad, where he worked on a contract for the Americans to build accommodation blocks in 3 months for 30,000 troops of the US military. He also set up charter flights with Alexei to transport the mainly Asian support workers home on leave via Dubai when none of the big airlines would fly into Baghdad. When the US military asked how he could get flights into Baghdad he told them “I’ve got a KGB Colonel with contacts to the Moscow mafia who arranged it”. They laughed and never realised it was the truth!

2 years after losing his money, he had repaid his debt.

Philip then took Sandra, his wife to go and live in Dubai, to set up his own company which went well until the arrival of Isis caused trouble through the Middle East.

Philip then returned home and tried retirement, but found shopping and cleaning boring, so he enrolled in a writers’ course. This has now lead to him writing six adventure thriller books based around his own times in the Middle East. When his manuscripts were turned down by publishers, he started his own publishing company, found a printers, and got his books into Waterstones, WH Smith and Amazon.

His days are now filled with writing and promotional speaking for his books. It was an example of how life can be, if you take a chance!

Next Monthly Meeting on Tue 23rd July at 2 pm This will start with our AGM and then Graham Short will give us an intriguingly-titled talk called “The hands of genius”

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts

The Group will not be meeting in June or July due to various commitments but will next gather at 2 Marlborough Way on Aug 1st at 10 am. If you are interested in joining please contact Sharon on 01530 413867 or artcraft@ashbyu3a.co.uk.

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

11th Jun

This month's meeting was the last opportunity to complete our precise piece of text which we have been working on for a number of meetings. We took the opportunity to discuss what we had done and everyone was very positive in their attitude to a piece of writing that had taken careful planning and measuring of guide lines to achieve even sized letters which was quite a contrast to the informal, self expressive texts we have enjoyed. Some of the group then showed us the range of pieces they had done during their time in the group and we all agreed that we had come a long way since we first started.

Many thanks to Gill who has given us help and constructive feed back over the last few meetings. It was much appreciated.

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 June

Only four today, then Steve had to leave early. As nobody had any great problems to solve there was not much to talk about, although we covered the subject of mobile phones, their storage capacities, battery lives and related issues.

When you are looking to buy a new phone it is best to get one with plenty of in-built memory as this cannot be updated later. Memory in phones comes in three sorts: system RAM, which should nowadays be ideally 4 GB or more; user RAM, which really needs to be 32 GB or more, otherwise you wont be able to fit all the apps that you want on the phone; and removeable MicroSD card storage, which can be used to store all your photos on. This comes in all sizes and modern phones can take cards from 8 GB up to 256 GB and this can be removed and upgraded if needed.

The best advice seems to be to back up to the Cloud, so that everything is saved should you lose your phone, but be careful of the cost of data when saving via 3G/4G. if you don't have a large data allowance, wait until you've got free Wi-Fi, such as at home, to upload your data. A tip for extending battery life between charges is to switch off Wi-Fi when out and about. It isn't needed to make and

receive phone calls but keeps your phone active updating apps and searching for Wi-Fi hotspots even when there are none, and thus using up your battery. As the Crime Prevention Officer at last month's main meeting reminded us, be wary of free Wi-Fi hotspots, such as in coffee shops, as they are not secure and disreputable people can listen in to your business. Certainly don't use them for internet banking. The same goes for Bluetooth. Only turn it on when you need it. On the other hand the phone networks are very secure.

We next meet on Wednesday July 3rd, at 16 Winchester Way at 2pm.

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.

6th June

Only 3 group members were not on holiday so we spent the morning looking at the photos taken at Attenborough wild life centre and St Helen's Church in Ashby.

Some time was also spent discussing whether we should have a photo album on the web site. No firm conclusion was arrived at. It seems odd that 'Painting and Drawing' and Calligraphy groups do have a photo gallery but not Digital Photography.

Update Due to John Howlett's efforts we now do have a photo gallery on the website, although there are not yet many photos!

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

19th June

Encouraged by the Ashby Arts Festival theme "name that tune", this month's challenge was to produce an individual attempt, resulting in:

“Singing the Blues”, “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds”, “Nelly the Elephant” and “When a Knight wins his Spurs”

A fun morning!!!

Next month, July 17th, is at Megan's. The topic is “Something beginning with M or S.”

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

12th June

We were five today, despite some apologies.

John H may now have a lead on James Bourke, but there may be problems with his (James') grandparents. Eileen is currently trying to trace the origin of an intrusive middle name Kentfield which may provide a clue to another line.

Leslie tried to read a birth location which had been scribbled out on a 1911 Census form. We identified it by hovering over it with the mouse, whilst on the web version. This facility is not available in the App version. All these relatives came from Pembroke, and are Thomas and David etc, so difficult to trace!

Keith was entangled with multiple ancestors of the same name, so we worked on the merge duplicates facility. He can now get on with cleaning the tree up.

John D is pursuing the Simpson family for Chris.

We next meet on Wednesday 10th July

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.

20th June

The June garden event was a self-drive visit to The Dairy in Chilcote. They usually open twice a year for the National Garden Scheme, but they are having a year off as they have been adding a watercourse with small stone bridges within a gravelled area and some specimen plants. They said our visit had spurred them on to complete it in time for us to see it. It was a very interesting garden with lovely views over towards Clifton Campville and Cannock Chase in the distance. There are two raised ponds in the garden, one of which contains huge specimen koi carp.

History – Leader Jane Harris 01530 838025

The History Group summer coach trip took place on Thursday 27th June. Unfortunately, one or two who had hoped to go were unable to join us, so 47 members boarded at the Royal Hotel. A stop was made at Cherwell Valley Services, where a few were observed to indulge, Hobbit fashion, in a little Second breakfast. The traffic on the M25 was about as good as it gets at that time of day, so we arrived at 11.30, only three and a half hours including stop.

By now, the pre-ordered sunshine had arrived and it was clearly going to be a very bright and warm day. A short walk through the park from the coach park brought us to Hampton Court Palace, where we approached the magnificent Tudor West Façade, originally constructed around 1515 for Cardinal Wolsey. After his failure to obtain a divorce for Henry VIII, he was forced to hand over the building and it became and remains a Royal Palace.

Being mere mortals, we were not allowed entry through the West Gate, but had to go through the adjacent Seymour Gate, the tradesmen's entrance. After allowing time for refreshment and a preliminary look around, those who wished met outside the West Gate for our guided tour. Our guide, Karin, was a lady of German origin but obviously knew a lot about British history. In the course of taking us round the Tudor Royal Apartments, she gave an excellent explanation of the life of Henry VIII and his VI wives.

Highlights included the Great Kitchen, where a period cookery demonstration was taking place complete with beef spit roasting over an open wood fire. The food provided clearly reflected social status, with the best provided to the most senior. Thus the top of the loaf was given to the most important courtiers-the Upper Crust- whilst those at the bottom end got the part which had been in contact with the oven-the Lower Crust.

We then proceeded to the Great Hall, where His Majesty was graciously pleased to give a short audience, before continuing to the Great Watching Chamber and the magnificent Chapel Royal. Here we saw a replica of Henry VIII's jewelled crown. The original was destroyed by Oliver Cromwell.

The tour over, we had a little time for refreshment and further exploration, but it was all too brief and impossible to see the entire site before it was time to board the coach for the return journey. Late in the afternoon, the traffic on the M25 was not looking co-operative, so our driver skilfully diverted round Heathrow to enable us to watch the aircraft on our way. After a stop at Oxford Services, we reached Ashby a few minutes before 8, a trip of 4 hours.

I am delighted to report that 47 returned on the coach. I think they were the same 47 who boarded!

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

29th June – 1st July

15 members of the Industrial Heritage group are heading up to Cragside House in Northumberland this weekend, a bit too late to get a report in the newsletter. A full report will follow next month.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

The group didn't get together in June, but are looking for dates in July to meet up.

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

Last month the group read and discussed "Transcription" by Kate Atkinson and next month will be reading the very topical "Fear. Trump in the White House" by Bob Woodward.

At the May Monthly Meeting, Anne Donegan gave a short description of the activities of the group and explained that it is getting a little large for everyone to meet in peoples' homes and that it might be advantageous to start a second Literature Group if anyone was interested in leading it.

If anyone is interested, please contact the Groups Co-ordinator, Colin Woodland at interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk to discuss it. Sandra and other members of the present group would be happy to help a new group get started.

Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland 01530 413867

13th June – The Cricketts, Acresford

With the group's leaders away on holiday in Canada, it fell to the Supper Club to take over the organisation and ensure everyone arrived at the pub on time. 17 today. Again this was a place new to many members despite most of us having driven past it at some time or other.

The menu looked interesting with some different specials on the blackboard. The orders were all taken without any bother or complications and the food soon started to arrive. And lovely it was too. For once nobody had ordered a starter, so no one had to wait for their main course. As people had forgone their starters, there was room for desserts for many and Colin missed out on some lovely custard! I wonder if he is getting custard in Canada?

On July 11th, we shall be visiting the Odd House at Snarestone. It's hopefully not too odd!

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

Music Appreciation – musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk

5th June

On the fifth of June six of us met to appreciate music. Neil kick us off with a selection of duets, the first of which was Paul Simon and Phoebe Snow's "She moves on" followed by a non-love duet from Otis Reading and Carla Thomas, "Tramp". Neil also gave us something which he first thought he wouldn't like - Pink and Nat Reuss singing "Just give me a reason". As we had some time left at the end of our meet, Neil later gave us Labrinth and Emeli Sande's "Beneath your (sic) beautiful"

Sally was second and gave us Myleene Klass, who we were reminded had been a member of pop group Hear'Say, here playing classical piano with her version of Bach's "Toccatà". Then a contrast with Connie Francis and "Who's sorry now" then an apology for an assault on our ears with Tommy Steel singing and whistling "Singing the blues"

Brenda had a CD malfunction, (which can happen to anyone) so she played what she had. It happened to be the original version of "Hound Dog" sung by Big Mama Thornton before Elvis did it. This was followed by the difficult but talented Nina Simone singing "You know how I feel"

After the recent death of Doris Day, Brenda gave us her wonderful voice singing "Que sera, sera"
Mike played Stevie Wonder's "Sir Duke" in which Stevie sang in praise of many of the jazz greats but also played many of the instruments in the orchestration.

We often feature artists who have recently passed away, as with Doris Day, but with great prescience Mike gave us Dr John's "Such a night" on the day before his death! Mike described him as another great singer with a not-so-great voice! He will however be remembered for his blending of New Orleans jazz, blues, boogie-woogie and voodoo psychedelia. This was followed by the Cuban song "Dos Gardenias" sung by Ibrahim Ferrer of the Buena Vista Social Club, yet another new name to many.

Lesley, in tribute to the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings, played "I vow to thee my country". Music by Holst, words by Cecil Spring Rice. And on a lighter note Gracie Fields "Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye". Al Bowlly, who was killed in the Second World War, was next up singing "The Very Thought Of You".

Nev carried on the war theme with an unusual version of "On The Sunny Side Of The Street" by Tommy Dorsey, then we had a very up beat rendition of "The White Cliffs Of Dover" from Jive Aces.

Nev then put on a DVD called "1000 years of popular music" by Richard Thompson who, strangely, played a modern piece - Britney Spears' well-known "Oops I Did It Again". And very good it was too.

We finished the morning appropriately with another song from the late Doris Day "The Party's Over".

Thanks to Nev for hosting and we meet next month on the 3rd July at Brenda's at 36 Willesley Gdns.

Quiz group - Leader Malcolm Bird 01530 563872

The group have been told that they can no longer meet at the Bull and Lion and this month was the last time at the venue. Sixteen players turned up to be greeted by a large man (with a very large dog) who told us in an unfriendly manner that we could not go in as Deb (the manager) would not be there until 3.30. The door was locked. Having had an e-mail confirming our meeting, we were somewhat put out and I was not amused by the man with the dog who seemed to be a local know-it-all who liked telling people what they can or cannot do. He was not, apparently, an employee of the pub (the man, not the dog).

The weather was quite good so we decided to hold our quiz in the garden - albeit with no half-time refreshments. Having moved some furniture and settled down I gave an explanation of events leading to this being our last meeting at the Bull and Lion. Then, after a number of minor discussions with a young woman, another and helpful young woman appeared to inform us that Deb was visiting her daughter who, having fallen off her horse, was in hospital. However someone else was coming with a key to admit us in five minutes time. After 10 minutes a very nice young woman tried the door then disappeared through the kitchen door to open the door from the inside. Sadly the nice lady could not stay to wait on us, but a pleasant young man prepared our tea and coffee.

Chris and Eileen Smith asked the questions and a great time was had by all. The stock of prizes was emptied by rewarding the runners-up as well as the winners.

The quiz group is now in recession until a new venue is found. We had only about 3 days notice of our eviction from the Bull and Lion and finding a new place will take time. We are looking for a place that ticks several boxes such as ample parking space (free), suitable furniture - which will be moved for us, refreshments, available on Wednesdays and a sensible price. We are optimistic that we will find the right place and hope to resume activity on August 21st. We have had almost 5 years at the B&L and it is a sad end to what has been a mutually pleasing arrangement.

However, we are not down-hearted and with backs to the wall, noses to the grindstone and shoulders to the wheel we will gird up our loins, tighten our belts, grit our teeth and press on.

UPDATE We have found a new venue, namely the Function Room at The Beeches in Ashby.

They have agreed to let us use the Function Room for £30 an afternoon, which is less than they usually charge. At the June quiz we asked if people would accept a £2 charge and by a show of hands it looked like a unanimous "yes". That should on average cover the £30 charge.

We, that is Colin and I, have discussed the idea that prizes are abandoned. I hope to use this break in our activities to do so. It is a tiresome chore finding suitable cheap stuff which is not total rubbish. Also, collecting the 20p charge has been a pain in the xxx. I never seem to get the right money and "bookkeeping" is a nuisance. Malcolm.

Our first meeting at The Beeches will be on August 21st, at the usual time of 2:30 pm.

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

20th June

We missed the early meeting on 6th June, because we were all busy with other commitments. Our meeting last week (20th) went well. We played Andrew Challenger's Variations on Greensleeves and other trios. We are trying other pieces, including duets, and combinations of instruments.

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.

27th June – Zamanis, Ashby

The Supper Club usually follows on from the History Groups meeting of the same afternoon but this month the History Group were on a coach excursion to Hampton Court which wasn't due back until late. Because many of us are members of both groups, it seemed like a good idea to book a restaurant nearby in town so that as we got off the coach we could get something to eat straight away, and just as importantly, not have to head home to start cooking at 8 pm.

Fortunately, the trip returned in good time and the 9 members taking part gathered in the Courtyard outside Zamanis. It was a lovely summer evening so we were able to remain outside with our drinks whilst waiting for our table.

Good intentions about not having starters, in view of the late hour, quickly disappeared in the face of an excellent menu and several participants enjoyed a three course dinner. As we were a relatively small group, we fitted easily around one table, which allowed the usual vigorous conversation to proceed uninhibited.

By the time we had finished, it was heading for 11 o'clock and it was time to scurry home before the cars turned back into pumpkins!

Do join us for our next outing at the Rising Sun in Shackerstone on Thursday 25th July at the usual time of 7 for 7.30.

Trips Group – Contact John or Margaret Howlett 01530 461774

There were no trips out this month, nor are any planned for the immediate future, other than those organised by the History or Industrial Heritage groups. A couple of steam rail trips are scheduled for August and September and these are now fully booked.

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 June - Tideswell, led by Trev and Val

13 keen walkers left the George Inn in Tideswell on sunny and humid day, heading down the high street to the Wye river via the lovely Tideswell Dale to meet the river near to Cressbrook Dale and then follow the river to our drink stop under the rock cliff at Water-cum-Jolly Dale.

After refreshments the walk took an uphill turn and then steep downhill into Cressbrook Dale where we could see the remains of a dried up river bed. We continued up the dale and turned left into Tansley Dale which was the final uphill part of the walk. On reaching the top it was a relatively easy walk via a number of fields with various stepping styles set in the dry stone walls before reaching a road near Litton for our return to Tideswell for a very nice meal and to sample the local beer.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman 01530 222634

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

10th June. Heart of the National Forest, Northern Circuit, led by Alison

A small but very select number set off from Moira Furnace on a day when rain was promised. The walk started along the Ashby Wolds Heritage Trail to Spring Cottage and on to a partial circuit of Albert Village Lake. Down to Conkers and back along the canal to the Moira Furnace Car Park. Interesting historical interpretation sculptures about local industry were enjoyed and we found out that Albert Village was known as Borra Nock by the local residents - no prizes for guessing why!! Against expectations the rain held off just long enough and we returned to our cars just before the 'heavens opened'. Just under 5 miles completed.

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.

10 met at Sence Valley top car park. It was the Summer Solstice so we took the group photo in front of the Tree stump that should shine a shaft of sunlight through a slit at the true local noon time on the day of the Solstice. As this was taken at about 10am BST, probably 3 hours before noon, we missed the light show. As one of our number is recovering from ankle surgery, only nine set off walking towards the West side of the site and took the path down to Goss Water. Here we spotted a cormorant drying its wings, there was also swan and some ducks swimming together. We continued to the west of the lake and found the footpath just outside the northern boundary. We turned East along this as far as the first sizeable entry back into the site and followed the path to a very quiet Usborne pool where we stopped and admired the view. We continued along the path back to the northern side of the Horseshoe lake and turned East and around the lake to the stream where a swan was standing on one leg. A little later a photograph of the common spotted orchid was taken. We all climbed the road to the car park and arranged to meet at Cattows farm cafe. Here the tenth member of the party re-joined us. Total distance 1.8 miles.

Your Committee, until next month's AGM, are:

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