



# Ashby U3A

## February Newsletter



### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2020-21

Yes, it is that time again. Your Membership is due for renewal at the end of March.

Renewal forms are available for download on the website. Click on the "Information" tab or see Iain Banns at the monthly meetings for a paper copy. We would prefer you to print off your own copy if you can.

Completed forms and cheques payable to "Ashby U3A" can be posted to Iain at:  
Membership Sec.  
10 Downside Drive  
Ashby  
LE65 2QU

If you wish to pay at the monthly meeting, it would be very helpful if you have already completed the form and signed the cheque otherwise the queue can get very long. We will have a desk for membership renewals separate to the usual check-in desk.

## Interest Groups Timetable for Mar 2020

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Mon 2nd	1-3 pm	Curling	Charles Booth Centre, The Green, Thringstone
Mon 2nd	2-4 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 3rd	9:30 for 09:45 start	Walking	The Dog and Hedgehog, Dadlington CV13 6JB. Near Sutton Cheney off the A447.
Wed 4th	10 am	Music Appreciation	At Neil's
Wed 4th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 5th	10 am	Digital Photography	Meet at 16 Winchester Way. Photographic venue TBA depending on the weather.
Thu 5th	10 am	Arts and Crafts	2 Marlborough Way. Making patchwork quilts
Thu 5th	1:45 pm	Recorder	Joan's house
Mon 9th	9.45 for 10am start	Medium Walks	Meet at Severn Trent circular CP at Calke village
Mon 9th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Mon 9th	2 pm	Science & Technology	Ashby Evangelical Church off Tamworth Rd
Tue 10th	10 am	Calligraphy	Gill's Improving italic handwriting
Tue 10th	1:30 pm	Literature	28 Willesley Gardens
Wed 11th	2 pm	Family History	2 Marlborough Way
Thu 12th	12 for 12.30pm	Lunch	Angel Inn, The Moor, Coleorton, LE67 8GB
Mon 16th	1 pm	Curling	Charles Booth Centre, The Green, Thringstone
Mon 16th	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Mon 16th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club
Tue 17th		Walking	TBA
Wed 18th	10 am	Drawing and painting	TBA
Wed 18th	2:30 pm	Quiz	Function Room at the Beeches.
Thu 19th	1 pm	Gardening	Visit to Planters, Tamworth. Self-drive to Planters Garden Centre, Tamworth. Pre-talk refreshments followed by a talk at 2pm by Gerald Ingram (Owner of Planters) in a separate room in the restaurant. Price £9.99
Thu 19th	1:45 pm	Recorder	Joan's house
Fri 20th	10 am	Short Walks	Meet at Thornton Reservoir Car park
Mon 23rd	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Wed 25th	TBA	Industrial Heritage	Rolls Royce aero engine division, Derby
Thu 26th	2 pm	History	Packington Hall. Bob Brechin - Pallitoy Action Man
Thu 26th	7 for 7.30 pm	Supper Club	The Tap House, Burton Rd, Annwell, Ashby, LE65 2TA
Mon 30th	7 pm	Bridge	Ivanhoe Social Club

\*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](http://www.ashbyu3a.co.uk)

## Early April

Date	Time	Group	Venue or Meeting point
Wed 1st	10 am	Music Appreciation	TBA
Wed 1st	2 pm	Computer	16 Winchester Way
Thu 2nd	10 am	Arts and Crafts	Venue TBA. Continuing with the quilt.
Thu 2nd	10 am	Digital Photography	16 Winchester Way
Thu 2nd	1:45 pm	Recorder	Joan's house
Mon 6th	1 pm	Curling	Charles Booth Centre, The Green, Thringstone
Mon 6th	2 pm	Science & Technology	Ashby Evangelical Church off Tamworth Rd
Mon 6th	2 pm	Bridge	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Tue 7th	9:30 for 9:45 start	Walking	The Plough Inn, 12 Main St, Stathern. LE14 4HW

## Tea Rota etc. for the monthly meetings

Month	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters	Reporting Groups
Mar	Joyce Ottey, Sam Bradford, Margaret Baxendale	Julia Fraser & Henry Sharples	Digital Photography & Painting
Apr	Margaret Aspinall, Eileen Taylor, Margaret Lawrence		Family History & Gardening

## NOTICES

### FRAUD

Those pesky TV Licensing emails will just not go away. Action Fraud have received over 3,000 reports about them in January.

The emails state that your TV License is about to expire. It is a ploy to access your financial details. **Don't click on these links!**

It looks genuine but DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!!

### 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 - 25th February

### "Dancing with Diana" by Colin Hill

Colin Hill was for more than 20 years a 'close protection officer' with the Metropolitan Police ('the Met'). Colin explained that in ordinary parlance a close protection officer might be called a bodyguard. Colin grew up on a council estate in Rushden at No 3 Balmoral Ave. He didn't know at the time that he would in later life be dancing with the Queen Mother at Balmoral House. In his early twenties, Colin was working at an engineering firm near Bedford when he saw an advertisement for the Met. They were recruiting young officers to join them in London. Colin applied immediately and moved to London joining the Met in 1987. It wasn't until a few years later that he applied to become a close protection officer. The training was rigorous as you might well imagine, including training with the SAS, but Colin was one of the lucky 14 out of 300 applicants to be selected to join this prestigious group.

One of his earliest jobs was protecting Princess Diana and the two boys. Colin would often have to escort the family from their home at Kensington Palace to their weekend home at Highgrove House. He would be one of several officers circling the paddock on a Saturday morning guarding the two Princes whilst they went riding.

On one occasion when he was protecting Princess Anne at a rugby football match at Twickenham, he noticed a man acting suspiciously whilst they were leaving the stadium. When Colin saw the man heading for their car and reaching into his coat, he acted immediately believing that maybe the coat concealed a gun. In reality, the man in question was simply reaching into his coat for a copy of the match programme so all was well. However, Colin explained that as a close protection officer you had to be on your toes all the time and that often you only had a split second to react to what might be a life or death situation.

Colin regaled us with lots of stories about his time spent with the royal family such as the time at the Cartier International Polo Match with Prince Charles, William and Harry. He told us how amusing it was to see all the rich and famous in their finery stomping the divots, the ladies in their high heels trying desperately to stay upright. On another occasion, at a private dinner for the off-duty protection officers and their families, Princess Diana invited herself along to say thank you to them all and then asked Colin to dance the 'jive' with her. Colin admitted that he was no dancer and eventually Princess Diana said to him 'Colin, you really can't jive can you' before staying on the floor for a slow dance in close hold. She then led him back to the bar and thanked his wife for letting her take him away. Colin's claim to fame was that John Travolta had to ask Diana to dance with him; Diana asked Colin to dance.

All in all, Colin said that he thoroughly enjoyed his time in the Met and never regretted his decision to leave engineering.

Colin's talk contained plenty of funny and interesting anecdotes whilst still conveying the seriousness of his job and the difficulties of protecting the famous from all sorts people with malintent. His talk was very well received by all who attended the meeting which attracted our largest audience yet for one of these monthly talks

Next month, on the 24th, we shall have the return of "The Ukulele Sensation" - Mark Walsh

## **GROUP REPORTS**

### **Arts and Crafts – Leader Sharon Woodland – 01530 413867**

6th February

We met at 2 Marlborough Road at 10am on Thursday 6th and worked on the Patchwork Quilt that we are producing as a team. We also discussed projects that we might consider in the future.

We will next meet at 2 Marlborough Road at 10am on 5th March to continue working on the top layer of the quilt together. We will no doubt enjoy some scintillating conversation as we work.

New members are always 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 Sue Cornell – 01530 413345**

11th February

Just four of us met today to plan our activities for this coming year, over coffee and a biscuit! With the help of our "expert" calligrapher Gill we are going to concentrate on *italics* with the intention of improving our technique. We will then construct a 'concertina' book using everything we've learnt.

Other topics include a trip out to attempt some glass fusion activities, designing a 'holiday' poster and a Halloween based project. All very constructive.

### **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.

5th February

Today we had nine members for a pretty busy afternoon.

There was a technical discussion about an error message "Hard Memory Error" on Windows 10 laptops. This seems to be related to the increasing problem of the way the computer loads data in pages via RAM. If there is insufficient RAM to hold all the pages at once the system has problems. The best solution is to install greater capacity RAM if that is possible, otherwise installing a faster main drive, such as an SSD (solid state drive) should help. The existing HDD can then be relegated to data storage.

One member wanted to extract a single photo from the animated GIF used to display Walks photos. This is easy - if you have the right software! Most people wouldn't have. Most software for generating GIFs from several photos will undo them again, but the free IrfanView software makes it very easy. The easiest solution in this case was for Mike to send a copy of the photo to the requester.

Mike and JH worked with Joan to show how to move files between folders and drives, including the external backup drive.

JD had a problem opening a Presentation on a CD in .odp format. Theoretically this should be openable by PowerPoint, but it doesn't. The solution was to install Open Office and load it from there, then save it as a PowerPoint file.

### **Curling – Leader Estelle Sandles 01530 459858**

17th February

The group have had two more sessions since their first taster session and the players are settling into the game now.

Exciting news is that Whitwick U3A, who share the same facilities, have challenged us to a match. They probably want to beat us before we get too good!

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.

This was our first meeting of 2020, and we had six present.

Carolyn has a problem extracting photos from her WhatsApp threads and printing them. Mike worked with her but didn't solve it yet, but at least managed to eliminate some out-of-date and unwanted camera apps from her laptop which were preventing newer versions from working.

We discussed the programme for the year, including the possibility of talks from some of our experts and a tentative list of places to visit.

These fell into several categories:

Nature reserves, such as the Attenborough Nature Reserve, and smaller sites nearer home.

National Trust locations, such as Ashby Castle, Tamworth Castle, Calke Abbey, Nottingham Castle

Industrial Heritage sites such as the Airpark at East Midlands airport, Tamworth Road (Statfold Barn railway), Shackerstone canal and the Battlefield Line, and Quorn and the Great Central Railway.

Leisure centres such as Markeaton Park, Sense Valley and the Pot Kiln Lakeside Cafe.

Other ideas were the Heather (and other) annual Scarecrow displays, a gymkhana and Moira Furnace.

As these site visits require good(ish) weather, it was suggested that the organiser email members soon before the day so that we can foregather early for car sharing.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th March at 10.00 am.

### **Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty - 01530 411148**

19th February

In February the Group enjoyed a 'Flag' day (see the Gallery on the website)

The date(s) of the March meeting(s) will be notified when the sessions for painting the 2020 exhibit for the Ashby Arts Festival have been arranged.

## **Family History – Leader John Dogherty - 01530 411148**

12th February

We were six today, despite several no-shows due to seasonal illness.

Our new member, Libby, got off to a good start. She has already got an extensive tree set up and was working on clearing up some loose ends to do with her grandfather and his second wife. Ana at first was at a loss where to go next but settled on trying to validate some promising Hints in Ancestry by crosschecking with the censuses. Always a good move.

Shirley ran into difficulties with Ancestry refusing her sign-on password, but not sending her a new one. This requires direct action to Ancestry's helpline, I think, but might just be sorted if she clears her caches and restarts the software. She had already come up with a fascinating hint in the name of a species of Albatross, found in her family, also common in East Anglia, so she might see if there is a link to the original bearer of that name.

Carolyn wanted to see how far she could get with the Family Search website: this seems to require a subscription now. She also looked at the way Ancestry displays generations on the Tree: as it only shows five generations in the main tree view, it can be a bit limiting in seeing the whole tree. It is necessary to view the Pedigree view to see more. She wishes also to see how to add photos (this is for another day) and how to search newspapers. Pointers were given to the British National Archives and the British Museum's 19th Century Newspaper Collection.

Finally, we tried to upload a gedcom to a new file in Family Tree Maker to update her tree there, but failed. A solution is to put that tree and the Ancestry tree up simultaneously on half screen views and transcribe. This should be done regularly, or the volume of work would become tedious.

We next meet on 11th March, at 2.00 pm.

## **Gardening - Leader Paul Dean - 01283 295987**

20th February

This month's meeting was a presentation on Great British Gardens given by Jeff Bates. It was very interesting, and presented in an entertaining and informative way. There were gardens from Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland. We were given the history of the gardens, and information on the plants and trees that were to be found at the various locations.

Members were also invited to take part in a competition if they wished, planting 2 seed potatoes in a container, then to bring the resulting crop to our garden party in June, with a prize for the winner.

## **History – Leader Jane Harris - 01530 838025**

27th February - The Orient Express by Bill Devitt

Our talk this month was given by one of our own U3A members, and surpassed many a presentation we have had in the past. Bill Devitt took us through the history of the Orient Express, a project he had been instrumental in re-creating some years ago.

With humour and colourful visual aids, he took us on a journey from the beginning of this kind of luxury train travel, and its use as a hotel on wheels, with all the lavish comfort it's passengers could imagine.

From the early Pullman coaches to the Orient Express used today, whilst also including the reasons for their popularity and the various heads of state and other famous faces who used them over the centuries. We were spell bound, and those who might have thought it was a niche interest confessed themselves completely wrong.

Thank you Bill!

## **Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow - 01530 469152**

### **26th February – Southwell Workhouse**

This trip proved very popular with 27 members coming along. As the Workhouse doesn't open until the afternoon in winter, we had time to visit the magnificent Norman-built Southwell Minster before lunch. Built over an earlier Saxon church, the Minster was started in 1108. A local guide was on hand to try to answer some of our less obscure questions. We took lunch at the nearby Saracens Head Inn where Charles I had his last night of freedom before being betrayed by the Scots who handed him over to the Parliamentarians for a substantial fee. We had no such problems and were fed a delicious lunch, promptly and courteously before heading off to the Workhouse.

The House was built in 1824 and became the prototype for all 19th C workhouses. Up to 158 inmates at a time, from 62 parishes, entered this building as a last resort. The view was that workhouses should be a 'deterrent' to ensure that only the truly destitute would submit themselves to such a harsh regime.

It was also intended to achieve a 'moral' improvement, with the poor providing for themselves if at all possible. However, children and the 'old and infirm' would be treated tenderly. Their idea of "tenderly" might differ from ours somewhat! This continued until 1929 when it became an institution for the poor, homeless and elderly. After the modern welfare state of 1948, the building was used as temporary accommodation for the homeless until 1976, and it was still in use as a residential home for the elderly until 1990.

## **Italian Group – Co-ordinator Anne Donegan – 01283 760348**

### **24th February**

We would like to extend our thanks to Linda Hall for her great leadership and tuition for the past 10 years since the Italian Group was started. Linda is moving on in her life now that her husband has retired, and we wish her all the best.

We are 4 members at present and we meet at each others' homes on a fortnightly basis and/or as time and diaries permit. I am the coordinator and will welcome any inquiries from members who may wish to join us but unfortunately we are not a beginner's group.

We are currently revising our main textbook from the beginning and spending some time on aural work to get a feel for the sound/accents of Italian people.

Anne Donegan

## **Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris - 01530 416653**

The group met on Feb 11th to discuss "Thomas Hardy: The Time-Torn Man" by Claire Tomalin and this month they will be discussing "Take Nothing with You" by Patrick Gale.

## **Luncheon Group – Leaders Colin & Sharon Woodland - 01530 413867**

### **13th February - White Hart, Ashby de la Zouch**

The White Hart was the venue for the Luncheon Club's Valentine's Special Lunch. A large proportion of the 17 attendees had come hot foot from the Ashby Evangelical Church, where they had attended the inaugural meeting of the Science and Technology Group.

The tables were decked with little hearts and heart-shaped chocolates were at each place setting. We had the room to ourselves and enjoyed good but economically priced food and drink. The conversations flowed and a good time was had by all.

The next Luncheon will be at the Angel Inn, Coleorton LE67 8GB at 12 noon on 12 March.



## **Music Appreciation – Leader Lesley Thomas - musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

### **5th February**

This month the music appreciation group met with nine members attending.

Neil kicked off with Chuck Berry and "Goes to Show, You Never Can Tell" from the soundtrack of Pulp Fiction. He followed this with little known artist Mark Germino and the Sluggers who sang a song called "Rex Bob Lowenstein"

David was next and it was nice to see him and Anne again. He regaled us with "No one here but us chickens" and "Choo, choo, ch'boogie" from the show Five guys named Moe, he continued with another little-known singer Mandy Patinkin and the song, "Coffee in a Cardboard Cup"

Anne gave us "As time goes by" by the gravelly voiced Jimmy "Schnozzle" Durante and the remarkable contrast with the smooth voice of Nat King Cole singing "Let's Face the Music and Dance"

Barbara brought her love of Irish music and another group we hadn't heard of, Celtic Thunder, and they sang "Lost Without You" followed by Christy Moore and "Ride On."

Brian reminded us of the poignant "Heaven" by Bryan Adams and then "Love Lifts Us Up" from Joe Cocker.

Nev brought a theme starting with Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen "Lazy River" continuing with Joe Brown and his daughter Sam singing "Lazy Bones". (get it.)

Dorothy showed us the way with the 3rd Movement of Mozart's Serenade No 10, "Gran Partita", and from the film soundtrack of Titanic, "Unable to Stay, Unwilling to Leave"

Brenda gave us Dave Brubeck and the marvellous "Blue Rondo a la Turk" and her favourites, The Carpenters singing "Top of the World"

Lesley was last and from the ballet Romeo and Juliet gave us "The Dance of the Knights" and then the relaxed Alfie Boe and some fabulous trumpet playing in "The way you look tonight"

I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. Thank you for hosting, Brenda. Next month on the 4th March we are at Neil's house. See you all there.

Lesley

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

### **19th February**

Another successful meeting of the quiz club, with 26 present, and a very good variety of questions to test our (remaining!) brains. As numbers are drawn to make up a table, you never know who your fellow-quizzers will be, so it mixes us up beautifully. The members now take it in turn (only if they wish) to compile the questions, and we have vacancies from June onwards. Please can you volunteer and let me know which month you will cover? It costs only £2 to attend, with tea and biscuits provided, and we play from 2.30 till around 4. See you on 18th March.

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**

### **20th February**

There were 4 at the last meeting at Lynn's, but only descant and tenor players. This made the choice of music challenging, with no-one to play treble. (We were both on grandchild duty). However, they managed to find some suitable music, and had a successful meeting.

It has made us think about branching out, and learning to play other recorders. It will be good for the brains, with luck. Next meeting will be on our standard date, 5th March, 13:45, at Joan's.

## **The Science & Technology Group - Organising committee: Tanya Dempster, Paul McKay, Bill Devitt**

13th February.

As Advertised, the inaugural meeting of the proposed Science Group was held on 13 February at 10.00am at the Ashby Evangelical Church.

No formal minutes were taken but what follows are notes that I took as the meeting progressed. The notes are not necessarily in Chronological order.

1. Twenty two people had registered interest in the Science Group and thirteen people attended the meeting.
2. It was proposed by Bill Devitt that the group name should be 'Science and Technology' to encompass not just pure science but also practical applications of science. Those present agreed with the proposal and the group will be known as the Science and Technology Group henceforth.
3. Rather than select a leader for the group, those present decided to have a small 'committee' to lead the group. Paul McKay, Tanya Dempster and Bill Devitt 'volunteered' to form the committee and will organise future meetings between them.
4. It was agreed that future meetings should be held at the Ashby Alliance Church for the time being.
5. Future meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2.00pm. Should the 2nd Monday of the month be a Public Holiday, an alternative day for that month will be nominated and publicised.
6. Those present agreed that a contribution of £2 per person attending should be collected at each meeting to cover the cost of refreshments and to build up a reserve for expenditure of outside speakers' expenses.
7. Should the group arrange any trips or visits, they would be on a self-funding basis.
8. Initially speakers will be found from within the group when needed. Some meetings will be forums where topics will be discussed.
9. Suggestions of possible speakers and places to visit will be welcomed by the Group Committee but no guarantee can be given that the suggestions will be taken up. The Group Committee will determine suitability and affordability.
10. Mike Stow has added a Web Page on the Ashby U3a for the Science and Technology Group. Information on the group's activities will be notified there.
11. The next meeting has been set for Monday 9th March at 2.00pm at the Ashby Evangelical Church. Many other things were discussed but the above sets out the main points. Any other U3A members with a scientific bent, please come along too.

Colin R Woodland Ashby U3A Interest Groups Coordinator

## **Social Events - Contact Avril Wilson – [socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk)**

There were no social events last month and at present the next confirmed one will be Burns Supper next year. However, some other events are in the planning stage and will be announced when they can be confirmed.

## **Supper Club – Contact Colin Ellis 01530 272592 - [supper@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto: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.

## 27th February

Our first outing for 3 months, with the last 2 months clashing with Christmas and Burns Night. We somewhat belatedly celebrated the Chinese New Year by visiting Hong Kong. Not the one in Asia, but the restaurant in slightly nearer Measham. Once the 15 of us were settled on one long table, with drinks and prawn crackers, the food started to appear. To save problems with ordering we had arranged for a banquet meal for all. And what a banquet. Plates of hors d'oeuvres, followed by Crispy Duck and then 4 or 5 different dishes plus some very good rice. Then fresh pineapple and fortune cookies. Very nicely served and presented and all tasting lovely. We just about finished it off. A very good, if late, start to the year.

Next month we shall be at the Tap House at Annwell.

## **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.

**NOTE** We regret to inform those who put their names down for the 2 trips to see performances at Kilworth House Theatre and a day trip to Bath on 15th May that none of these will be going ahead because of the low number of names on each list.

We will continue to explore trip possibilities including stately homes and, for later in the year, Christmas markets. If you have any ideas contact us on [trips@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:trips@ashbyu3a.co.uk) or 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.

## **17th February. Hoby and Frisby on the Wreake**

Despite the very wet weather of the previous few days nine good friends, Ashby U3A members, set off from the Bluebell Inn, Hoby at 10 o'clock sharp. The party headed south following the course of the Midshires Way in a cool breeze with some weak sunshine. On reaching Gaddesby we briefly travelled east and then north on the Leicestershire Round. Unsurprisingly the going was always muddy and occasionally very slippery accounting for the walk leader sliding gracefully into some mud twice. No harm done just damaged pride! The evidence of earlier flooding around Frisby on the Wreake was very clear but we were still able to make our path travelling west back to Hoby. The approximately 8 mile walk was achieved in relatively good weather and excellent time so we could enjoy the fare and company at The Bluebell Inn.

## **Medium walks – mediumwalk@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

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

### **13th February. Wilson, Breedon and Cloud Trail, led by Alison**

Storm Ciara could have deterred us but 8 hardy souls set off from Wilson despite the effects of Mother Nature. In fact the weather for our brief window in the morning was good. Our leader had promised just a small section of mud and repeated this assertion more than once - she was proved wrong!!

Leaving Wilson along a very muddy track to the Breedon Golf Course (no players but a good view of Breedon Church sitting proudly on its rocky tor), through Breedon Village to join the Cloud Trail alongside the A42 and back to Wilson. We arrived back at our cars at 12.10 having completed 5.3 miles. We were just in time as the rain came about 5 minutes later.

## **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.

### **21st February. Around Ashby, starting at the Hood Park Gates**

12 Walkers set off from the Hood park gates towards the Plough Inn and turned down Millbank and then down the footpath to Smisby Road. We crossed Smisby Road and along the jitty opposite which goes past the Burton Road School. In what used to be called the Bovis estate we turned right up Canterbury Drive and into Sherbourne Drive and thence down the alley to Rotherwood drive. We crossed the Smisby Road again and walked down the alley by the corner shop and then right towards Hood Park and the Leisure Centre. At this point we had passed three housing estates which were once factories namely the Soap Factory, the Flour Mill and the Biscuit Factory. We took the path on our left just before the Leisure Centre which goes around the back of the Leisure Centre and out on to North Street through the original park gates. We turned right into the Mews and down to Market Street. We crossed the road at the lights at the upper end of Market Street and took the alley leading to the printers and out onto South Street. Here we turned left to St Helen's Church and up to Mount Walk. We took this to Prior Park Road which leads to Bath Grounds. We followed the new path round the park to South Street from where we went to Coxon's Mews and Suzy Q's where we had our coffee break.

### **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