



Newsletter August 2019

Interest Groups Timetable for September

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 2nd	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 3rd	9:45 for 10 am start	Walking	Monyash, Derbys DE451JH
Wed 4th	9.30 am	Italian	Lynda's house
Wed 4th	10 am	Music Appreciation	Brenda's at 36 Willesley Gardens
Wed 4th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 5th	9.15 am at Featherbed Lane	Industrial Heritage	Great Central Railway, 240 Swithland Ln, Rothley, Loughborough LE7 7UE
Thu 5th	10 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way.
Thu 5th	10 am	Recorder	Joan's house
Thu 5th	10 am	Arts and Crafts	2 Marlborough Way
Fri 6th	Minibus from Ashby to Burton at 8:15 am	Trips and Outings	Aberdeen Rail Tour Edinburgh to Aberdeen steam train ride behind Tornado. 2 Nights in Edinburgh. This trip is now SOLD OUT
Mon 9th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Meet on Main St, Carlton Village, CV13 0EZ
Mon 9th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 10th	10 am	Calligraphy	At Carole's. Really informal piece - anything goes
Tue 10th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 11th	2 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 12th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	King's Arms, Hathern
Mon 16th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Mon 16th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 17th	TBA	Walking	TBA
Wed 18th	10 am	Drawing and painting	Meet at Megan's house.
Wed 18th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Function Room at the Beeches.
Thu 19th	10 am	Recorder	Joan's house
Thu 19th	10 am	Gardening	Stratford upon Avon visiting Shakespeare's New Place garden. Coach trip. Departs Royal Hotel 10 am, return 4.30 pm
Fri 20th	10 am	Short Walks	To be confirmed. Meet at St. Bernard's Abbey
Mon 23rd	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Wed 25th	TBA	Industrial Heritage	Walsall Leather Museum and Bradley lock gate workshop
Thu 26th	2 pm	History	Packington Hall. Stephen Flinders - 'The Old Curiosity Box'
Thu 26th	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	The Angel, Church St, Swad., DE11 8LF
Mon 30th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre

Early October

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Wed 2nd	10 am	Music Appreciation	TBA
Wed 2nd	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Mon 7th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 8th	10 am	Calligraphy	At Gill's. Continue informal experiment!
Tue 8th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens

*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
Sept	Joan Benton, Sue Bloor, Phil Bloor, Carol Smith	TBA	Recorder and Short Walks
Oct	Jean Preece, Brenda Dummer, Sandra Fox	TBA	TBA

LAST MONTHLY MEETING - Tuesday 27th August

The meeting started with the introduction of our new Committee for the next year:

Colin Ellis	Chairman	chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Anne Donegan	Business Secretary	secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Val Reed	Treasurer	treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Iain Banns	Membership Secretary	members@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Colin Woodland	Interest Group Co-ordinator	interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Peter Clement	Minutes Secretary	minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Estelle Sandles	Welfare	welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Bill Wilson	Speaker seeker	speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Mike Stow	Communications	webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Avril Wilson	Social Secretary	socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Tony Smith	Member	tony@ashbyu3a.co.uk

Unfortunately Colin is on holiday in Tashkent or Samarkand or some other faraway place and so wasn't able to be at the meeting but our now ex-chairman Tony was able to step in for one more time.

There were very few further announcements other than a reminder that the Christmas lunch will be on Dec 12th this year, at the Golf Club as usual, and so it was time for the annual cream tea event served by the committee.

With such lovely weather it was great to be able to open the doors to the garden and let people sit outside in the sunshine. Tea, coffee and scones were served with lashings of butter, cream and jam, and enjoyed by all. The only problem for everyone was the perennial decision as to whether the cream or jam should go on first!

Next monthly meeting on Tuesday Sept 24th at 2pm

We are back to normal, with our guest speaker being Jack Perks and the topic is "Best of British"

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Sharon Woodland – 01530 413867

3 members gathered at No.2 to make seaside cards (not the rude kind), trying out new techniques. Next month they hope to be knitting or crocheting poppies, and have plans for a bigger project over winter to make blankets for a children's hospital.

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 July

On Tuesday we spent the morning experimenting with sponging, rolling and dripping paint on to paper to create a variety of backgrounds for future calligraphy projects which we hope will add another dimension to our writing. It was great fun and very relaxing to do although it was sometimes quite difficult for some of us to just let ourselves go and experiment in a quite messy way. We all agreed it had been an enjoyable morning with some very interesting results.

This was our last meeting until September when perhaps we might use one of our backgrounds instead of a plain piece of paper.

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.

7th August

A very quiet day today with only two attendees. We discussed a couple of things.

How to transfer the C Drive to another computer which already has a C Drive, complete with operating systems and software. The point being that you do not want the PC to boot up from the extra drive before you have had a chance to remove or transfer all the OS and other software from it. Open up the new PC; install and plug the new drive into the power; do not plug in the data cable yet. Start the PC, then plug in the data cable.

The next steps take some more thought and will be attended to later.

We also talked about what to do with older software running under Windows 7 when it becomes necessary to upgrade to Windows 10 and the software becomes unusable because there are no updated drivers available. This may require the creation of a Virtual Machine, which seems to be a straightforward operation, but would need care, plus the CD carrying the Windows version you need. This too will be addressed later, but should give hope to those of us with treasured programmes we do not want to lose.

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.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there was no meeting in August.

We next meet on 5th September at 16 Winchester Way.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty - 01530 411148

August

The August session has been split over 4 or 5 meetings where we have progressed with the Statutes Board Exhibit. The finished picture is now varnished, ready to be collected and installed for the Ashby Heritage Statutes outdoor gallery - 7th to 22nd September.

Next Meeting. 18th September, at Megans house.

Family History – Leader John Dogherty - 01530 411148

14th August

We were five again today, including a new member: Carolyn McBride. Welcome Carolyn!

John H is making slow, but steady progress with his Irish ancestors. Duplicated names for births don't help, and tracing the 6 children that did not survive of an ancestor is proving difficult. One did turn up with his birth being registered in a different area. This is possibly because Parish boundaries do not coincide with local authority boundaries.

Keith is now looking at cleaning up his Tree. He is also chasing his father's War record. He may have to apply to the MOD as neither Ancestry nor FindMyPast are proving too helpful.

Eileen is still working steadily on her elusive Kentfield name.

Carolyn is well established but now needs help to move on. Managing her Tree and printing are now a priority and we discussed the limitations of Ancestry in providing Tree prints. At one point Eileen and Keith worked with Carolyn to help her with a problem: good team work there!

JD has been looking at free tree programmes which could be used to get round this, but so far those he has examined are very restricted in print routines unless you opt for the bought version.

Although Ana wasn't able to be present, JD and she had discussed offline this and other aspects of security, and JD talked her through the exporting of a .gedcom file. JD will keep trying to find a suitable free package which offers better printing facilities than so far located.

We also discussed the security of original documents, and JD can offer a service to scan documents too large for an A4 Scanner

Gardening - Leader Paul Dean - 01283 295987

18th July

The gardening group had their annual garden party at Brenda's house we were so lucky with the weather as we had a good afternoon sandwiched between two days of continual heavy rain. We had a strawberry tea with scones, cream and strawberry jam together with beautiful fresh strawberries.

It was lovely to mingle and socialize whilst admiring Brenda's lovely garden, which has recently been landscaped. She is in the process of adding more plants and lots of discussion took part regarding her plans.

A plant swap was held on the front drive during late afternoon. Everyone gave generously to Brenda's chosen charity, the Air Ambulance.

History – Leader Jane Harris - 01530 838025

22nd August - 1620's House, Donington le Heath

29 members turned up for a fascinating tour of the 1620's House on a very pleasant day, and after an introductory talk on the history of the House we were split up. Half went off round the gardens, whilst the other half was further split into two for simultaneous tours of the buildings.

The house was founded in the late 13th century, although the present configuration and fittings are aligned with early 17th century practices. The property has, however, been through many changes, both in ownership and condition over the decades, including one spell as a pig sty! It is now run by Leicestershire County Council.

The main house is on two floors, with the ground floor divided into a scullery and a parlour. Originally these two rooms would have been used by the staff to prepare meals, do laundry and such like, but later tenants separated the spaces and inserted much bigger windows to make the main room useable by the family. There was originally a fireplace in the scullery, which is suggested by a chimney in an old engraving, but is no longer there. There was a third floor, evidence for which is windows in the gable ends and the roof, also showing in an old engraving. The floor was taken away to reveal the full glory of the magnificent roof timbers and the craftsmen's marks for assembling the timbers.

The upper floor is also in two parts: one is a room about the same size as the scullery beneath it, but kept empty. The dividing wall has been constructed by English Heritage to show the methods of construction, and the wattle and daub infilling. The other is fitted out very pleasantly as the Family room with a table with removable top, and children's games, sewing and spinning facilities and everything the family needed for all its daily round.

Attached to the building are two wings at right angles. On the first floor of each wing is a bedroom, one of which is a rare separate Master bedroom, with a fire exit using an oversized original door, possibly giving onto a long-gone tower room. The other bedroom is a corridor room sharing a common access with the study of the Master at the time, Mr James Digby. The study seems to have doubled as a clandestine chapel, at a time when this could have brought serious trouble on the family. The corridor bedroom holds a four poster bed which is supposed to have been the one Richard III slept in, in the Blue Boar Inn, before Bosworth. The ground floor rooms of the extensions are given over to the pantry/Buttery and the dairy.

Our tour guide was excellent, giving us a clear view of life at the time, both for the Family and the staff.

The garden tour was a real contrast, as the gardens are laid out in separate sections, each given over to different types of plants, mainly herbal in nature. The gardeners among us had a marvellous time talking over the various plants and their uses.

Finally, we were ushered into the cafe for a cream tea of scone, butter, jam and a cuppa with a generous slice of cake to boot. Or to take home as many did!

A lovely day out at a wonderful local gem.

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow - 01530 469152

31st July. MQP Cliffe Hill Quarry, Markfield

Remarkably 22 members decided that they wanted to look into a very big hole in the ground and so turned up at Midland Quarry Products' (MQP) Cliffe Hill Quarry near Markfield on a somewhat damp morning. MQP don't often give tours of their sites so we were lucky that Mike Hardy, who had organised the visit, used to work on the site and so provided us with the introduction.

After signing in and having our photos taken (security and safety are taken very seriously on site) we were given a very interesting briefing on the history, geology and workings of the quarry by one of our guides, Steve. We were then kitted out in full safety gear of boots, dayglo jackets and trousers, hard hats and safety glasses. As MQP didn't have boots in all the right sizes they bought in new gear for everybody after we provided the shoe sizes. They also hired in 4 brand new Land Rovers to take everyone around the site which is split over two quarries the Old and the New Cliffe Hill.

After being split into two groups we headed off around the roads surrounding the site where it was pointed out to us how hidden the workings are from the road. Our first stop was overlooking the Old quarry which is still being worked. It covers 120 acres and is about 90 m deep. The huge dumper trucks look tiny when they are at the bottom. The site manager was on hand to answer all our questions. The logistics are amazing. From getting fuel down to the vehicles, to setting and detonating the explosives, to getting the rock back out of the quarry, the numbers are staggering. They export 4.5 million tons of granite per year; that's about 12,500 tons a day! There is a constant stream of trucks and trains leaving the site.

From there the Land Rovers took us down into the quarry and through the 700m long tunnel back into the New quarry where the rock is crushed into chippings and some is coated with bitumen to make asphalt. Again the scale of everything is amazing. Next we visited the control room where they control the loading of the trucks and trains. Then it was back to the offices to say our thank-yous to everyone who had made it such a special day, and to remove all our safety gear.

It wouldn't be a Industrial Heritage trip without a pub lunch so we headed over to the Fieldhead Hotel for a very good lunch, excellently and efficiently served.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall - 01530 415922

The group didn't get together in August as it is proving difficult to find dates to suit everyone, but they have finally agreed on a date for September – the 4th at 9.30 am

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris - 01530 416653

The group didn't meet in August but are due to meet on Sept 10th to discuss "The Country Girls" by Edna O'Brien

Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland - 01530 413867

8th August – The Copt Oak

The Luncheon Club decided to give the Copt Oak a second chance to feed us; last time we were turned away at the door because a water supply failure meant that they were unable to open that day but we weren't told until we arrived! This time everything went much better and the food and service was very good apart from one minor hiccup. We welcomed one or two new members to the group who seemed to enjoy both the food and the company. Hopefully they will become regulars.

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 – Leader Lesley Thomas - musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk

7th August

As there were just five members present for the August meeting of the music appreciation group there was time for each of us to play more pieces than usual.

Dorothy began by reminding us that it was summer with the Allegro from "Summer" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons, then it was a complete change with Amy MacDonald's "Lets start a band" which is full of rhythm, later we also had Amy with "Mr Rock and Roll".

Brenda came next and she put us in dance mode with Cole Porter singing his own version of "Anything goes" and still dancing with some "Swan Lake" then back to Cole Porter for "Who want to be a Millionaire" this time sung by Frank Sinatra and Celeste Holm, she later gave us "March of the Toreadors" from Carmen and Norah Jones singing "Don't know why".

Mike brought us lots of Dusty Springfield - "I just don't know what to do with myself" then "Breakfast in bed" and "My Colouring Book". This quartet of Dusty was completed by "You don't have to say you love me".

Nev gave us Rick Wakeman on piano playing his version of the Beatles "Help" followed by the Beatles themselves and "Something in the Way She Looks". He continued with Fats Waller and "No one to talk to" and then more Beatles with "Here comes the Sun".

Following the recent death of Joe Longthorne, Lesley played the last track of his last CD, ironically called "If I never sing another song". Joe was a fine singer in his own right as well as an excellent impersonator of Shirley Bassey, so it was appropriate to follow up with Shirley herself singing "If you go away". We then had Dave Brubeck's "Unsquare Dance" and we finished with Fleetwood Mac and "Albatross".

Thanks for another fabulous mix of music, and we meet again on the 4th September at Brenda's house.

Quiz group - Leader Malcolm Bird - 01530 563872

21st August

Sixteen players turned up for the first meeting of the quiz group at our new venue, The Beeches in Ashby.

There were favourable comments about the room we were using despite some last minute arranging of furniture and necessary requests to the management for help in various ways prior to the meeting starting. Several people sent apologies for not being able to attend this meeting - due mainly to holidays.

Judging by the usual laughter, triumphant cries and faux groans of despair, a good time was had by all.

New members are welcome - meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at The Beeches, kicking off at 2.30pm.

Social Events - Contact Avril Wilson – socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk

There were no social events this month. The next planned event will be the Christmas lunch on Dec 12th. Tickets are not yet available but we will notify everyone when they are.

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

15th August

Today we played:

An Eriskay Love Lilt

Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day

Pavane by Arbeau

Variations on Greensleeves by Challenger

Sellenger's Round

It Was a Lover and his Lass, Where the Bee Sucks, How Merrily We Live, Benedictus, from "Madrigals"

Four Handel Minuets

All on various combinations of instruments.

Didn't we do well?!

We'll need to confirm the date of the next meeting when we have a better idea of our commitments.

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.

22nd August, The Dragon at Willington

A select group of eight arrived at the Dragon to find that it was very well patronised for a Thursday evening. There was quite a buzz about the place without it getting too noisy. Several of us went for the excellently priced Set Menu while others went off-piste and tackled the full menu.

The portions were very generous without being ridiculously huge as sometimes happens. All the food looked excellent and was served nicely and I heard no complaints. The fish and chips in particular came in for much praise. The desserts were also much-appreciated.

With the smaller number round the table, conversation was a bit easier and our newcomers were welcomed and perhaps found it easier to join in.

Our next meal will be at the much-lauded Angel in Swadlincote on Sept 26th 7 for 7.30pm

Trips Group – Contact John or Margaret Howlett - 01530 461774

10th August. Cumbrian Mountain Express railway tour

In the true spirit of Captain Scott, twelve intrepid adventurers gathered at Nuneaton on 10th August prior to undertaking an expedition into the frozen northern wastes. After boarding our train, we were immediately faced with a foretaste of the hardships to come - a glass of Bucks Fizz! No sooner had we overcome that obstacle and fought our way through fruit, cereal or porridge, than we were confronted with a choice on which the whole enterprise might depend - full breakfast grill or smoked salmon. In true British Spirit, some opted for one, some the other. By the time we had overcome these privations, the landscape was indeed barren and uninviting - Crewe! Passing swiftly through the North West, in the hope that unfriendly natives might not notice our presence, we had a brief stop (but no Encounter) at Carnforth to swap from electric to steam locomotion. We then hit an unexpected problem at Penrith, where our train came to a stand. Apparently, there were floods north of Carlisle and the need to turn trains around there was causing congestion and delays. However, we arrived only about 20 minutes late and, with true stiff upper lip, ventured out into the storm (light rain). In only 90 seconds, we reached shelter in the form of the hotel next to the station, where sandwiches, ice creams and drinks were consumed to fortify ourselves for the exertions to come.

Only 10 minutes late, the gallant party set off for the immense climb over the Settle and Carlisle line, hauled by the 1935 steam locomotive 6201 Princess Elizabeth (named after Her Majesty). Spurning a stop for locomotive refreshment at Appleby, such was our progress that we passed the summit at Ais Gill (50 miles and a climb of almost 1,200 feet from Carlisle) in only 65 minutes. By now we were 10 minutes early. The weather, unfortunately, did not allow us to see the scenery at its best. Although there was a glimmer of sun, the cloud hung low over the hills and the rain was, at times, torrential. The flow of water down the many streams and the flooding lower down, left us in no doubt of the amount of rain which had fallen. Safely negotiating these difficulties, we all too soon reached Settle Junction and the end of the line over the High Pennines.

Still, the horrors of the return journey had to be overcome. They started with a hoard of gins & tonic and bottles of wine. Having survived this initial attack, we then faced our choice of starters before a wave of fillets of beef (silver served), followed by lemon tarts and cheese. It's tough, this exploration but someone's got to do it! Even now, our hardships were not at an end - at Rugeley, we encountered a signal failure but were able to get through with only a 15 minute delay to Nuneaton.

Somehow, the entire party had survived the rigors of our exploration and many expressed interest in a future expedition. To (mis) quote Sir Winston Churchill - never in the field of rail transport was so much consumed so rapidly by so few!

A second steam rail trip is scheduled for September, from Edinburgh to Aberdeen, organised by Bill Wilson but this is 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.

20th August - Trent Lock and Attenborough Nature Reserve, led by Paul McKay

Fifteen walkers assembled on a warm and sunny morning for this walk that must be one of the flattest done by the group. After walking to the footpath alongside the River Trent we stopped for a short orientation briefing on the waterways at this busy junction, noting the Erewash canal, the River Soar and Cranfleet Cut, a short canal that bypassed a weir on the Trent. We followed the Trent downstream for about 2 miles before turning left over a bridge and into the Nature Reserve. By 11.30 we had reached the Visitors Centre with picnic tables, cafe and toilets for the obligatory coffee stop. On the return leg we took the countryside, skirted around a children's playground and negotiated a short steep slope to bring us back to Cranfleet Cut. Here we were treated to a demonstration of the workings of the lock gates, with some of our group helping to pull open a lock gate, as two narrow boats entered to lock...all very entertaining and educational! After a short distance along the river path we climbed a stile (highest point of the walk, maybe?), through a tunnel under the railway, and arrived back at Trent Lock.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman - 01530 222634

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

12th August. Sweptstone & Normanton, led by Carole

12 people, including two new walkers, met at Sweptstone Church on a bright sunny August day. We headed through the village and took a path towards Normanton le Heath. The path was very overgrown, and not walked very much. We walked through a couple of fields of corn, ready to be harvested. On to the outskirts of Normanton, and we followed the path west. Our coffee stop was by the model flying club, where we saw a few airplanes doing aerobatic moves across the sky. It was lovely to watch. Then back along the old milk road from Sweptstone to Ashby and on towards Sweptstone, finally arriving at the church at 12.10 after walking a total of 4.1 miles. A nice walk was enjoyed by all.

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.

16th August. From St Peter's Church, Stapenhill for a walk around the washlands.

5 people met at the Stapenhill car park, the weather was poor with a slight drizzle. Because of the weather we decided to walk to the Costa coffee shop in Tesco's. First we crossed the footbridge over the new bridge road and stopped for a toilet break in Stapenhill gardens. We then crossed on to the Ferry bridge and headed to the Pumping station (no longer in use). There were a lot of puddles around but we managed to find a way through without getting too wet. We spent some time looking at the pump house and the various printed boards.

The road to the car park passes close to the Tesco store where we stopped for a coffee break and a chat. On leaving the shop we followed the footpath on the left as soon as we entered the washlands which was puddle free and passed under both the road bridge and the raised foot path. We then walked up to the raised foot path back the Ferry footbridge. We returned to the car park along the riverside path which meant we had a good view of Stapenhill gardens. The walk was just over two miles, however our GPS walk tracks both show us wading through the river!