



## Newsletter July 2019

### Interest Groups Timetable for 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. The Group is not meeting in June and July
Mon 5th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 6th	10 am start	Walking	The Wheel Inn, Branston NG32 1RU
Wed 7th	10 am	Music Appreciation	Lesley's at 75 Leicester Rd, Measham, DE12 7JG
Wed 7th	2 pm	Computer	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 8th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	The Copt Oak, Whitwick Rd, Markfield, LE67 9QB
Sat 10th	Depart Ashby by car-share at approx 7:30am	Trips and Outings	Cumbrian Mountain Express steam train ride to Carlisle and back. This trip is now SOLD OUT
Mon 12th	10am start	Medium Walks	Meet at Swebstone church.
Mon 12th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Wed 14th	2 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 15th	10 am	Recorder	Joan's house
Thu 15th	2 pm	Gardening	Brenda's, 17 Money Hill, Ashby, LE65 1JA Garden party and plant swap. Free food & drink
Mon 19th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Mon 19th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Tue 20th	10 am start	Walking	Trent Lock Inn, Lock Lane, Long Eaton NG10 2FY
Wed 21st	2:30 pm	Quiz	Function Room at the Beeches. NOTE THE NEW VENUE
Thu 22nd	TBA	History	Donington-le-Heath Manor
Thu 22nd	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	The Dragon Inn, Willington
Mon 26th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Wed 28th	TBA	Industrial Heritage	Great Central Railway, Loughborough

### Early September

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 2nd	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 3rd	10 am start	Walking	Monyash, Derbys
Wed 4th	10 am	Music Appreciation	TBA
Wed 4th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 5th	10 am	Recorder	Joan's house
Fri 6th	Minibus departs Ashby at 8:15am	Trips and Outings	Aberdeen Rail Tour. Edinburgh to Aberdeen steam train ride behind Tornado. 2 Nights in Edinburgh. This trip is now SOLD OUT

\*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

Month	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters	Reporting Groups
Aug	The Committee for Cream Tea	A Committee member	none
Sept	Joan Benton, Sue Bloor, Phil Bloor, Carol Smith	TBA	Recorder and Short Walks

## LAST MONTHLY MEETING - AGM Tuesday 23rd July – “The Hands of Genius” by Graham Short

We started with our Annual General Meeting chaired by treasurer Colin Ellis in the absence of Tony Smith, our Chairman.

As well as giving the Chairman's & Treasurer's reports (details will be posted on the website later), Colin thanked Tony Smith for his work as chairman for the past 2 years. His tenure has come to an end although he is remaining on the committee.

Colin also thanked Isobel Salt and Sheila Dean for their service to the Committee now that they are standing down. Bunches of flowers were presented to both of them by Bill and Avril Wilson on behalf of the members.

Tony, Peter Clement and Mike Stow were re-elected for a further 2 years and Estelle Sandles was voted on to the committee. Kevin Green was re-confirmed as auditor.

Colin Woodland, as Groups Co-ordinator, gave us his report in verse, much to everyone's amusement. Hopefully that will be made available on the website too.

## Your Committee, as elected at the AGM, are:

Tony Smith	Colin Woodland
Colin Ellis	Val Reed
Anne Donegan	Avril Wilson
Iain Banns	Bill Wilson
Peter Clement	Estelle Sandles
Mike Stow	

Assignment of the various committee posts including appointment of a new chairman will be decided at the next committee meeting as per the rules of our constitution.

## Speaker – Graham Short - “The Hands of Genius”

After the AGM, Colin introduced our speaker Graham Short.

When we were greeted by a man in a flowery jacket and flowered lime green shoes, we just knew this was going to be good. Graham Short is a micro-artist, living and working in Birmingham. He is known for producing miniature pieces of art and is considered as one of the worlds leading exponents of micro art.

He left school at 15 without qualifications, he then chose to sign up for a 6 year apprenticeship at a small stationery engraving company in Birmingham where he learned the art of copperplate and steel die engraving used to produce embossed letterheads, business cards and wedding invitations. In his first year of his apprenticeship he also learnt the art of catching mice!

He soon discovered he had a natural talent for engraving and on finishing his apprenticeship he set up his own one man business in Birmingham's jewellery quarter.

During his career he created stationery for banks, perfume companies and Royalty. He visited Buckingham palace on several occasions and regaled us with hilarious stories, telling us about princess

Michael of Kent, getting down on her hands and knees to sweep up what she thought was the wood shavings left by carpenters only to find it was part of a student's final-year art show.

Then in 1971 and needing a challenge, he decided to engrave a Shakespearean verse on the end of a paper clip.

To accomplish this very fine work, he engraves from midnight to 5am, to avoid the vibrations from passing traffic, he straps his right arm to the bench, allowing only his fingertips to move. After taking tablets to reduce his heart rate to around 20 beats a minute, and using a stethoscope to monitor his heart, between beats he engraves one line at a time with very fine needles whilst looking at the object through a microscope. He sometimes only manages 5 or 6 lines per night.

He even has Botox around his eyes so that there is little muscle movement. Added to that he swims 10,000 metres every day in a pool, his reasoning being that the fitter you are the lower your resting heart beat will be.

The paper clip was bought by Ronnie Barker for £14,000, who had then an antique shop in Chipping Norton. They became friends and Graham found him to be a very shy man unlike his TV persona.

Graham always makes a sketch of what he is about to engrave, then works down the middle line following along with the letters on either side.

Graham was asked to engrave a pen for Stephen Fry in 2012 with an Oscar Wilde quote on the nib and another around the centre band. It was later sold at Sotheby's to raise money for a charity that supports imprisoned writers around the world. From this he still has 2 identical pens bought for £495 in case he slipped whilst engraving.

His next challenge was to engrave the words "nothing is impossible" on the sharp edge of a razor blade, this gave him a different problem as he kept cutting himself and getting infected fingers.

It was sold to a doctor for £50,000.

Amongst his many achievements he has also engraved the Lord's Prayer on the head of a pin, engraved various quotes and also the Queen's head on gold discs that fit into the eye of a needle.

The work that brought him into the public eye, was the arrival of the new polymer £5 note in 2016, where Graham engraved the head of Jane Austen with classic quotes from her books in the transparent section of four notes, as it was the 200th anniversary of her death.

He checked with the bank of England to see what the consequences were for defacing a bank note. To date no one has ever been prosecuted for doing so and the fine is only £200, so it was worth the risk.

He spent one note in south Wales, one in Melton Mowbray, one in Kelso and the last in Enniskillen and then alerted the media as to what he had done. When one was found it was sent anonymously to a gallery, where the sender asked for it to be sold and the proceeds to go for a children's charity. It was auctioned for Children in Need and made £5000, which was what Graham hoped would happen and that people or charities would make money from them.

Simon Rattle the composer, who had bought work from Graham, gave him a quote from the composer Thomas Beecham to a cellist - "young man, you have between your legs an instrument capable of giving pleasure to thousands and all you can do is scratch it". He didn't say if he had yet engraved the quote on to anything!

Graham gave us a fascinating talk with great humour. The hours of patient work needed to create his work is incredible.

### **Next Monthly Meeting on Tue 27th Aug at 2 pm**

There is no speaker next month but it will be our annual Cream Tea served by the Committee. Hopefully the weather will allow us to sit outside.

## **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](mailto: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.

#### **15th July**

We had eight today, including Liz and her husband Derek, both new to the Group.

John D demonstrated to Liz some of the myriad apps available on an iPad and how to access them. Liz also had a specific need to import her contacts list to the iPad for emailing whilst out and about, and Mike waded in there with some suggestions.

Steve guided Iris through the process of assigning photos to folders using a Windows Chrome book. This was a learning process for Steve, too, as Chrome books are not too common.

John D, Mike and John H discussed the means of installing a reclaimed hard drive into a PC with an existing C drive, loaded with the same operating system and software. The idea being to use the additional drive's extra space for data, and concentrate software on the smaller drive. This also makes the data on the larger drive available to the new PC. This needs thinking about as there may be conflicts. But it should not be too difficult.

John D also discussed with Mike the ways in which a photograph with a heavily grainy content (as in a photo screen-printed into a book, or already with heavy pixelation from being over enlarged) may be sharpened up. It seems as if there will be interpolation software available in Photoshop standard software, but not in free, or open source, software (unless in a free trial)

John H gave suggestions as to how the black background of the Ancestry family tree display can be eliminated

We meet again on the 7th August at 2 Marlborough Way.

### **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 July**

The Group spent a very pleasant time at the Aeropark at E M Airport in very pleasant weather. There were five of us, including new member Adrian Hickson, as we strolled among the relics of a great aerial past. Among many familiar craft we saw the huge Vulcan, a complete Comet- based Nimrod, several Hawker Hunters, Meteors and Vampires, a magnificent English Electric Lightning and a Harrier being readied for display in its folded wings carrier form. Many of the aircraft were ex-training versions. Unfortunately, it was not possible to get into any of the aircraft, although there are open-cockpit days, when visitors are able to get into them. The next will be on the 11th August, but more may be added.

There is also a small but interesting museum adjacent to an enclosed workshop which we spent a little time to look around.

We will review our photos on the next indoor meeting, but our next meeting is outdoors, at Holme Pierre Point Country Park on the 1st August, weather permitting.

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

#### **17th July**

It was a beautiful sunny morning when we met in Megan's garden for the July meeting.

Firstly we discussed the invitation to submit an 8ft by 4ft board to celebrate, in September, 800 years of the Ashby Statutes, and it was decided that we would go ahead. From the list of the topics suggested, we made our selection and arranged a preliminary timetable to prepare the board and draft the image. Watch this space!!!

The practical exercise for July was something beginning with M or S or both.

The results were:

Mountains and Snow

Mouse and Sunflower,

Sweet peas

Meconopsis -which is the Himalayan blue poppy.

There will be no set meeting in August, instead there will be a rolling timetable to paint the Statutes Board, which has to be completed by the end of the month.

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

10th July

We were five again today including a new member: Sue Hickson. Welcome Sue!

Sue is well advanced and has pushed her trees back to the mid/early 1700s. She is now looking to fine tune her maternal grandfather's line using Parish Registers. After some talk, it seems she may have to visit the local records offices, as the records she needs are not online. One of her problems is that the names she is concentrating on are very common in the location she is searching.

Eileen is still trying to pin down the origin of a middle name -Kentfield-, which may enable her to join up two currently unconnected branches of her family. Leslie has made little progress in her searches but is still pressing on.

We had a general chat about Parish Registers, and discussed a problem Ana has with printing from Ancestry. We can see no way round this latter, as Ancestry will only offer one basic set up. If you need more, you either have to go to one of Ancestry's fee charging affiliates or try something more radical. JD undertook to research further and report back.

We next meet on Wednesday 14th August

## **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 July

The gardening group visited Powis Castle in Wales today and again we had fabulous weather. The coach journey was trouble free and we arrived at the time planned. Being in Wales the site was very steep and the castle itself looked very impressive as we approached. Going down to the garden was a real treat with panoramic views and some of the most beautiful plants in glorious colours laid out before us. The gardens are quite extensive and primarily in tiers there are huge trees, extra large flowers, tiny flowers, shrubs, urns and statues. Plants were available to purchase too.

Everyone seemed to have a lovely day with time to explore the castle inside and also the museum.

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

27th July - 'Made in Leicester' by Brian Johnson

33 Members attended in the sweltering heat of Britain's (possibly) hottest day ever.

It is surprising just how many famous people began their careers in Leicester. Brian presented a most interesting account of the lives of seven such, after listing many others with whom we are familiar, such as Jo Orton, Betty Driver and the inspiration for The Laughing Policeman.

These seven were:

Hidalgo Mayo, who designed and manufactured typewriters including the Imperial brand. Strangely he never produced an electronic version, yet the company went on to become the last one to manufacture in the UK.

Then there was Eric Fox, the inventor of Fox's Mints, with the iconic polar bear. He earned himself a Blue Plaque in Oxford Street, in Leicester of course!

Next came Henry Curry, originally a bicycle manufacturer who got his start from the Sir Thomas Wright Trust. Curry's now own 453 stores.

Another bicycle manufacturer who made it good was Frederick Rushbroke: never heard of him? How about Halford's? The same!

The fifth was James Kemsey Wilkinson. Not he of the razor blades but he of the general stores. Starting with a hardware store in 1930 he was one of the first cash stores, effectively self service stores. Wilkinson's now has 350 stores and a turnover of £1 billion

And so on to Henry Walker, made even more famous by another Leicester man: Gary Winston Lineker. Starting with a pork butcher shop in 1889, he moved from pork pies to what we now know as crisps -but in certain unenlightened places known as 'chips'. Infidels: we know what chips are and they aren't crisps! Now owned by Pepsico, the factory is the largest crisp factory in the world turning out 720,000 packets an hour.

Last but not least is Bill Adderley. In 1979 he and his wife Jeany started trading in home textiles from a market stall in Leicester, and moved on to open the first Dunelm store in 1984. The name 'Dunelm' came from the name already given to their family home in Coalville. Now with a turnover of £1.8 billion, and the largest UK Homewares retailer - outstripping even John Lewis, Bill is now the first Leicester billionaire.

This all goes to show that Leicester is a place to be reckoned with, something even the Romans knew about, building one of their most strategically important forts on the site.

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

29th June – 1st July. Cragside House, Morpeth.

4 carloads of members made the long trip up the A1M to Newcastle on Saturday morning. Several seemed to choose the same motorway services for a break, at the same time, despite the fact that we weren't travelling in convoy. Many had also stopped on the way up to examine the Angel of the North close up. It is much, much bigger than you'd expect when you get close up.

Once checked-in at the Premier Inn on the Tyne quayside in the heart of Newcastle, we set out to explore the town. The Baltic Flour Mill on the Gateshead side is now an art gallery but also has a great view up and down river from the 5th floor and also one can watch the 700 breeding pairs of Terns sitting on the narrowest of ledges hatching their young. The smell was exceptional!

For Saturday night, I'd booked us into a pub right next to the swivelling Millennium Bridge in the heart of the night life. Despite the resident DJ and half a dozen hen night parties trying to drown out any conversation, we had a great evening watching the world go by and seeing the bridge swivel whilst it changed colour due to the floodlights on it. And the food was pretty good.

Bright and early (well not too early!) we set off to Cragside House, a 45 min drive further north. We were just in time to miss a 5k footrace around the grounds but at least the coffee shop was open!

We all split up to wander around the house, and what a house! As you approach it, it hangs on the side of the hill like a Victorian Rivendell. The entrance through a gated archway to a courtyard could be medieval. The house itself is apparently mostly "Tudor Revival" but building work continued in stages for almost 20 years so that it is a mixture of styles.

Downstairs the house is quite homely, if somewhat larger than your average house, but the rooms are not overlarge and the kitchen is next to the dining room, quite novel for big houses at the time. The kitchens have an early electric dishwasher and a hydro electric rotisserie amongst many other gadgets. However leading off the lounge and down in the basement is a full Turkish bath with sweat rooms, massage rooms, plunge pool and showers. Ever the inventive engineer, the heat from the baths was used to help heat the rest of the house. A hydraulically-operated lift goes to all floors, mostly to help the staff move coal to all the rooms for fires. The bedrooms on the next floor are also

relatively modest although there are lots of them and some are en-suite and with dressing rooms attached.

On the next level it suddenly becomes a lot more grand. The gallery, once Armstrong's museum, houses portraits, sculptures and paintings by many famous artists. This leads around the corner to a very imposing drawing room with the most enormous marble inglenook fireplace. It is so large that that end of the room is actually supported by the cliff outside to take the weight! The room contains a fraction of Armstrong's artworks since many were moved to Bamburgh Castle when the last owners moved out. It does however still have a Turner tucked away in a corner as it is probably not grand enough!

The gardens and surroundings are huge - there is a 6 mile drive around the estate to get out! Electrical power for the house comes from a turbine powered by water from one of the lakes. There are ornamental gardens and vast numbers of rhododendrons and trees but the house is the main attraction.

From there some of us then visited Warkworth village and its ruined Norman castle, still very imposing, and some even managed to briefly get to the seaside at Amble but it was a bit too cold for paddling!

After a very nice Italian meal in the evening, followed by a trip to the pub, we rose refreshed and ready to tackle the Discovery Museum in the city about the life and times of Tyneside. A very interesting display of everyday object through the decades brought back many memories. Other displays of ship models, aircraft engines, cars and electronics showed the diversity of things made on Tyneside. The main exhibit is Turbinia once the fastest ship in the world at 40mph in 1894 and powered by Parsons' steam turbines made in you-know-where.

An uneventful journey back saw us all back in Ashby by late afternoon after a very successful weekend away.

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

The group didn't get together in July as it is proving difficult to find dates to suit everyone, but are looking for dates in August to meet up.

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

Last month the group read and discussed the very topical "Fear. Trump in the White House" by Bob Woodward.

There is no meeting in August.

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

##### **11th June – The Odd House Inn**

Fourteen of us gathered at the Odd House Inn this month. The pub is a little odd in that, for Leicestershire, it is in the middle of nowhere, standing alone mid-way between Measham, Newton Burgoland, Swepstone and Snarestone. Despite the fact that there did not appear to be many other customers, we received a warm welcome and were provided with very satisfactory food at, allowing for their two meal offers, a very reasonable price. After the usual good conversation during the meal, the participants left to make their ways back to civilisation. 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](mailto:luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk) or call 01530 413867 to book a place.

## **Music Appreciation – musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

### **3rd July**

Six members were present to appreciate some good music.

Neil started us off with a potted history of singer song writer Jackson Browne. We heard "The Rebel Jesus" and "Lives in the Balance" and later we heard "For a Dancer."

Dorothy came next and she brought us some busking guitarists she had experienced on a sunny holiday, their names being Agnieszka Zelepa & Kim Ray. "Suite for two guitars" was very relaxing and reminiscent of French sunshine and was followed by Lennon and McCartney's "Fool on a Hill".

Nev reminded us that it was July, which for him is the pinnacle of the cycling calendar, and so gave us "Bicycle" by Queen. Also because it is 50 years since the moon landing we had "Walking on the Moon" by The Police, and later keeping to the moon theme with "Blue Moon" from the Marceles.

Mike told us that he'd heard on the radio a statement that "Pop music peaked in the seventies and has barely changed in the 45 years since, whereas there was a huge difference in the previous 45 years". He first gave us the first piece of Rap music ever to top the US charts - the somewhat unlikely "Rapture" by Blondie, a song which still sounds modern. He then went 45 years before that to 1929 and the very different Noel Coward's "A Room With A View". To then disprove his theory, he later played another song from that early era sung by a 70's icon - Bryan Ferry and "These Foolish Things". We judged Noel Coward to be the better singer!

Lesley played a favourite from the choir "Jesu Joy Of Mans Desiring" with Rod Stewart's version of "Tom Traubert's blues (Waltzing Matilda.) coming after. Then there was Fairground Attraction and "Perfect".

Brenda, who was last to choose, played a classic Chopin "Opus 9 no.2 Andante" and a different type of classic - Ella Fitzgerald "I Love Paris in The Springtime". Lastly she gave us a favourite from the sixties, Neil Sedaka and "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do."

As we had a few minutes left Nev played us a most unexpected Johnny Cash version of "We'll Meet Again". One of the many songs he recorded in his last months after the death of his wife. We all knew the words!

Thanks to Brenda for hosting. We'll meet again next month on the 7th August at Lesley's, 75 Leicester Rd, Measham.

## **Quiz group - Leader Malcolm Bird 01530 563872**

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

We weren't able to get things sorted in time for the July quiz, so 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**

### **4th July**

This week, we played a variety of music:

"The Earle of Salisbury" by William Byrd

Jazzy Trios by Marg Hall,

"Pavane" by Arbeau

"It was a Lover and his Lass" by Thomas Morley

"Variations on Greensleeves" by Challinger

"All in a Garden Green", "Lilli Burlero", "Jenny Plucks Pears".

Some was comfortable, some challenging. Must be doing good. Fun, anyway.

## **Social Events - Contact Val Reed**

### **26th July. - Bowls evening**

On an evening that threatened rain, 16 of us tried our hand at Bowls, at Ashby Bowls Club on the Bath Grounds. The Club made us feel very welcome; they were patient with our efforts, teaching us the rules of the games and telling us how to improve our performance. We had a varied amount of success and judging by my group a lot of laughter.

After playing we retired to the clubhouse for a well earned drink. A very good evening.

If anyone is interested, the Bowls club will start next April with free coaching, I have details of this, so just contact me and I can pass on the details.

### **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 July – The Rising Sun, Shackerstone**

On what has now been confirmed as the hottest day ever in the UK a round dozen members ventured out to the Rising Sun for the evening. The pub was tolerably cool (relative to earlier in the day!) and we were made welcome in the main restaurant rather than in the upstairs gallery which would have been much hotter.

The crab and chicken salad on the specials board proved very popular, but everything else looked interesting too. The portions were generous to a fault and some of those who had ordered starters looked worried that they'd be able to finish their main courses, but most did! And some went on to have dessert.

A very good meal (with one minor exception which was dealt with promptly and courteously) and the usual good company made for an excellent evening.

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

There were no trips out this month, nor are there any new trips planned for the immediate future, other than those organised by the Gardening, History or Industrial Heritage groups.

Two steam rail trips are scheduled for August and September, on the Settle to Carlisle line and Edinburgh to Aberdeen respectively, but 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.

#### **16th July. Abbots Bromley linear walk led by Mike and Joan**

With a hot, sunny and dry day in prospect, 10 stalwarts arrived in Abbots Bromley for a repeat of the 6.8 mile inaugural 'linear walk' tackled in October 2016. After sorting out the lunch arrangements at the Crown Inn, we caught the 9.48 Midland Classic 403 bus to Balance Hill on the outskirts of Uttoxeter. Heading down Timber Lane, we joined the Staffordshire Way and followed it southwards, through Bagot's Park and back to our starting point. Heavy going in places, with thick and/or tall grass and a few overgrown stretches, it was noted that we traversed a total of 32 stiles (and were able to bypass another 5), equalling the record set in November 2015 (on another walk near Abbots Bromley!). An excellent lunch and a well-deserved drink at the very hospitable Crown Inn rounded off the day.

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

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

#### **8th July. Around Milton, led by Val & Trev**

On a warm, hazy day 7 walkers set off from Milton Main Street and headed through the fields of drying rape seed crops to the lovely grounds and building of Foremarke Hall, now the home of the prep school for Repton. Then heading through woods to Seven Spouts Farm where we stopped for a coffee break. Then we walked along the ridge back towards Milton. On approaching Milton we were surprised to be greeted by a lonesome peacock, who had taken up residency on the garage roof of cottage, much to the home owners dismay! It was a pleasant 4.5 mile walk.

### **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.

7 stalwart short-walkers met in the car park and 6 were photographed by the leader. We met despite the warnings of heavy rain. We set off towards Albert village as we got to the path down to the lake it started to rain. The forecast was correct. The rain was heavy and as we left the lake and headed to the footpath to Spring Cottage it was unrelenting. At Spring Cottage we took the old railway track now a metalled path. We came to the crossroad where we went our different ways, three went back to their cars, one walked home and four stopped at the YHA cafe before returning to their cars. Hence two maps 3 miles for the early returners and 3.5 miles for the refreshment route.