



Newsletter November 2019

Interest Groups Timetable for December

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Tue 3rd	09:45 for 10 am start	Walking	The Bradgate pub, Newtown Linford, LE6 0AE
Tue 3rd	12:30 pm	Literature	TBA
Wed 4th	10 am	Music Appreciation	Lesley's at 75 Leicester Rd, Measham, DE12 7JG
Wed 4th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 5th	10 am	Arts and Crafts	2 Marlborough Way. Making patchwork quilts
Thu 5th	10 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way
Mon 9th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Meet at the Globe, Snarestone
Tue 10th	10 am	Calligraphy	At Jenny's. Finish Christmas piece
Wed 11th	11 am	Industrial Heritage	Meet at The Bluebell Inn, Smisby Rd for our annual planning meeting to decide the programme for next year. All are welcome. Any ideas as to where we might go will be very welcome. Lunch will be available afterwards,
Wed 11th	2 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 12th	12.30 for 1 pm	Lunch	Willesley Park Golf Club for Christmas Lunch.
Thu 12th	12:30 for 1 pm	Social Events	Willesley Park Golf Club Christmas lunch, £23pp.
Fri 13th	10 am	Short Walks	NOTE A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL Meet at Staunton Harold lower CP
Tue 17th	09:45 for 10 am start	Walking	Meet Featherbed Lane.
Tue 17th	7.30pm	Trips and Outings	Hallé Orchestra Christmas Concert at Nottingham Concert Hall Travel by car to Clifton Tram P & R
Wed 18th	10 am	Drawing and painting	Meet at 2 Marlborough Way
Wed 18th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Function room at the Beeches
Thu 19th	2 pm	Gardening	Packington Village Hall Secret Santa and Christmas buffet. If you are coming, please phone Paul with details of the food you are planning to bring.

Early January 2020

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Tue 7th		Walking	TBD
Thu 9th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	Angel Inn, Swadlincote, DE11 8LF
Mon 13th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Meet at the Ferrers, Lount

*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
Dec	The Committee	David & Lesley Thomas	none
Jan	TBA	TBA	Bridge & Calligraphy

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. Places for this will close very shortly.

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

The Curling group will be up and running with our taster session on Monday 27th Jan. from 1 to 3pm at the Charles Booth Centre, The Green, Thringstone.

The following 1st & 3rd Mondays fall as follows: Feb 3/17, Mar 2/16, Apr 6/20, May 4/18 (Mayday holiday falls on Friday the 8th in 2020), Just in time for your new diaries! Reminders will be sent to those who have signed up.

New members always warmly welcomed for a fun filled session so send your name in to Estelle on 01530 459858/07919 986456 or email sandyoz42_@hotmail.com

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. This is now **sold out**. If you have missed out, ask Margaret Howlett if there are any last minute cancellations.

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 - 26th November "Lost Windmills of Leicestershire" by Mark Temple

After we were let down by our booked speaker at very short notice, we were very lucky to have Mark Temple come and give us his talk on the "Lost windmills of Leicestershire" or as an alternative title he thought "Gone with the Wind" sounded appropriate.

Mark is a volunteer at Hough mill at Swannington. So why Windmills? He went to University in Loughborough where he studied to be a librarian. As part of his degree course, he researched local windmills and watermills and through this he became interested in them. His interest was helped by growing up in Coningsby, Lincolnshire, where a windmill had once stood in the high street; as a boy he had watched it being demolished .

Windmills and watermills were first recorded in Britain back in the 12th century, mainly in religious texts. Windmills were then mostly post mills with a base supporting a central pillar that the mill house could be revolved around to face the wind. These were very precarious in storms as they would topple over.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, some churches had carvings of mills on their pew ends. Around this time, horizontal mills started to appear. These are built around a central vertical shaft with paddles fixed to it so they rotate horizontally, a bit like a watermill standing on its end. Only one remains in UK, in Margate, otherwise they are mainly found in the middle east.

More locally in Leicester city in 1828 there were 9 mills shown on local maps. On a map of Bradgate Park from 1754, Old John was shown as originally being a hill with a windmill on it .

In 1897 Mountsorrel windmill was taken down and moved to the other side of town. It never worked again as it was in the lee of the wind. It was taken down and the wood used in the church screen, and the millstone can still be seen in the garden of Stonehurst farm

A mill was built in 1890 at Woodhouse Eaves but in a big storm in 1895, it and 38 nearby mills were destroyed. Woodhouse Eaves mill was restored on the outside as a view point for tours and picnics and then in 1930 it was burnt down. In the 1950s local councillors raised £2500 to rebuild it but the money went missing! Since then there have been two more attempts to replace it but the cost has been prohibitive and all that is left of it is the base

A lot of the millers in an area would be relatives from the same family, the Hive family being a local milling family. The mills could only support one miller so when sons needed to work they were sent to a nearby mill to work.

There are records on maps of there having been 3 mills in Ashby, one in Featherbed lane, demolished in 1900, another on the hill south of the castle, the third being in Smisby. There is thought to have been another, and those visiting the Lamb pub in Market Street can see a rubbing on a beam there of this 4th windmill.

The last type of mill is a tower mill where only the cap on top of the tower rotates. There are examples of these in Castle Donnington, Melbourne, in Staunton Harold reservoir, Shepshed and Kegworth, several of these style of mill have survived as they have been incorporated into houses.

Mark gave us a very interesting talk with lots of facts about something we see all around us but take little notice of, nor realise their many differences and their various problems in use.

Next monthly meeting on Tuesday Dec 10th at 2pm

Nick Gravestock will be providing our Christmas entertainment with "Ayres & Graces"

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Sharon Woodland – 01530 413867

The Arts and Crafts group met on November 7th and embarked on a project to produce a patchwork quilt.

The squares, having been cut out in advance by Sharon, were arranged in a manner that satisfied all present and then numbered, ready for assembly and sewing. This will be a work in progress for some time as there is much to do. Once the squares are sewn together they will be attached to a backing sheet sandwiching the wadding and then quilted to hold the wadding in place and enhance the overall appearance.

The next meeting will be at 2 Marlborough Road at 10.30am on 5 December.

Anyone interested in joining the group or observing the work in progress will be 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

12th November

Six of us met on the 12th at Diane's house.

We all worked hard on our individual Christmas project, some of researching for new ideas and others working on designs for cards. It was a very profitable morning session.

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.

18th November

A good team of 9 assembled today, although only two really had problems.

Peter needed more help in dealing with long school photos. He wanted to scan them in to his computer. The procedure was to scan them in one segment at a time. Edwin volunteered to use his skills to stitch the segments together using Photoshop. This will have to be done 'off-line' and the results reported next time.

Alan Phillips is a new member. He has acquired a new laptop, and needs it to be able to share files with his PC. The normal procedure seems to assume that the two computers have different users; this is not Alan's case. He will need to use the Cloud to interwork his two machines.

We helped him set up his new laptop on the internet, downloading the AVG free antivirus software to protect him whilst he arranges for his MacAfee subscription on the main PC to be enlarged to cover the laptop as well. Alan will report 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.

7th November

There was little to talk about previous photographic outings, so new member Edwin made an impromptu presentation of many photos he had taken, using both digital and SLR film cameras. The results from professional macro lenses were truly startling, with the capability to zoom to high levels without loss of clarity and detail. The main downside is that with a very shallow depth of field very precise control and handling of the camera is essential.

One very interesting point is the way film records colour as opposed to the way digital does. Each film crystal records all colours, whereas the pixels in a digital record combine the three colours from different pixels and the computer software processes them into the full spectrum.

As JD could not get to yesterday's Computer Group meeting we looked at his mini-laptop and the way Word offers saving options. It would appear at first sight that there is no 'save as' option. Unknown to the user, however if you drill down through the menu there is a facility equivalent to 'save as'. It just isn't mentioned anywhere, so you have to go looking for it!

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty - 01530 411148

20th November

During the November session we had a discussion about next year's Ashby Art Festival, followed by some drawing and painting of individual choices.

Next meeting, December 18th, 10am at 2 MW.

Family History – Leader John Dogherty - 01530 411148

13th November

Another excellent turnout of 9 today, and a very busy session. We have a visitor from Burton U3A: Sylvia Dearing.

Christine again worked with John H, this time researching possible cousins still alive, and Army records. She also helped Ana with her tree.

John D worked first with Sylvia to establish where she was currently at with her work. She has done great deal of work, but is stalled with female ancestors who failed to marry, and took their mothers' names. She has some intriguing Italian ancestors, so research into Italian records is indicated.

John then again worked with Dora on her Scottish records. She was puzzled by Probate records for Scottish ancestors and other (unrelated people) who's records were lodged at Llandudno and marked 'Sealed' This turns out to be because they would have been lodged at Somerset House, but were moved to Llandudno during the War. As Scottish records they were 'Sealed'.

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. Her research has turned up further coincidences, with two people with the same name but with different parents. Bizarrely one has an uncle and one an aunt with the same family name. The

suspicion is growing that these two families are either the same one, but with an error somewhere, or genuinely two different families, related further up the tree, and living in close proximity.

John then helped Ana to identify an ancestor, born in the late 18th century, on the 1841 Census with his entire family. She now has quite a lot of entries to follow up and place into her tree. He was also able to help with a minor matter of accessing and displaying different sides of her tree.

Meanwhile, Keith and Rosemary beavered away at their own work. Finally, the two Johns co-operated to deal with the complex matter of who needed what to drink: fortunately all were satisfied!

We next meet on Wednesday 11th December

Gardening - Leader Paul Dean - 01283 295987

21st November

A speaker from the National Memorial Arboretum was due to give a talk on planting.

Next month on Dec 19th will be the annual Secret Santa and Christmas buffet. If you are coming, please phone Paul with details of the food you are planning to bring. Can you also please bring a wrapped unlabelled gift, value £5, and a plate with knife, fork and spoon

History – Leader Jane Harris - 01530 838025

28th November – Coach trip to Tissington Hall

We must be a hardy group as 34 members set off for Tissington in the pouring rain with only one cancellation which was quickly filled.

Roberts provided a sumptuous 34 seater coach with leather seats, which added a touch of luxury.

We had the essential coffee break and then headed for the Hall. There was a warm welcome from the staff and the log fire, and then a tour. The theme this year was Star of Wonder, and each room was decorated with the history and illustration of a Christmas carol or song. The man responsible for the beautiful arrangements of antiques, purloined from the attic actually came from a dramatic background and now runs the sweet shop! There was an abundance of fresh greenery, and unlike so many grand houses these days which resemble a Harrods window, there was a feeling of yesteryear, and authenticity.

The icing on the cake was the entry of Lord Fitzherbert himself who continues a tradition of greeting his guests, and explaining some of the thoughts behind the theme.

Lunch was in the Barn, and the turkey dinner had a homemade feel and taste to it. The staff were attentive and helpful, even when we discovered 2 closet vegetarians they managed to provide a quiche option.

Those with some energy left then visited the candle, and trinket shop and also the church and the duck pond, refusing to let the drizzle deter them.

The driver was unphased when we asked to return half an hour early as apparently it is a common occurrence but not an indication of how much everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow - 01530 469152

27th November. Coffin Works & Pen Museum, Birmingham

20 members ventured into Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter by car, train, tram and finally by Shanks's pony on a cold damp day to arrive eventually at the Coffin Works museum.

Built in 1894 by the brass-founders Alfred and Edwin Newman as a factory to make coffin furniture i.e. the handles and other fittings on coffins which were stamped from brass and later from aluminium. They soon realized that the way to make money was to cater to the very rich who tended to leave their coffins on display in a mausoleum and therefore spent a lot more on bling than when the coffins

were buried. This proved to be a successful move and the business flourished, eventually expanding to be a one-stop shop for undertakers as Newman Brothers now made shrouds and coffins and sold embalming fluid and all the other paraphernalia required. Our two guides showed us around the various parts of the works and told us the stories not just of the factory but also of the many individuals who worked there, often having careers of many decades. The business eventually came into the hands of a very shrewd woman, Joyce Green, who started as office secretary and at some point acquired shares in the company. When the last of the family died she became sole owner for the last ten years. When the business closed in 1998 she saved the building and all its contents to open it as a museum and after many financial troubles it opened to visitors in 2014.

After lunch at the nearby historic Shakespeare Inn we walked up the road to the Pen Museum where again we were split into groups to be shown around the various sections of the ex-pen factory. We soon discovered that a pen is/was what we would call the pen nib i.e. the steel tip. Birmingham was the centre of the pen trade and at one time 75% of all the world's pens were made in Birmingham. It was said that one person (usually women) could produce 18,000 pens a day, hand-stamping each one from a steel blank. 700 people worked in one factory of the many in the area. The manufacturing processes and the conditions that people worked in made for a fascinating story. Also interesting was how mass-production brought the price of a pen down such that a gross could be brought for the price of 1 hand-made pen so that schools could afford to teach pupils to write, vastly expanding literacy and hence further education to the masses.

Two very different factories but both from the late 1800's give a great insight into that era.

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall - 01530 415922

26th November

Today was our last meeting this year. Lynda put us through our paces with some tough work on reflexive verbs. We worked on reflexive verbs with the past participle, and agreement rules. We worked on Conoscere and Sapere in the present tense, and scrutinised text pieces for errors.

We had to try and transpose examples of various verbs in the present tense in to the past. An interesting session was on the life of Enzo Ferrari, and we needed to identify and note down various facts embedded into the continuous prose.

Finally, we worked through a general knowledge quiz featuring famous people from history, and a set of questions in which we needed to insert the correct verb and tense for their activities.

There will not be a meeting in December, so look out for announcements on the website.

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti!

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris - 01530 416653

The group met on Nov 12th to discuss "The American Marriage" by Tayari Jones and this month will apparently be having their Christmas lunch at a suitable venue whilst discussing "The Kashmir Shawl" by Rosie Thomas

Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland - 01530 413867

14th November - The Gate Inn, Osbaston

The Gate Inn at Osbaston is a Marsden Pub offering good quality yet reasonably priced food and drink. Twenty lunchers gathered at 12 noon on the 14th. Orders were placed and conversation was flowing freely when the whole pub was plunged into darkness. The intrepid lunchers shrugged off this slight inconvenience and, since the power remained operational in the kitchen, continued to enjoy the somewhat more romantic atmosphere.

Little was left after the meal for the staff to feed to the pigs and most plates looked as if they would not need washing (however, I am convinced the staff washed them anyway).

The next luncheon will coincide with our Christmas Lunch at Willesley Golf Club on 12 December 2019 at 12.30pm. Tickets are still available from Avril Wilson if you are quick.

The January luncheon will be on the 9th January at 12 noon for 12.30 pm at the Angel Inn, 10 Church Road, Swadlincote DE11 8LF.

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

6th November

Brenda began the session and, as it was close to Remembrance Day, she gave us Nimrod from the Enigma Variations by Elgar. Then we had a Cole Porter song - 'Just one of those things' sung by Frank Sinatra.

Lesley continued the war time theme playing Anne Shelton's 'I'll be seeing you' followed by the rousing war time Rex Massed Brass Band and Chorus with 'Roll Out The Barrel' and Lale Anderson singing in German 'Lili Marlene'

Sally made a charge with Chopin and his Polonaise no.6 in A and Etude no.1 in C. The amazing 'Super Trouper' from Abba followed this.

Dorothy introduced us to the organist Francis Jackson playing 'Tuba Tune' and then Beverley Craven singing an emotive 'Hope' and Abba's 'The Winner Takes It All'

She then introduced us to her son-in-law Stevie Williams and The Most Wanted Band with his own composition 'Trinidad Trilby'.

Nev started with the anti-war recording by Peter, Paul and Mary 'Where Have All The Flowers Gone' On a lighter note we then had 'Don't Sit On My Jimmy Shands' sung by Richard Thompson and then the fabulous Fats Waller with 'Two Sleepy People'

Neil who also had some Fats Waller played 'Ain't Misbehaving' and ending with Joe Brown and his daughter Sam singing 'Lazybones'

Next meeting will be pre Christmas on the 4th December at Lesley's, 75 Leicester Road, Measham

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

20th November

Our new venue of the Beeches obviously suits, because a total of 25 people attended and the drawing of numbers for tables (so you can't create a Super table!) leads to new acquaintances. We are now taking it in turns (for those who wish) to compile the quiz and we certainly have to delve deep into our memories for the answers.

It is a concern that the Beeches management continue to forget our dates; it is not fair to their staff to have to face our displeasure when the room is not ready.

All new members are very welcome; just ring 07762 054925 or 01827 830672, or just turn up, 3rd Wednesday each month 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

Just too late to make last month's newsletter due to them meeting on the last day of the month, so here is that report:

Three of us met this afternoon, and played a few trios:

Sellinger's Round

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Cockles and Mussels

Polly Oliver

Going Home

Day-Oh and Kum-Ba-Yah

Variations on Greensleeves

Earle of Salisbury

Handel Minuets

The 3 Kings by Marg Hall:(we decided that as this was new to us, and a bit tricky, perhaps we should attack it earlier in the session, before the brains got too tired.)

RazzJazz

Try a Trio : a good one to finish with.

That looks like a lot, but some of them are quite short.

It was a shame that Chris and Lyn couldn't join us. We're looking forward to meeting Lyn, and wish Chris good luck with her paperwork.

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.

21st November, The Gelsmoor, Griffydam

Eleven of us gathered at the Gelsmoor for a convivial meal on Thursday 21st November. This was a week earlier than our normal date as it would otherwise have clashed with the History Group trip to Tissington, which included Christmas Lunch. It was thought that two meals in one day might be too much for members to support both events. Whimps! Those of us made of sterner stuff had been out for a lunch of Game Pie and Roast Venison prior to the supper!

Our evening passed with the usual conversation, excellent food and good drinks.

Two members had a slightly more anxious evening, at least for part of the time. One suffered a puncture on the way to the restaurant and had to change a wheel on a dark, cold evening.

The other, the organiser, on phoning to check the previous evening, discovered the Gelsmoor had no record of our booking! Fortunately they were able to accommodate us, even though they appeared full when we were dining. He then discovered that two people present were not on his list, which might have caused problems but three did not turn up at all which meant that we were eleven. At one stage, we could have totalled thirteen. Then we would all have been doomed!

There is no Supper Club in December (it clashes with Christmas) or January (it clashes with Burns Night), so we hope to see everyone in February, when we hope it will be a little less eventful.

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.

This is now sold out but if you want to go on a reserves list, please contact Margaret or John Howlett on 01530 461774.

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.

5th November. Mapperley and Shipley Park, Derbys

Thirteen walkers gathered in the car park of the Old Black Horse pub on a cool and cloudy morning. Prior to setting off we heard how Shipley Country Park was created from land subject to 250 years of intensive coal mining. The Park now has over a million trees, covers about 700 acres and, best of all, 3 cafes and a Visitor Centre!

We walked north alongside Mapperley Reservoir then turned south through woods and across a very water-logged field and two wooden bridges. Passing the first of the cafes we walked uphill through more woodland with a view of Shipley Lake on our right with the site of the former theme park, American Adventure on the far side. Now on a tarmac path we passed Nottingham Lodge and the second cafe at the top of the hill. The various carvings of animals and posters near the path showed the Parks association with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. At the highest point of the walk we had our coffee stop at the Visitor Centre where there was a canopy that provided shelter from a brief rain shower. Following the shore of another lake we saw several Mallards, Canada Geese and a beautiful solitary Mandarin Duck.

Walking downhill mostly on good paths we arrived back at the pub earlier than usual and even enjoyed some sunshine in the final mile. The distance was 6.2 miles and the pace 2.7 mph, one of the fastest U3A walks I have recorded, possibly due to the good paths and the absence of stiles. We then lunched at the Old Black Horse pub.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman - 01530 222634

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

11th November. Sutton Cheney Wharf to Bosworth Field, led by Alison

Heavy rain on the preceding days and on the morning of the walk deterred some but 4 hardy souls turned up and by the 10 am start the rain had stopped. I wouldn't say that the sun was shining on the righteous but, at least, the weather wasn't trying to drown us.

The plan was to follow the path into Ambion Wood from the wharf, however our route was cruelly compromised by severe flooding not long after leaving the wharf. The 2 ladies present thought the 2 men might have given us a piggy-back but it wasn't to be! So we changed course and did a linear walk instead of a circular one along the tow path to Shenton train station onto the Battlefield Visitor Centre where we re-enacted the Battle of Bosworth Field - this time with Richard winning! We returned to the car park the way we came. 4 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.

15th November. New parts of Ashby

14 intrepid walkers met at 16 Winchester Way despite the forecast. We set off up Clifton Drive and along Oakham Grove and took the footpath towards the new estate. The stile was broken but the path was good and we entered the new estate and walked to the centre(?) of phase 2 where we found an attractive open area. Here we also found a brand new tarmacked footpath with a brand new fence across it. Very strange. We wandered back to the edge of phase 1 and looked at the display board. It now started to rain so we hurried to the Olive Branch for coffee and cake. As the rain had now stopped we did a short walk around the Westfields estate, through the park into Churchill Close and back down Marlborough Way. Total distance 2 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