



Newsletter October 2019

Interest Groups Timetable for November

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 4th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 5th	9:45 for 10:00 start	Walking	The Old Black Horse, Mapperley DE7 6BY
Wed 6th	9:30 am	Italian	Lynda's House
Wed 6th	10 am	Music Appreciation	Neil's at 40 Willesley Gardens
Wed 6th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 7th	10 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way
Thu 7th	10 am	Arts and Crafts	2 Marlborough Way. Making patchwork quilts
Mon 11th	9.45 for 10am start	Medium Walks	Meet at Sutton Cheney Wharf. CV13 0AL
Mon 11th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 12th	10 am	Calligraphy	At Diane's. Christmas themed piece. Formal or informal.
Tue 12th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 13th	2 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 14th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	Gate Inn, Osbaston. CV13 0HS
Fri 15th	10 am	Short Walks	Meet at 16 Winchester Way for a walk around some of the new bits of Ashby
Mon 18th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Mon 18th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 19th	9:45 for 10:00 start	Walking	
Wed 20th	10 am	Drawing and painting	Meet at 2 Marlborough Way
Wed 20th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Function Room at the Beeches.
Thu 21st	2 pm	Gardening	Packington Village Hall Garden & Planting talk by a speaker from National Memorial Arboretum. £3 entrance fee
Thu 21st	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	Gelsmoor Inn, Griffydam LE67 8HP
Mon 25th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 26th	9:30 am	Italian	Lynda's House
Wed 27th	TBA	Industrial Heritage	The Pen Museum and the Coffin Works in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter
Thu 28th	TBA	History	'Tissington Hall at Christmas'

Early December

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Tue 3rd	9.45 for 10am start	Walking	TBA
Tue 3rd	12:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 4th	10 am	Music Appreciation	TBA
Thu 5th	10 am	Arts and Crafts	2 Marlborough Way. Making patchwork quilts

*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
Nov	Jenny & Peter Slawson, Bridget & Jim Fairway	TBA	Walking and Arts & Crafts
Dec	The Committee	TBA	none

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

Estelle Sandles 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

Or there is THE SILVER LINE - www.thesilverline.org.uk
The free, 24 hour, confidential helpline for older people.
0800 4 70 80 90 Open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

CURLING

We are trying to start a curling group and looking for expressions of interest.

What is it: Easy, fun, indoor, non-physically demanding activity.

It's not played on ice, but on a wooden floor.

Ideal for dodgy knees, hips and backs.

Where: Charles Booth Centre, Main Hall, The Green, Thringstone, LE67 8N

Large Car Park, kitchen for half time refreshments, equipment hire.

When: 1st and 3rd Mondays 1-3pm all year.

Cost: £2 per session to cover room/equipment hire.

This is a fun, friendly, low-impact sporting activity for all.

There would need to be at least 10 committed group members for it to work financially.

For further information contact Estelle at welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk 01530 459858 , 07919 986456

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We are planning a trip to **Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham** to the Hallé Orchestra's Christmas Concert on **Tuesday 17th December**. See the "Trips and Outings" group report for full details

BURNS SUPPER

We are holding a Burns Supper at Willesley Park Golf Club on Friday 24th January at 7 for 7.30 pm.

There will be the usual fayre of Soup, Haggis Neeps & Tatties, Cranachan. Piping in of the Haggis, Address to the Haggis. Tickets at £27 inc. wine and a wee dram will be on sale at the monthly meetings or contact Bill or Avril Wilson on 01530 413182.

LIFTS TO MEETINGS

Sometimes the winter months are a difficult time for some members to get to monthly meetings. If this is you, and you would welcome a lift, just contact any committee member (details on the last page) and we can arrange someone to collect you.

Last Month's Meeting - 22th October "When you wish upon a star"

This month Maggie Faulkner spoke to us about the charity "When you wish upon a star" that grants wishes for children from 4-17 years who have life threatening illnesses.

They have so far granted 17,500 wishes in 30 years, to give the children and their families time away from hospitals and sick-beds and to give them some thing to look forward to.

It all started with Barbara White who worked in Queens Medical Centre Nottingham on a child cancer care ward. One of her patients was Johanna, aged 4, who wanted to see Micky Mouse, so Barbara started to fund raise to send her to Disney, but unfortunately Joanna died before her wish could be granted. This didn't stop Barbara and she continued fund raising and she sent other poorly children instead.

They do not turn any child away if they write to them with a wish, although they have to check with the child's consultants and doctors to ascertain if they are able to cope with the travelling and the nature of the wish, as these children are seriously or terminally ill. If they are not able to fly, for instance, they will try to work something out such as taking them on Eurostar to Euro Disney instead of flying them to Disneyland in Florida.

Treats are also granted; they have organised VIP train trips to Harry Potter World as they want to make the families feel special for the day. Alton Towers will also throw parties and close off areas of the park just for the families so that they can really enjoy their time there.

Some children ask for one off wishes. Nicholas wanted to learn to cook to surprise his Mum. A Limo collected the whole family and took them to Gordon Ramsey's restaurant where he was given his own chefs outfit and shown how to cook a 4 course meal, then Gordon signed his cookbooks for him. Nicholas wrote to thank them saying how amazed he was and how he had learnt a few new words!

The wishes from the children can be anything from a visit to Skegness to the Caribbean. Some wish for very different things one wanted a blessing from the Pope another to go to the Eden Project and another wanted his own personal man cave in his back garden.

Every year the charity takes about 80 children and their families to Lapland, hiring a plane to fly them from East Midlands. They all arrive the day before and have a party, they get up at 3am for breakfast and off to the airport for a 7am flight. The staff both at the airport and the flight crew entertain the children, allow them to tell jokes over the tannoy, sing songs and do whatever they want.

On arrival in Lapland they are off to the forest where they get a sleigh ride then a meal to warm up then on to an arctic village where they can post letters to Santa and visit Santa's workshop. After a firework display the children watch out of the window for Santa and his elves to arrive, where presents are given. Finally they are then taken back to the airport and the flight home.

The charity gets schools to help with its fundraising by pupils sponsoring "laps for Lapland" by running laps around the playground. Also many companies, doctor's surgeries etc. raise money by putting up Christmas trees where you can buy a Star to put on it.

We were then shown two videos, one of their trips to Lapland and the other of a princess's party with a fairy-tale coach to take her there.

Maggie's stories were inspirational and heart-warming. Thank you.

Next monthly meeting on Tuesday Nov 26th at 2pm

Roger Hailwood will talk about the Yorkshire Dales

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Sharon Woodland – 01530 413867

The Arts and Crafts group met on Thursday 10th October. Four members were in attendance and each had brought their Knitted or Crochet Poppies. The group has now embarked upon a project to make Patchwork quilts to be given to underprivileged families as something special for their babies. New members will be made very welcome.

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

Three members met at Gill's house on Tuesday 8th October.

Diane had been in touch with Jane Lappage, a calligraphy tutor and we discussed the possibility of her coming to Ashby in the New Year to have a workshop with us. As a few of the group were unable to attend this meeting we decided to discuss it further in November.

We all continued our projects using an informal style of lettering and had an enjoyable and profitable morning.

Next month we will work on a piece of work with a Christmas theme.

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.

21st October

6 turned out today and again very little help needed by anyone.

We discussed the operation of The Cloud in its various forms, and how it can be very useful, but needs using with care because, like any private company, its services can be withdrawn at any time. It is still important to protect your important files, photos etc. with a back up at home on a removeable disc.

It is possible to use Microsoft Office Apps in the Cloud as our committee is doing now with some files. The files can be made available for selected people to just read, but permission can be given for other selected people to edit the files so two or more can work on the same files at once. It can be a very useful way of sharing information.

The origins of the Internet in Arpanet were discussed. This was a US military network which first connected two computers 50 years ago this week. The message sent was "Lo" before crashing. Progress was slow, by 1981 only 213 computers were connected.

Finally, someone remembered they had had a problem with Open Office, involving the -Save As - function in Word. This was unresolved, so will be addressed next time.

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.

3rd October

As we had so many members missing we looked further at Peter's problem from yesterday's computing group. A spare all in one printer scanner was found and linked to a computer and a photograph was scanned with cardboard frame at standard density, without cardboard frame but at highest setting. These were compared with the digital photograph taken yesterday and we decided the high quality scan came out best.

Next month we will look at the photographs taken in August and September when hopefully a full complement will be present.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty - 01530 411148

16th October

Half term October meant less than half our group could meet on Wednesday 16th, but bravely two of us enthusiastically drew and painted October Orchids.

Next Meeting, November 20th, 10am at 2MW.

Family History – Leader John Dogherty - 01530 411148

9th October

An excellent turnout of 8 today, and a very busy session. We have a new / returning member Shirley. Christine helped John H with trying to pin down his maternal parents' history, which is proving very elusive. She also helped Carolyn with her grandfather's Army records, and they found that he had been a sapper in WWI, working on the tunnels undermining the enemy lines.

John D worked first with Shirley to establish where she was currently at with her work. She has an impressive tree already worked up, but needs to push her knowledge of her great grandparents further back. This will be difficult as these ancestors fall before the 1841 Census, so we must move onto Parish and other records. We discovered that her great, great grandfather married twice, and his second wife did not give him any children. We found great difficulty in tracing her great grandfather, who has a very common name, so more work needed there. We also looked at old occupations to decipher what a possible great, great grandfather was doing in the 1841 Census. He was a Scale Cleaner, which seems to be a trade in the ironworking industry. Next time we must get her signed onto the web so that she can work beside the rest of us.

John then worked with Dora on her Scottish records. She has located some she wishes to pursue but will have to use credits to view them, thanks to Scottish People's pricing structure. We did manage to identify that a distant ancestor was illegitimate but whose birth was registered after marriage. The term 'Nothus/Notha' was the clue, being Latin for a child registered in this situation in Scotland. We also successfully imported her Ancestry tree to Family Tree Maker, and looked at some of the display options.

Eileen is still struggling to link up two Doornelov families: one in Netherseal and one in Tamworth. The link seems to be via a common name, but she has so far failed to find the point of convergence. Unfortunately she has been unable to make Family Tree Maker run on her PC: we must look into that further as it is proving very useful to other members of the team.

Ana has managed to master the print options of the curious family tree software that popped up out of nowhere last week, and showed how she can print to one or multiple sheets at will.

Gardening - Leader Paul Dean - 01283 295987

17th October

This month was our Harvest Lunch at Packington Hall. A good time was had by all.

History – Leader Jane Harris - 01530 838025

24th October – A History of the World from the Bottom Up

46 members attended, possibly a record!

Janet surprised most of us as we thought she might be telling us about the Antipodes. But no, this was about a far more fundamental topic as she took us for a surprisingly entertaining and thought-provoking firkle through the history of human sanitary arrangements, a topic few would have dared to tackle.

It seems that our distant, savannah roaming, ancestors had no real need of waste disposal, as they rarely stayed in one place long enough for it to become a problem, but when we settled down, as it were, in one spot, things became more urgent.

We learnt more than we knew about the human digestive system and the 'little helpers' therein which could become deadly if reintroduced to our system.

As we settled down population grew and things became urgent so our ancestors developed ever more sophisticated systems of waste disposal. Latrine construction was even mentioned in the Bible.

Essentially two systems were evolved: one for dry parts of the world and one for the wet places. Janet showed us some remarkable pictures of different kinds of loos, from a monumental throne for King Agamemnon, to a communal loo for up to 36 in Greece. Very cosy! There was considerable detail on the cleansing techniques and implements employed, but we were all rather relieved when Janet moved on to the history of the Water Closet.

This was it seems introduced by one John Harrington for Queen Elizabeth I. It may, however, have been a bit smelly as the output wasn't actually removed from the vicinity. More and better loos were developed by Alexander Cummings (no relation of Dominic Cummings, we think) and Thomas Crapper all of which helped in the fight against the rapidly increasingly insanitary conditions in the cities of the Industrial Revolution.

John Snow's work in identifying the epidemiology of Cholera and Joseph Bazalgette's (pronounced-Bazaljet) Great Sewer were giant strides in the effort to clean up the cities and helped to banish many of the horrors of disease arising from bad sanitation. The Great Sewer opened for 'business' on 13th July 1870.

Janet closed by entertaining us with a summary of the dire conditions in Ashby itself in 1850. It seems there was no means of waste disposal at all. And death rates among children up to 9 were as high as 45%

A weirdly fascinating subject, which kept us on the edge of our seats!

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow - 01530 469152

23rd October. Soho House, Handsworth, Birmingham

We again had 24 members turn up, just as last month, this time to visit the house of one of the world's first industrialists, Matthew Bolton. Split into two groups we were guided round the building whilst our guides explained the history of the house, the Boultons and also the Lunar Society which Matthew Bolton co-founded.

Bolton's father had a small business in Birmingham making shoe buckles, metal buttons, snuff boxes and other small objects which were called 'toys'. Matthew took over the running of the business in

1749 at the age of 21. He married a wealthy woman, Mary Robinson but she died 10 years later. Boulton then married her sister which was illegal in church law but not in common law. After his father also died he used his inheritance and his wives' monies to greatly expand the business. He moved to the Soho area and bought 13 acres of land, eventually expanding it to over 100 acres, to build his Manufactory and Soho House. The manufactory continued to make 'toys' but also candlesticks, church flagons, vases and over similar items which were stamped out of thin plate and joined together. He used sterling silver for the wealthy, but also Sheffield plate and silver-plated copper which were much cheaper. One problem for Boulton was the lack of an assay office nearby. Silver pieces had to be sent to Chester to be hallmarked with the risk of them being damaged in transit. He petitioned Parliament for the establishment of an office in Birmingham and eventually was successful.

As the business increased, the factory was running out of hydropower to work the presses and so he contacted James Watt about developing a steam engine for the site. This was not to power the presses but to move water back up to the millpond so that there was enough water for the watermills.

When Watt patented an improved design in 1769, Boulton realised that this could be a profitable enterprise and so entered into partnership with Watt to design and make steam engines firstly as pumping engines for mines but later they developed a rotary output to directly drive machinery. Between 1775 and 1800 they produced 450 rotary engines enabling large-scale industry to develop throughout Britain.

By 1786 two-thirds of the coins in circulation in Britain were fake. Boulton petitioned Parliament again this time to stamp coins which couldn't be counterfeited and eventually got a contract in 1797. His steam-powered Mint could produce coins at the rate of 10 a second.

The Lunar Society started in 1755 when Boulton met Erasmus Darwin and they and others gathered for informal dinner parties to discuss new scientific subjects such as electricity, meteorology and geology. The group expanded to include Josiah Wedgwood, Watt, Joseph Priestly and many others, and Benjamin Franklin was a visitor, although it was said that there were never more than 14 at a time as that was the largest number to fit around Boulton's dining table.

Despite the serious discussions, much wine was drunk at these meetings sometimes, allegedly, as much as 6 bottles each! The name came about as they met during the full moon as the extra light made the journey home easier and safer. Presumably they relied on someone else to drive their carriages!

The stories of Boulton, Watt and others was made even more fascinating for being told in the original surroundings. Most of the furnishings in the house are original to the house, some are genuine period pieces and a very few are reproductions including the wallpaper made to the original patterns.

Afterwards we retired to a Victorian hostellery where we were served excellent food and local beer.

Thank you Henry, and particularly Julia, for a very well organised trip.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall - 01530 415922

16th October

A busy day. We all read out or homework: "What We Did on Our Holidays".

Next Lynda put us through our paces with exercises on using the past participle and agreement, interpreting pictures of holiday activities. A letter with missing verbs then needed completing. There followed more grammar using specific verbs to relate college activities. Then, most difficult, we had to deduce the questions to fit answers on activities, with verbs of motion and some sneaky reflexives inserted.

We meet again on the 6th and 26th of November at Lynda's at 9.30 a.m.

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris - 01530 416653

The group met on October 8th to discuss "Milkman" by Anna Burns and next month will be discussing "The American Marriage" by Tayari Jones

Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland - 01530 413867

10th October - The Quorndon Fox, Quorn

Standing back from the High St in Quorn, The Fox is an imposing three storey building dating from 1740. Now part of the Vintage Inns chain it served us with some very nice food and drink in a comfortable setting. I imagine it could be quite noisy on a busy evening but this lunchtime, although there were plenty of customers spread around the large rooms, it was quiet without being too quiet. Apart from a mix-up with the writer's main course, all the food looked very good, seemed to be enjoyed by all, and no-one else had any complaints. All in all a very nice venue.

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

2nd October

Neil started our meeting of this month with two soulful ladies, firstly Joan Armatrading singing "The Weakness in Me" and the Portuguese Mariza with an emotional "Fado". He later gave us Spats Langham, who is well known around Ashby, singing "Night Owl"

Brenda was next with Jimmy Witherspoon's "Saint Louis Blues", Frank Sinatra's "Somebody Loves Me" and Carol Kidd singing "Nice Work if You Can Get It"

Dorothy lifted the proceedings playing The Royal Philharmonic's version of Elgar's final variation from "Enigma Variations" - "Allegro" and then Simon Preston's rendition of Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in D Major"

Lesley remembered that it was a big Beatles anniversary and played "A Little Help From My Friends" sung by Joe Cocker, followed by Don McLean's "Babylon" and Paul Simons "You Can Call Me Al"

Mike also reminded us it was the 70th anniversary of the founding of communist China which was a tenuous link to his CD "China" by Vangelis from which he played "Plum Blossom" and "The Tao of Love". He then gave us another lovely female singer Joni Mitchell with "Both Sides Now"

Nev's first offering was an instrumental from Chet Atkins and Mark Knopfler called "Tears". Hugh Laurie was next with "St James Infirmary" then for something completely different, The Platters and "Only You"

Sally gave us Mozart's "Piano Concerto no.21" as we sat by her piano, and a change of pace with Buddy Holly's "That Will Be The Day" and The Platters again this time singing "The Great Pretender"

Joyce brought Collabro with a very different arrangement of "I'll Be There For You", the theme from Friends, then the amazing Nat King Cole's "Autumn Leaves" and last but not least "Unforgettable"

Thanks to Sally for hosting.

Quiz group – Leaders Pat Ford and Clive Caulfield – quiz@ashbyu3a.co.uk

16th October

The October meeting was well attended and the questions provided by Neil Roberts were enjoyed. The Beeches are getting their act together and facilities were almost 100% provided. The next quiz will be on 20th November. Every third Wednesday of the month for the whole of 2020 has been booked at the Beeches.

Malcolm Bird has run the Quiz for five years now and has decided that it is time to step down and give someone else a chance. Thank you Malcolm for all your hard work over the years, and for recently arranging the move to The Beeches at such short notice.

Pat Ford and Clive Caulfield have taken over joint leadership of the Quiz and revised contact details will be added shortly.

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

The next planned event will be the Christmas lunch on Dec 12th. See details at the start of the Newsletter.

There will also be a Burns Supper on Friday 24th January. See details at the start of the Newsletter.

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

31st October

The group were due to meet at Joan's house today, hopefully with a possible new member. More news to follow next month.

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.

24th October, La Torre, Coalville

Just seven members were able to make it to La Torre in Coalville this month. The others missed out on an excellent restaurant! We all had difficulty choosing from the extensive and interesting menu and a good selection on the specials board. For once everybody was tempted to have a starter and most managed a dessert.

There were a few oo's and ah's as each plate arrived, whether it was for the look, the smell or the size of the plate. No one, it seems, was disappointed.

It was a shame that the restaurant was a little empty on the night we were there, but we did get very attentive service along with the excellent food. and the house wine was very nice too!

Trips Group – Contact John or Margaret Howlett - 01530 461774

We are planning a trip to **Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham** to the Hallé Orchestra's Christmas Concert on **Tuesday 17th December**.

A block of 18 seats has been reserved in the stalls. Tickets are £32. Travel will be by car (lifts can be arranged) and onwards by tram from Clifton South Park & Ride.

Please contact Margaret or John Howlett on 01530 461774 to reserve seats. Payment is required by Monday 11th November at the latest.

Cheques payable to Ashby U3A please to Margaret at 16 Winchester Way, Ashby, LE65 2NR

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.

15th October. Ashford in the Water, Derbys

Following a very wet Early October we picked on a dry day for this mornings walk. Eleven of us met at the Ashford Arms at Ashford in the Water near Bakewell. Instead of the usual group picture outside the pub we gathered at what is known as the sheep dip bridge. After leaving the village we climbed a short hill before turning onto a well sign-posted path to Monsal Head where we stopped for banana and coffee, admiring the view of the river, the valley and the viaduct. The second part of the journey took us down a steep path to the viaduct and entrance to the old railway tunnel and Monsal Trail before a further and muddy climb down to the river Wye below. We now followed a path along the river before crossing a small fast running stream climbing out of the valley and across the A6 and a return for lunch.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman - 01530 222634

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

14th October. From Sense Valley around Ibstock, led by Barry

Four members joined the leader to complete this walk. The walk started out cool and with faint sun, near the end there were a few short showers. We set off along Melbourne Road and made our way, via the park and rough footpaths to walk along Pretoria Road. Then we entered the fields to walk, along the quarry fencing, to Ellistown and Donington le Heath, crossing the abandoned railway and River Sense en route. A refreshment stop at The Green and then into the fields again going towards Ibstock. Negotiating the friendly horses, we crossed the river again and went onto the abandoned railway. After a short distance we set out across a large field to the outskirts of Ibstock. Crossing Melbourne Road again we entered the Sense Valley Park. Going into the wooded area we skirted the first lake before we joined the path round the main lake, eventually climbing up the steep path to the car park. The walk had a mixture of footpaths, bridle ways, field edges and pavements. There was one open field crossing but the grass was beginning to grow. Following recent rain, there was some standing water, but not so much to stop progress. The underlying surface was generally firm. The walk was 5.7 miles and took almost 3 hours.

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.

18th October. Calke Abbey Explore.

8 members met at Ticknall car park on a bright sunny, if not very warm, day. A good start considering the recent weather. Just for a change we set off through the other end of the CP straight into the school playground and then into the churchyard. Many of the group did not know this path existed. From the church we walked down to the main road and up Ashby Rd to a footpath on the left into the fields behind 'The Staff of Life' pub. Across three slightly muddy fields, but not too wet, (it had rained heavily the night before) and 3 small stiles led us to the usual track coming up from Ticknall. It was all

gravel tracks from here on. Turning right, we headed for the gate which avoided the NT toll-booth and headed down to the new Calke Explore site. The area is nearly ready to open, but unfortunately the cafe was not due to open until the next day. However it looks like it will be an outdoor cafe as the building appears to have no indoor seating. But good news, the loos were open. After a stroll around the site, we headed along a duck-boarded path across a reeded pond and out onto the main driveway. Keeping to the verges to avoid the cars we made it up the hill to the toll-booth and back onto the gravel track down to Ticknall and the Scoff and Shop cafe. Although various Fitbits disagreed on the mileage, the satnav and Ordnance Survey said it was 2.6 miles

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
Mike Stow	Communications	webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 469152
Avril Wilson	Social Secretary	socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413182
Tony Smith	Member	tony@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 831822