



Newsletter September 2019

Interest Groups Timetable for October

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Tue 1st	9:45 for 10 am start	Walking	The Staff of Life, Ticknall
Wed 2nd	10 am	Music Appreciation	Sallie's at Woodside Cottage, 61 Melbourne Road, Newbold. LE67 8JH
Wed 2nd	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 3rd	10 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way
Thu 3rd	2: pm	Recorder	Joan's house
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
Wed 9th	2 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 10th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	Quorndon Fox, Quorn, LE12 8DT
Mon 14th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Meet at Sense Valley Upper Car Park, Melbourne Rd, Ibstock
Mon 14th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 15th	9:45 for 10 am start	Walking	Ashford in the Water, Derbys
Wed 16th	10 am	Drawing and painting	Meet at 16 Winchester Way.
Wed 16th	2 pm	Italian	Lynda's House
Wed 16th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Function Room at the Beeches.
Thu 17th	2 pm	Recorder	Chris's house
Thu 17th	2 pm	Gardening	Packington Village Hall Harvest Lunch. If you are coming, please phone Paul with details of the food you are planning to bring
Fri 18th	10 am	Short Walks	Meet at Ticknall village hall car park
Mon 21st	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Mon 21st	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Wed 23rd	9:30 am depart	Industrial Heritage	Soho House, Birmingham B18 5LB
Thu 24th	2 pm	History	Packington Hall. Janet - 'A History of the World from the bottom up'
Thu 24th	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	Italian restaurant La Torre, High St, Coalville. Opposite the library. Free parking behind the restaurant in North service road CP.
Mon 28th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre

Early November

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 4th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 5th	9:45 for 10 am start	Walking	The Old Black Horse, Mapperley DE7 6BY
Wed 6th	10 am	Music Appreciation	TBA
Wed 6th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way

*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
Oct	Jean Preece, Brenda Dummer, Sandra Fox, Cynthia Wells	TBA	Supper Club and Walking
Nov	Jenny & Peter Slawson, Bridget & Jim Fairway	TBA	Arts & Crafts and Bridge

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Christmas lunch will again be at the Willesley Park Golf Club, on December 12th 12.30 for 1 pm. Tickets cost £23 for a 3 course meal plus coffee & mints. Gluten free and dairy free versions can be provided for almost all items on the menu. We are taking bookings and menu choices at the Monthly Meetings and the menu is on the website. If you can't get to the meetings, contact Bill or Avril Wilson on 01530 413182 to reserve your place.

WELFARE

We have a new Welfare member on the Committee – Estelle Sandles.

Estelle is an experienced welfare officer and is willing to provide support and information.

If you or another member would welcome the support of our Welfare to find the help you need, email welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk or ring Estelle on 01530 459858

Also beware of scams, frauds and other nasties.

Nuisance calls about pensions are now illegal. If you receive a cold call about pensions, don't talk to them. Put the phone down and report it to the Information Commissioner's Office on 0303 123 1113

LAST MONTHLY MEETING - Tuesday 24th September

The title "The Best of British" didn't really give us any clues as to the subject of this month's talk; who would have thought it had anything to do with fish!

The speaker, Jack Perks, looked a fairly ordinary young man, but when he told us he had filmed underwater every fish in the British Isles, we knew we had someone different. Jack describes himself as a naturalist with a camera rather than a wildlife photographer and cameraman. He hails from Nottingham, returning there after studying for a degree in Marine and Natural History Photography at Falmouth. His underwater film work has appeared on Countryfile and Springwatch.

His favourite fish is the Grayling, and after filming them over a period of 4 years he finally got a film of them spawning. It was a first, Springwatch showed it on their programme and it caused a lot of complaints to the BBC because of its adult content!!

He travels quite a lot to film, his favourite place being Shetland, and he showed us his films and photos of Otters, Puffins, Gannets, Seals and Killer whales. He took lots of stills of Puffins from Sumburgh Head, in various lights and very close up. Then he decided he wanted to film them underwater, but they were a bit camera shy and wouldn't come near. Jack needed a different approach so he got plastic decoy ducks and made them look like puffins, he attached one to his helmet and one on his camera and amazingly the Puffins decided he was OK and swam around him quite happily.

He filmed, from a boat not underwater, as he was quick to point out, a pod of 7 or 8 killer whales (Orca) very close into the shore on Shetland which he was very pleased to see in Scottish waters. Jack was also very lucky to see the Northern lights from Shetland and showed us shots he had taken with long exposures showing the vivid colours that cannot be seen with the naked eye.

He has also spent time in the Scottish borders taking photos of Pine Martens; Jack tempted them out with jam sandwiches, and while he was there, he captured some amusing film of red squirrels jumping towards and over the camera. Less far afield he filmed Fieldfares in his garden by putting out apples and pears in the snow, and also photographed local Mandarin ducks and goldeneyes proving you don't need to go far for wildlife and good shots.

He has been to Seahouses in Northumbria to film Eider duck, where you can get very close to them as they are used to being fed chips by tourists. Eiders creche their young, so early summer is a good time to see them. In the Peak district he filmed Dippers and Water Voles, the latter was decimated by mink and you are lucky to see them now.

Jack fascinated us with underwater film of Kingfishers diving into water to catch fish, you only get about a 3 second window to film the action. He has swum with blue sharks, baiting them with a rank mix of rotten smelly fish, pig's blood and bread to attract them. He said how amazed he was with the blueness of them.

There seems to be no limit to what Jack has filmed and photographed either above or underwater, a very interesting man with an interesting life and some amazing photographs.

Next monthly meeting on Tuesday Oct 22nd at 2pm

Alexa Wigfield will talk to us about the "When you wish upon a star" charity which makes dreams come true for sick children.

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Sharon Woodland – 01530 413867

The group were planning to be knitting or crocheting poppies this month in time for Remembrance Day, 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

10th September

Six members met at Carole's house in September, we spent quite a lot of time talking about the kind of writing that we want to achieve. At the meeting we all produced a modern and free flowing piece of calligraphy, something which is quite alien to some of us. It is a challenge to let your hand flow freely. We also arranged our Christmas meal out, which is to be in January. A lovely morning spent chatting and writing.

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.

4th September

6 turned out today.

Bic needed help with the workings of Windows 10, which was supplied by Mike.

Peter was introduced by John H to the wonders of Dropbox, which he will find very useful for transferring large files, especially photos.

John D discussed the secure wiping of an old laptop ready for sale. It seems that the process starts with backing up of all files and ensuring copies of all software he wants to keep are safely on other media. Then the plan would be to use C Cleaner to clean off all documents. This process repeatedly covers all files with garbage so that they cannot be recovered. Then install a fresh copy of the operating system, in this case Windows XP. This clears the entire drive, leaving it ready for sale as a fully working machine, but without the risk the purchaser could recover any sensitive data.

John and Mike also discussed the best way of copying software from an original disc to allow others to use it (copyright matters notwithstanding). This must be done direct from the original medium, as it won't work if you try to copy from the installed version. If a copy is required on a CD or DVD and there is only one CD/DVD drive in the machine, then the PC can store a temporary copy of the CD (without installing it) for re-burning to a new CD in the same drive. Better is to use a USB stick, as the operation can then be done in one pass.

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.

5th September

As our meeting clashed with the Industrial Heritage trip to the Great Central Railway, and only 3 members were available anyway, we decided to join the IH trip. It gave us the opportunity to get some behind-the-scenes photos at the Loughborough engine sheds as well as an interesting visit to the Mountsorrel Heritage Community Centre which was fascinating. For full details see the IH report.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty - 01530 411148

18th September

Feeling confident after our team masterpiece was publicly displayed as part of the 800 year Statutes anniversary, this month's challenge was an individual effort to capture some aspect of a fairground. There was experimentation with mixed media; acrylics, pencils, watercolours, pen and bravely, black paper!!! And the result: carousel horses, a chair-o-plane, and dodgem cars.

All very vibrant and colourful.

Next meeting. Wednesday 16th October at John H's. Free choice of subject, but if stuck for ideas then something beginning with O.....

Family History – Leader John Dogherty - 01530 411148

11th September

An excellent session today, with a new member Dora among the 8 attending.

Dora needed to start a tree from some basic information. We loaded a stand alone piece of software (Family Tree Maker 2005) to help her start. When she has done more work she will be able to decide on an online system for research, and export a gedcom file to it.

Eileen took away the FTM disc for copying, as her iPad has no means of reading external files. She is still chasing the name -Kentfield- and how it became part of her ancestors naming arrangements. A search of One Name websites might help, but so far the mystery continues.

Rosemary continued working on her tree and finally established a link to the father of Grace Darling. We have a famous ancestor now!

Carolyn tried to copy the FTM software onto a blank DVD, but failed, probably because the disc was unformatted. We installed the software, then imported her tree from Ancestry successfully.

Ana had had difficulty in exporting her tree from Ancestry, so we retraced her steps. Curiously, the gedcom file she had exported generated a tree in a programme called My Family Tree. We could find no explanation for this. However we did manage to print it via the A3 printer, but the quality was not good. We shall look at other solutions later.

Chris worked with John H on his Irish ancestors, with no clear conclusion.

Gardening - Leader Paul Dean - 01283 295987

19th September

Our September trip was a visit to New Place Garden on the site of William Shakespeare's house and garden. What a beautiful day and setting it was. We first had a informative talk , then we were free to wander round the lovely garden where there were many fascinating metallic sculptures based on Shakespeare's plays etc, leaving time to enjoy Stratford town in the glorious sunshine.

History – Leader Jane Harris - 01530 838025

26th September - The Old Curiosity Box presented by Stephen Flinders.

34 members found themselves in an unfamiliar situation. Instead of being seated theatre fashion, we were arranged in teams of five or six around tables. Stephen then circulated among us depositing on each table a pair of esoteric objects, together with a list of hints as to the objects use or identity. It was our task, if we chose to accept it, to decide what the objects were. After a few minutes Stephen then moved the objects on to the next table.

There were 10 objects in all, and they were not at all easy to identify. Some tables managed 5 or 6 out of the ten, some as few as 2 or 3.

The objects in fact included a 19th century French foot-warmer for coachmen; a Roman strigil, a form of scraper for cleansing off the oil, dust and sweat after a dip in the baths; a genuine, probably unique, huge copper nail from HMS Victory; a tonsil snipper -not nice at all!-; a water sprinkler which made use of an hydraulic principle that the makers were obviously aware of but very probably did not have the science to understand; and a fletcher's battlefield arrow tool kit, along with a field surgeon's oversized tweezers for removing the arrowheads from the poor unfortunate who had been shot with said arrows.

There were many more objects which we struggled to identify, but had great fun in the process. An unusual and very interesting afternoon..

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow - 01530 469152

Because of clashes with school holidays, we had two visits this month. The first was to:

5th September. Mountsorrel & Rothley Community Heritage Centre and Great Central Railway, Loughborough

Thirteen members of the group visited the site of the former Nunckley Hill granite quarry and then went on to GCR, Loughborough.

The former Nunckley Hill quarry is now the site of the Mountsorrel & Rothley Community Heritage Centre. The site now houses a busy café (where the ritual initial cup of coffee was taken) and we were introduced to our guides. The group then toured the site, seeing one of two nature trails; exhibition halls; as well as open-air exhibits of the way the mineral extraction industry was run. Adjacent to the site was the recently restored branch line leading from near Mountsorrel, past Nunckley Hill, to Swithland on the Great Central Railway.

All the assets were assembled or created by local volunteers, including transporting and building the café and exhibition halls, assembled stone by stone from two disused farm buildings in the locality. Maps were distributed showing how the adjacent quarry had developed between the 1880s and early 1900s. The U3a group agreed that the standards of exhibit presentation were very high, and set an example to other similar enterprises.

After stopping for lunch at the Quorndon Fox, the group reassembled at the newly created Gallery at the Great Central Railway's Loughborough Station, to meet Mike Gough MD/CEO of GCR. He told those present about some of the many development projects currently under way at the Railway. Members were given a booklet detailing associated projects in hand.

Participants then moved down to the GCR loco shed to see the many locos currently available for service, as well as four locos currently under restoration. They were given explanations of how a steam loco's valve gear works, and boiler injectors which maintain the water level in service. Finally the group toured the GCR Loughborough signal box, and were given an outline briefing of how the railway Block System of signalling works, and its safety aspects.

Thanks were given to the Mountsorrel and GCR guides who gave us an excellent presentation of the two operations.

25th September. Walsall Leather Museum

A surprisingly large group of 24 members were sufficiently interested in the history of leather manufacture to turn up at our usual meeting point to car-share to Walsall. Unfortunately on arrival the adjacent car park was completely full leaving everyone to find parking spots in the surrounding streets but we (almost) all arrived in time for coffee before our two guides showed us around the museum.

We split into two groups and swapped guides at halftime. One group was first shown the history of Walsall and why it became the centre of the leather and particularly the saddlery trade in the UK. We also learned how leather is formed from the hides of various animals, some more suitable and some more rare than others. The rare hides (snakes, crocodile, ostrich etc.) are not necessarily the best just the most expensive. The distinctive pattern of those animals hides are often mechanically embossed onto cow hide as a cheaper substitute.

The second group first learned how the leather was worked, often by women, and cut, stitched and formed into saddles, bridles, belts and latterly, after the decline of the horse as a means of transport, into gloves, handbags and wallets etc.

Walsall still has a small number (34) of companies making premium leather goods for sale in London, New York and Japan. The Queen's handbags are made there.

The whole history, like that of so many other declining or extinct manufacturing jobs, is fascinating, and it is good to see museums reminding us of what were once major industries.

After looking round the museum shop selling handbags and wallets etc. we finished off by having lunch. Some opted for the nearby pub by the canal while others ventured further to a traditional Black Country pub in the High Street dating back to 1627. I think it qualifies as Industrial Heritage by all by itself! And just coincidentally it had 20 hand-pulled beers on tap

Another great day out.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall - 01530 415922

4th September

This was our first day back since May, so we were all very rusty. Lynda really put us through it to get back up to speed. The session concentrated on Ski Resorts.

We looked at brochures with vocabulary, listened to people booking holidays and facilities, and made up little sentences which had to use the past participles of Sapere and Cognoscere.

There was in fact quite a lot packed into the morning.

We meet again on 16th October at Lynda's at 2 pm.

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris - 01530 416653

The group met on Sept 10th to discuss "The Country Girls" by Edna O'Brien and next month will be discussing "Milkman" by Anna Burns

Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland - 01530 413867

12th September - The Kings Arms, Hathern

The Kings Arms is on the A6 just south of where the Rempstone road crosses it. I expect we've all passed it many a time on the way to Loughborough but none of us seemed to have eaten there before (except Colin & Sharon who have conducted extensive research into local pubs, all in our interests of course!). The pub is part of the Marston's chain and therefore had an extensive menu with 2 for 1 on all main meals. We had a nice table in the window and the service was polite and prompt. Everyone seemed to enjoy their food and as usual the conversation flowed and of course the gourmands had pudding to follow.

A nice pub to add to the list of places to go for lunch or dinner..

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

4th September

Today we had two new members with us, so welcome Joyce and Sam, who started today's musical journey with a singer unknown to us, Phillip Browne, singing "Just the Way You Are", an amazing version of " Ol' Man River" and "Unforgettable". A voice to look out for. They also played us Ken Dodd in an unusually in serious mood singing "Goodnight My Love" and "Absent Friends". They also gave us Rod Stewart and "Maggie May"

Nev reminded us that summer was over with a last blast of "Summertime" from Peggy Lee, then went on to autumn with "September Song" from Brian Ferry, Carol King's "It Might As Well Rain Until September" finishing with "Falling Leaves" by Eric Clapton.

Sallie told us about driving home to this piece by Johann Strauss II - "The Blue Danube" played by The Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra followed by the inspirational "Nimrod" by Elgar.

Lesley brought us another little known act called The Hot Sardines. She played "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen" (To Me You Are Beautiful), "Petit Fleur", "Your Feet's Too Big" and "What a Little Moonlight Can Do" all by The Hot Sardines.

Brenda played us "Can't Find Me Love" from a CD called "The Beatles Go Jazzy". Then Billie Holiday and "Let's Do It" and to finish, Carol Kidd, a very well known Scottish singer with "Don't Worry About Me"

We will next meet on 2nd October at Sallie's, 61 Melbourne Road, Newbold.

Quiz group - Leader Malcolm Bird - 01530 563872

18th September

Twenty-five enthusiasts turned up for the September quiz, for which the questions were provided by Colin Ellis.

Colin was expected to exclusively test our knowledge of trains, engines, stations and all things related. However he tested us with an eclectic mix of subjects which were enjoyed by all. A successful meeting which included the provision of biscuits which, it seems, some players need in order to be able to access their memories.

New members are welcome - meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at The Beeches, kicking off at 2.30pm. The next meeting will be on October 16th.

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. See details at the start of the Newsletter.

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

19th September

With four of us, the possibilities opened up! We started with trios, and added a few quartets:

St Anthony Chorale

An Eriskay Love Lilt

Tomorrow Shall be my Wedding Day

Earle of Salisbury

Fine Knacks for Ladies

Skye Boat Song

Handel Minuets

Going Home/Swing Low

All Through the Night

Polly Oliver

and possibly some others!

We also had a coup d'état: while I was making the coffee, the others agreed that they'd prefer to continue to meet in the afternoon, rather than the morning. So our meetings will now take place on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 2pm to 4pm.

The meeting will take place at Chris' home (details later) on October 3rd.

Joan & Squeaky.

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. If you need transport please see Colin and we will try to arrange for some car-sharing.

26th September, The Angel at Swadlincote

A round dozen arrived at the Angel intrigued to see, and taste, whether the pub would live up to its very good, if rather unknown to many, reputation. It certainly did. From the outside, it looks a bit like the old boozer that it used to be until a couple of years ago when it was taken over by new management.

The inside is very smart in a casual sort of way and although there is a bar as you enter where you could stand and drink, it is obviously more of a restaurant than pub. The service was very efficient and friendly, the menu very different from the usual pub fare, and the price exceptionally reasonable at £20 for 3 courses.

For once almost everyone had a starter as they all looked so inviting. For the main course both the seabass and fish stew proved popular although there were interesting meat and vegetarian options. The desserts were equally good with a selection of Eton Mess, panna cotta and chocolate torte amongst others. All the food was delicious and looked stunning, and the only "complaint" was from a certain person who was upset that there was no custard on the menu!

I can see many of us returning here either with the Supper Club or with friends and family and even the Luncheon Club may find an excuse to visit despite the lack of custard!

Next month we shall be trying La Torre, a well reviewed restaurant in Coalville. All are welcome.

Trips Group – Contact John or Margaret Howlett - 01530 461774

6th-8th September Edinburgh to Aberdeen steam rail trip

18 people signed up for the trip. Some chose to drive up to Edinburgh, some opted to combine the trip with visits to friends and relatives, but most travelled via minibus to Burton and then Network Rail to Edinburgh Waverley station. Everyone was booked into the nearby Travelodge and had Friday evening to explore the city and find somewhere to eat.

Early the next morning they were all ready to board the train hauled by Tornado, the first steam engine built in Britain since 1960, having been completed in 2008. The weather was excellent and allowed great views of the East Coast. Arrival in Aberdeen was a little later than expected, but the group still had time for a walk around town before lunch.

The return trip was uneventful and had everyone back in Edinburgh by early evening. Many ventured out to the local nightlife apparently meeting up with a Norwegian male voice choir and finishing the night with Auld Lang Syne!

The morning was spent sightseeing and shopping in Edinburgh before catching the afternoon train back to Derby where the minibus was waiting to return them to Ashby.

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.

17th September. Hartshill, Atherston

Twelve members of the walking group met at the Anchor Inn, Hartshill on a very warm and sunny day. Having pre ordered food for our return at 1.30 pm we set off along the Coventry Canal following its twists and turns until we reached Bridge No 38. Here we left the canal and followed a track leading up towards a very pleasant golf club. The yellow way markers took us past the club house and alongside the edge of the fairway until we reached the road to Ridge Lane. We walked along the road for 200 yards before picking up the track to Mancetter Farm where we stopped for a short break. Then, having crossed the fields and lanes to Oldbury village we stopped to admire the views from Hartshill Ridge before walking through Hartshill Hayes Country Park and back to lunch at the Anchor Inn.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman - 01530 222634

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

9th September. Carton to Shackerstone circular

Just 4 hardy souls set off from Main St, Carlton on a slightly wet Monday morning. The route took us across open countryside to Shackerstone Railway Station. Unfortunately, there was no warm welcome to be found at the cafe as it was closed. Oh well, on we continued along the Ashby Canal and sheltered under bridge 51 for our morning refreshment. The canal path took us virtually back to Carlton, we just had to cross the railway line to get back to our cars, by which time the rain had stopped!! 2.5 hours and 5.5 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.

20th September. From St. Bernards Abbey.

6 walkers met at Mount St Bernard's Abbey. A friendly lady offered to take a photograph of us all before the Abbey. The weather was fine but not hot and we set off taking a footpath on our left as we left the car park. Down the hill to Oaks Road which passes the Abbey, we turned away from the Abbey and picked up the public footpath on our left across 3 ploughed fields. As the footpath was well defined and not too rough we continued to a farm track. Here we turned left and climbed to a higher track alongside Whitlock Quarry which is now full of water.

The path continued by the quarry and down to a farm track which led back to the Abbey. From here we went to St Joseph's tea room for a drink, cakes and a chat leaving at 12.15.

Of interest we photographed some hare bell flowers in bloom in mid September.

Information about the Abbey:- it was founded in 1835 as a Trappist monastery.

Your Committee are:

Colin Ellis	Chairman	chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 272592
Anne Donegan	Business Secretary	secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01283 760348
Val Reed	Treasurer	treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 564279
Iain Banns	Membership Secretary	members@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 416697
Colin Woodland	Groups Co-ordinator	interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413867
Peter Clement	Minutes Secretary	minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 560894
Estelle Sandles	Welfare	welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 459858
Bill Wilson	Speaker seeker	speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413182
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Avril Wilson	Social Secretary	socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413182
Tony Smith	Member	tony@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 831822