



Newsletter January 2020

Interest Groups Timetable for Feb 2020

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 3rd	9:30 am	Italian	2 Marlborough Way
Mon 3rd	1 pm	Curling	Charles Booth Centre, The Green, Thringstone
Mon 3rd	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 4th	9:45 for 10 am start	Walking	Lakeside Lodge, Shortheath Road, Moira DE12 6BW
Wed 5th	10 am	Music Appreciation	At Brenda's, 36 Willesley Gdns
Wed 5th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 6th	10 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way
Thu 6th	10 am	Arts and Crafts	2 Marlborough Way. Making patchwork quilts
Thu 6th	1:45 pm	Recorder	Joan's house
Mon 10th	9.45 for 10 am start	Medium Walks	Meet at Green Lane in Wilson, DE73 8LG
Mon 10th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 11th	10 am	Calligraphy	Sue's Planning meeting
Tue 11th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 12th	2 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 13th	12 for 12.30 pm	Lunch	White Hart, Ashby de la Zouch
Mon 17th	1 pm	Curling	Charles Booth Centre, The Green, Thringstone
Mon 17th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Mon 17th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 18th	9:45 for 10 am start	Walking	The Bluebell Inn, Hoby. LE14 3DT
Wed 19th	10 am	Drawing and painting	Meet at John's house. Suggested theme: Something with flags
Wed 19th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Function Room at the Beeches.
Thu 20th	1:45 pm	Recorder	Joan's house
Thu 20th	2 pm	Gardening	Packington Village Hall Talk by Jeff Bates on Great British Gardens. £3 entry fee
Fri 21st	10 am	Short Walks	Meet at the Green(Hood Park Gates) in Ashby
Mon 24th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Wed 26th	9:30 am	Industrial Heritage	Southall Workhouse, town and Minster
Thu 27th	2 pm	History	Packington Hall Bill Devitt - Orient Express
Thu 27th	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	Hong Kong restaurant, 22 High St, Measham

Early March

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 2nd	1 pm	Curling	Charles Booth Centre, The Green, Thringstone
Mon 2nd	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 3rd	9:45 for 10 am start	Walking	The Dog and Hedgehog, Dadlington CV13 6JB. Near Sutton Cheney off the A447.
Wed 4th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 5th	1:45 pm	Recorder	Joan's house

*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
Feb	Estelle Sandles, Fred & Heather Garnett	Doug & Glenys Morrice	Computers & Curling
Mar	Joyce Ottey, Sam Bradford, Margaret Baxendale	TBA	Digital Photography & Painting

NOTICES

WELFARE

Every year, around 10% of the population aged 65+ in the UK experiences some form of abuse. That's around one million people!

"Abuse" covers a range of criminal offences such as theft & fraud, psychological torment and neglect.

Someone you know may need support.

Action on Elder Abuse have a confidential helpline

080 8808 8141

Or contact Ashby U3A's Welfare on **01530 459858** or email [**welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk**](mailto:welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk)

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.

Likewise if you can't make it to a group meeting or you can't or don't wish to drive on a self-drive outing, contact the group's leader and they will usually be able to find someone to give you a lift.

Don't be afraid to ask – we want people to enjoy and participate in our U3A.

Last Month's Meeting - 28th January

"Confessions of Gameshow Junkies" by Stephanie and Trevor Mee

It seems like ages since last month's talk and it is, as we last met 7 weeks ago in early December. Nevertheless this month's talk was well worth waiting for.

Steph and Trev Mee regaled us with their experiences on various game shows since the 1980s. Stephanie was the first to get involved when she applied to go on Bob Monkhouse's Full House. she told us how in the early days contestants would get paid travel to London, a night in a posh hotel, dinner with the other contestants, a limo to Television Centre, hair and make-up and then lunch before meeting Bob and then going on to do the show. She was asked to learn a couple of lines to say when introduced so that Bob could come back with an "impromptu" joke. She was nervous about getting the lines wrong as the show went out live.

Steph lasted two rounds but had a great time. after that she went on several other shows. The TV companies would even invite known contestants to go on other shows. She was on Winner Takes All with Jimmy Tarbuck, Jim Davidson's Big Break and 15 to 1 plus several pilot shows that didn't make it onto the screen. She won various prizes mostly money but also hampers and an encyclopaedia and was doing well but had to stop to raise a family.

In the 2000s, having met Trevor, she decided to go back to quizzing and Trevor joined in too. The both appeared on Weakest Link with Ann Robinson who she said was just like her TV persona in real life i.e. rude. A contestant on the show with Steph, who was a potter, gave her a Weakest Link jug with her face on it. She gave it straight back saying "Why would I want that"!

Trev took over to tell us how they got to the last round of Pointless together and won £1250 which they used to go on holiday to Italy. Of course they each also got a Pointless Trophy one of which they brought along. Their nadir was when they collected together a team of experts to go on Eggheads but barely got a question right.

Steph told us of going on an early episode of The Chase and how she flirted outrageously with Chaser Shaun Wallace to try to put him off, but she just missed out on winning £35,000.

They did however both get on Tipping Point separately where Steph won £3350 and Trevor won £2400

Nowadays the game shows are made by small production companies who sell the shows to the BBC, ITV and the other channels and costs have been cut. Gone are the hotels, limousines and lavish dinners, and rather than making one show a day, they now start at 6am and finish at 9pm having made several shows in that time. The hosts now really earn their money by being on set for all that time whilst still having to be witty and jolly.

They finished their talk with a quiz for us, working in small teams, however we would not make good gameshow contestants as the best score was only 12½ out of 18!

Thank you Stephanie and Trevor for a fascinating insight into the world of game show quizzing

Our next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday Feb 25th at 2pm when Colin Hill will talk about "Dancing with Diana"

GROUP REPORTS

Arts and Crafts – Leader Sharon Woodland – 01530 413867

9th January

Just two of us got together but we made progress with sewing the patches for the Rainbows quilt. Looking forward to Sharon and others being back for the next session:
February 6th, 10 am, at 2 Marlborough Way.

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 Sue Cornell – 01530 413345

16th January – Christmas Lunch

The group didn't meet in January to practise their calligraphy but we did go out for a late Christmas meal at the Angel in Swadlincote where the food was as good as ever.

The next meeting will be at Sue's house on the 11th Feb where we will plan our activities for the coming year.

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.

20th January

For our first session of the New Year we had a very busy session, with 9 present.

A new recruit, Joan, needed help in getting started with Windows 10 on a new laptop, so Richard and Edwin worked with her. She also needed additional help in linking her phone contacts and WhatsApp to the laptop. She is so far unable to view videos from WhatsApp on the laptop. More work needed here.

Jane needed help in editing her email addresses on her laptop. Mike helped there. She also needed help to restore her favourites bar. Peter needed help to block irritating notifications to his phone. Mike also helped in this.

Dave wanted to get his Right Move app installed as a shortcut to his desktop. This was solved by opening up a tab in Chrome, then left clicking it and dragging it to his desktop.

John D will need help to transfer his FileZilla permissions from his laptop to his PC, before transitioning to Window 10 on the PC. This will lead eventually to getting a new PC. Some of this needs a house visit by Mike. To be arranged.

We meet again on Wednesday 5th February at 16 Winchester Way

Curling – Leader Estelle Sandles 01530 459858

27th January

18 members met for their first taste of Curling on Monday 27 January. They all embraced the fun element of the sport in true U3A fashion. It was good humour and laughter all the way with the beginnings of some strategic play. A big thank you to all those who attended and helped run the afternoon.

The group meet again on Monday 3rd February at 1pm sharp when we will be introduced to some scoring match play with our randomly allotted partners.

We are currently operating a waiting list to join. Please contact the group leader to be added to the list.

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.

The group didn't meet in January as the meeting date was due to be New Years Day.

We next meet on February 6th

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty - 01530 411148

15th January

"J" is for January, when the hellebore blooms
so delicately painted, it's beauty assumed.

"J" is for Jug, holds water for flowers
not easy to draw, but done in two hours.

"J" is for Jazz. The sax blasts the tune,
bold colours and shapes...time passes too soon.

Good to get going with pencil and paint,
Next meet in Feb,...19th,save the date!!!

(Next meeting, 19th February at John's house, suggested topic Flags).

Family History – Leader John Dogherty - 01530 411148

8th January

Our first meeting of the new decade saw 7 stalwarts turn out.

We had another good session, with folks generally continuing building up their trees.

Ana was using some helpful Hints in Ancestry, taking good care to verify sources wherever possible, and tag results as provisional where not possible.

Keith is now well on with establishing the main trunk of his tree.

Sylvia is deep into the Irish records following her mother's line, as her father's is already well established.

Dora is doing very well with her Scottish records, already back into the very late 17th century, and coping nicely with the Parish Records.

John H is still making slow progress with his ancestors, his aim to try and identify living relatives on cognate branches: a very interesting line of research, but still frustratingly slow.

John D was following up Hints from Ancestry on his mother's sister's in-laws. The sister and husband lived most of their lives in the New Forest, but oddly finished up in Shropshire. A nice little story looks to be uncovered there.

There was a general discussion about certificates of Births Marriages and Deaths: how to find the references needed to order them; how to order them; and what information should be expected. One question that emerged was who, and in what order, should we expect to find listed as witnesses to a marriage.

Would they have to be related to the Bride and Groom (no).

Would any witnesses from either side have to be listed alongside their relative's name (no). (In fact John and Chris D's certificate showed four witnesses: Best Man, Chief Bridesmaid and both mothers. The two mothers were listed on the wrong lines!)

What restrictions are there on who could be a witness. Only that they be of age (nowadays 18, but it used to be 21) In fact, it has been known that complete strangers have been invited in from the street!

A very good session indeed, helped along by the gift of splendid biccies from Keith!

We next meet on 12th February, at 2.00 pm.

Gardening - Leader Paul Dean - 01283 295987

16th January

We had 50 members in attendance for our January meeting. Unfortunately, our speaker for the day was unwell the day before but, at very short notice, I managed to arrange Mick Poultney to give us a talk on "A year on the garden plot". He gave a lot of hints and tips on getting the best results from your plot and gardening with the no-dig method. He has previously done talks for the BBC and garden shows. We also had our free raffle with plants provided from funds and products provided by Mike.

Our next meeting in February will be a talk on Great British Gardens..

History – Leader Jane Harris - 01530 838025

23rd January - The Suffragettes by Celia Sanger

We had a full turnout of 34 plus a visitor from U3A Norwich to hear Celia's talk on the Suffragettes and their links to Calke Abbey.

Celia is a Volunteer at Calke, becoming one almost by accident. She had an interest in the Suffragettes and was encouraged to work up this talk by the staff there, as there is a strong link to the house and its family, the Harpur-Crewes.

She first took us through the origins of the movement, as far back as 1832, although not really active until the Petition of 1866. She explained that the correct title for members of the Movement was 'Suffragist' with 'Suffragette' applying to those who became impatient with progress and turned activists. She showed us many newspaper clips from the times, in particular those deploring the Movement, including Queen Victoria and Winston Churchill, but all voicing the theme that a woman's place was by her husband's side, and that he, her brothers and other male relatives should best guide her.

One famous supporter was Princess Sophie Duleep Singh, goddaughter of the Queen.

Celia talked about the development of the activist side, and about its leading lights, such as Muriel Matters and Flora Drummond, later to be known as 'The General' for her habit of leading protests on a white horse. One factoid that intrigues: Hatpins longer than nine inches were banned in 1908, which also restricted the size of the hats they wore. One wonders at the damage even a nine inch hatpin could do!

The Calke connection was outlined by Celia as stemming from the Butler to the Harpur-Crewes, who married a member of the Dugdale family, and was therefore an ancestor of the Pankhursts. The Dugdales and Harpur-Crewes led a complicated life, travelling all over the Continent and in some cases mountaineering. Celia showed many photographs and newspaper extracts of their fascinating lives, and went on to relate some history of the Pankhurst's involvement in the Movement.

Graphic details of the trials and tribulations of members, including force-feeding and the tragic death of Emily Wilding Davison under the King's horse in 1913, helped to point up the struggle, which often involved arson, vandalism and graffiti.

The Movement suspended action in WWI, and eventually the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act of 1918 gave them limited voting rights, not fully extended to all women until 1928. There was much more to this detailed and very interesting talk, but this is all the room your author has in which to present it.

An excellent afternoon.

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow - 01530 469152

12th January – RAF Museum, Cosford

The Group went to RAF Museum, Cosford today mainly for interest in the planes but also because it was a) free and b) needed no booking, so that it could be easily cancelled or postponed if there was bad weather. However we had no snow or ice or torrential rain to put us off and so we were able to car share happily to Cosford. After the obligatory coffee break on arrival we split up to wander the hangers at leisure.

Cosford houses many rare and unusual planes, missiles and engines, mostly from WW2 onwards. The Japanese and German planes, and particularly the German missiles of WW2 were scary to see how advanced they were. And the V2 rocket looks just like every schoolboys drawing of a rocket but bigger than you'd think.

Scarier still are the huge cold-war nuclear bombers - Vulcan, Victor and Valiant. An exhibition of the Berlin airlift and cold-war tensions reminded us how close we nearly came to extinction on more than one occasion.

On a lighter note, the strange and sometimes crazy prototype aircraft of the post-war race for supersonic flight produced some beautiful and strange planes like the Fairey Delta which broke the world speed record by over 300mph at its first attempt and the highly-polished all stainless steel Bristol 188 which should have flown at Mach 3 but ran out of fuel before reaching Mach 2.

The star of the show was though the much-larger-than-expected and ill-fated TSR2. Only 3 were ever built out of a planned 20-odd and only one ever flew; not the one at Cosford. The others were scrapped and three, including the flyer, were used for gunnery practice and destroyed.

Everyone, I think, had a good time with much reminiscing amongst those with any aeronautic history.

Italian Group – Co-ordinator Anne Donegan – 01283 760348

30th January

The Italian group held a meeting today to decide on it's future with Lynda standing down as leader. Anne Donegan has stepped forward as the group's co-ordinator, see her details above.

The next meeting will be on Monday 3rd February at 9.30 am. Venue 2 Marlborough Way

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris - 01530 416653

The group met on 14th January to discuss "The Woodlanders" by Thomas Hardy. Next month they will be discussing "Thomas Hardy: The Time-Torn Man" by Claire Tomalin

Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland - 01530 413867

9th January

For our first outing of the year, unfortunately without our leaders who were still on holiday, we went to the much-acclaimed Angel at Swadlincote. The food and the service were as ever exemplary. We weren't asked to pre-order despite there being 19 of us, and orders were taken at the table and food started to arrive very shortly afterwards even though it was all homemade.

Main courses and desserts (for most) followed equally without fuss. Everything was delicious. We could be back here soon!

Next month, on Feb 13th, we shall be at the White Hart in Ashby. 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

8th January

A week later than usual due to the "proper" date falling on New Year's Day and a nice group of eight people, including two new members Barbara and Brian, met to play some super music.

We started with Sally giving us a really laid back Frank Sinatra singing "One For My Baby" then something completely different - the Sousa march "Liberty Bell".

Mike came next and brought two ladies who showed amazing talent at a young age, Joss Stone aged 15yrs singing "I Had A Dream" and Kate Bush with "The Man With The Child In His Eyes" which she wrote aged 13yrs.

With memories of New Zealand, Brian played The Ten Tenors "Conquest Of Paradise" followed by Nancy Griffith singing "Last Night At The Grand Hotel". Barbara continued with more memories from New Zealand with a beautiful song from Hayley Westenra, and Kiri Te Kanawa singing a Maori song "Hine E Hine E Hine".

Dorothy gave us something unusual for her, Joe Brown and "A Picture Of You" followed by Acker Bilk's "Sentimental Journey"

Brenda brought tunes from the musicals starting with Sweet Charity and "Big Spender" by Shirley Bassey, then the title song, sung by the cast, from "Jesus Christ Super Star".

Lesley played us "Sunset" from the Great American Landscape and secondly Judy Garland singing "The Trolley Song" from Meet Me in St Louis.

Nev finished with a real treat with excerpts from a DVD of Leonard Bernstein conducting and recording his music from West Side Story starring Kiri Te Kanawa and Jose Carreras. We saw "America" and "One Hand One Heart"

Thank you Nev for hosting and next month 5th February will be at Brenda's house

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

15th January

It warmed the cockles of the organisers' hearts to see so many people piling through the door at The Beeches for this month's quiz – we have never before had 34 attendees. Hopefully there will be the same (or more) people coming on February 19th; we will have to make sure there are two coffee/tea urns available.....

All new members are very welcome; just ring 07762 054925 or 01827 830672 or just turn up.

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

23rd January

We had our full complement of 5 last week, once Mary had managed to get through the hold-ups on the M42.

With all of us, we have quite a range of music we can play, as long as it's not too difficult for us. We started off with some duets, trios and quartets, played on sopranos and altos. We then moved on to music in 4 parts. The music we play dates from the 16th century to quite modern stuff. With an increase in the number of parts, we are trying new music, and are having to concentrate.

We're still having fun, although Squeaky is still around!

Joan x

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

24th January

Although it was a day early, 56 members gathered at the Golf Club for our second Burns Supper and very good it was too. Andy and his bagpipes were there to serenade us with a selection of Scottish tunes and airs, some more familiar to Sassenachs than others.

We all sat down to a starter of Scotch Broth before the Haggis was piped into and around the room. Bill then gave us the 'Address to a Haggis' before ritually cutting it open. This was followed by the Toast to the Haggis before we sat down to tuck into the Haggis with the traditional Neeps and Tatties, followed by Cranachan for dessert.

Wine and whisky flowed, everyone had a good time, Barbara was presented with a birthday cake accompanied by the usual tune from the throng and finally we all stood for a rousing chorus of Auld Lang Syne, although some of us need to practise the second verse before next year!

An excellent evening.

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.

January

There was no Supper Club in January as it clashed with the Burns Supper planned for the 24th, see above, so we hope to see everyone in February, when we hope we can get back to normal.

Our next gathering will be at the Hong Kong Chinese restaurant, 22 High St, Measham DE12 7HR. 7 for 7.30 pm

Trips Group – Contact John or Margaret Howlett - 01530 461774

The next planned trip will be organised by Colin Ellis to Birmingham Symphony Hall on Friday 17th April at 7.30 pm to hear the Siberian Symphony Orchestra play some Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky.

Colin is also organising a steam train trip from Bristol to Cornwall with 2 nights stay in Bristol from Sat 18th Jul to Mon 20th. Full details are on the website or from Colin 01530 272592

Tickets for both are now all sold but a very few extra places may be available, not necessarily sitting with the group.

Other planned trips in the pipeline are:

Fri 15th May	Day trip to Bath
Wed 24th Jun	Kilworth House Theatre to see Carousel
Wed 29th Jul	Kilworth House Theatre to see Half a Sixpence

See Margaret 01530 461774 for further details. More info will appear on the website and the Newsletter when available.

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.

21st January. Swadlincote and Bretby Park

17 walkers met at the Railway Inn, Swadlincote. After pre/ordering lunch we set off onto a footpath by the grade 2 listed flour mill, after a short detour (we took a wrong turn) we continued through Sandholes parkland to the A511, which we crossed. It was then through the fields towards Hartshorne to the Reston Burn (brook) where we viewed the remains of Hudson's mill, a corn mill last worked in 1916 but closed due to lack of workers.

We then passed through Hoofies farm to the edge of Hoofies Wood. After a coffee stop with lovely sunshine (Judith please note) we continued up the bray / hill then on between the lakes of Bretby Hall. We passed the Hall walking along the drive back to the A511 which we again crossed and walked through footpaths and roads back to Eureka Park. We walked through the park to the Railway Inn for a nice lunch and refreshments. We walked about 6 miles.

Medium walks – mediumwalk@ashbyu3a.co.uk

The Medium Walk group do walks of up to 6 miles.

NOTE

Carole has stood down as the group leader as from January 13th. She has lead the group since it was formed on 8th April 2013, having done a sterling job of keeping the group going and it now has on average 10 walkers.

As nobody has stepped forward to take on leadership of the group, it has been decided that it will run as a sort of co-operative. A list of future dates will be put on the website, and people will let Mike Stow, as webmaster, know when they are available to lead a walk, and furnish him with the details as they are available. This has worked so far, as we have walk leaders in place for 6 of the 8 walks until October 2020.

13th January. Lount to Dimminsdale, led by Carole

Our January walk started from The Ferrers pub at Lount with 7 walkers. We walked through the houses in Lount onto the pathway towards Staunton Harold. This was quite muddy, leading eventually to the roadway into Staunton Harold. We then walked down the drive way and turned right towards Dimminsdale Woods, again very muddy in the fields. The snowdrops were not out yet. The March walk is planned to be around Dimminsdale, so hopefully we will see them then. We continued over the reservoir towards the carpark and up the muddy steps to the open fields. Then following the wall to Staunton Harold Hall and that magnificent view. We opted for the roadway back to Lount, to avoid any more mud, arriving at the pub at 12.10. A nice 4.5 mile walk on a January day. We then met Jane, Heather and Fred at the pub for a New Year Meal.

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.

17th January. Sarah's Wood

11 walkers met at Sarah's Wood car park on a cool and overcast day. We walked down the right hand path that takes you to the canal Basin at Conkers Waterside Court. We went towards the rail bridge but turned left onto the track over the kiddies rail track and around to the old disused rail track and turned left towards Measham.

We followed the track as far as the first level track on our left back to the canal. At the canal we turned left towards Moira Furnace where we stopped at the hub for a refreshment and comfort break. After the break we continued along the canal back to the canal basin but crossed the bridge to Sarah's Wood. Having crossed the newly refurbished bridge we turned right following the other side of the canal and around to the other entry to the car park. Total distance just under 3 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