



Newsletter August 2021

Interest Groups Timetable for September

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	Tue 28th	2:00 pm	Mike Storr will talk of "The masters of mirth" at the Congregational Church
Computer	Wed 1st	2:00 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Craft	Thu 2nd	10:00 am	2 Marlborough Way
Digital Photography	Thu 2nd	10:00 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	Wed 15th	10:00 am	2 Marlborough Way
Family History	Wed 8th	2:00 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 16th	9:00 am	Coach trip to Waterperry Gardens. Coach leaves the Royal at 9 am. Please contact Paul Dean to make a booking.
Industrial Heritage	TBA	TBA	Hoping to restart soon but very few museums etc have reopened. I've not found any factory visits running yet.
Literature			Meeting on WhatsApp
Lunch	Thu 9th	12 for 12.30	White Hart, Ashby in the conservatory
Medium Walks	Mon 13th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at Normandy Wood, Measham Rd, Packington, LE65 1WQ
Music Appreciation	Wed 1st	10:00 am	Sallie's at Woodside Cottage, 61, Melbourne Road, Newbold. LE67 8JH
Science & Technology	Mon 13th	2:00 pm	Ashby Alliance Evangelical Church, in jitty between Tamworth Rd and Avenue Rd
Short Walks	Fri 17th	10:00 am	Meet at CP near St Peter's Church, Stapenhill
Supper Club	Thu 23rd	7 for 7.30 pm	The Globe, 4 Main St, Snarestone, DE12 7DB
Walking	Tue 7th	9.45 for 10 am start	Meet at Queens Head, Heather, LE67 2QP
Wine Appreciation	Wed 22nd*	7:00 pm	79 Nottingham Rd, Ashby

*provisional

NEWS

INTEREST GROUPS RESTARTING

The restart of Interest Groups is gathering pace now that summer holidays seem to be over. Some groups gave August a miss whilst members were grandchild minding or holidaying themselves, but September is looking more promising. We might almost be back to normal soon.

The following groups have said that they are planning to restart meeting in person this month. Watch the website for news of any other groups restarting.

Craft

The Craft Group will restart on Thursday 2nd September at 10 am at 2 Marlborough Rd.

Members old and new will be welcome. If you have done any crafting during lock-down, you are welcome to bring it along for a good old "Show and Tell". There will also be a discussion on what projects might be undertaken at future meetings.

Digital Photography

Thu 2nd September at 16 Winchester Way. The first meeting will be mostly to plan a programme for the coming year.

Lunch

As they say at Houston, "We are go for l(a)unch!"

12 for 12:30, Thursday, 9 September in the Conservatory at the rear of the White Hart, Ashby. To avoid going through the bar, access can be gained via the rear entrance off South Street. However, meals and drinks will be ordered and paid for at the bar. Contact Colin W at luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk or phone 01530 413867 to book a place.

Supper Club

The supper club will hold their restart meal at the Globe in Snarestone on Thursday 23rd September. There may be a few places left, so if you wish to join us and haven't yet put your name down, contact Colin or Mike at supper@ashbyu3a.co.uk or phone 01530 272592

Industrial Heritage

We hope to restart in October. Few nearby museums have reopened, and I've not found any factory visits running yet. Our first trip will probably be to Derby Museum of Making, formally the Silk Museum.

Science & Technology

They will be holding their first "In person" meeting on Monday 13th September at 2:00 pm. They have a guest speaker, retd. Chief Fire Officer Graham Edwards who will give a talk on the changes in patterns of fires and accidents over the years and the necessity for scientific research on the causes and prevention of fires. Details in the timetable on page 1.

A new Interest Group - Wine Appreciation

Annie Scotney is starting a new group for wine appreciation. If you are interested to find out more contact Annie on wine@ashbyu3a.co.uk Once there is a viable number of prospective members, Annie will inform them of when and where the inaugural meeting will be held. This first meeting will be to decide on which direction the group members want to take the group.

Committee changes

At the AGM in July our then Chairman, Colin, stepped down as his two year term of office was over and several of our other committee members were standing for re-election. Those other members were re-elected unopposed as no-one else wished to join the committee!!

It then was the job of the committee to elect a new Chairman and to decide who would fill which posts. Without too much arm twisting, Tony Smith agreed to become Chairman for the second time, taking over from Colin who is remaining on the committee.

Shortly after the AGM, Estelle Sandles announced that she would have to stand down from the post of Welfare due to family issues. Estelle's resignation came too late for someone else to be elected at the AGM, but our constitution allows the committee to co-opt someone to replace committee members mid-term and so Sharon Woodland volunteered to take over. All the other posts remain unchanged and their contact details will be found on the bottom page.

Thank you to Colin and Estelle for all the work you've done on the committee and for our u3a, particularly through these troubled times.

New Membership Forms

As you may have read in the email sent out a while back, we purposely withheld chasing membership renewals until July until we would know what program of events we could put on. Well we still cannot be exactly certain what we will be able to run but Monthly Meetings at the church have resumed and most groups have restarted or plan to do so shortly.

So, if you haven't done so yet, we would encourage you to renew now and we do ask that if you are actively taking part in any of the groups which have restarted, or are about to restart, whether in person or online, that you please renew before taking part.

The 'new member' and 'membership renewal' forms are now on the website. The new forms allow you to complete them online without having to print them out and fill them in by hand, although that option is still possible. If the forms are downloaded to Acrobat Reader they can be emailed direct to members@ashbyu3a.co.uk after filling them in.

Unfortunately, this may not work if you are using Apple products. I'm working on that.

Information For The Newsletters

If you have anything that you would like to see in these newsletters, whether it is a report of something you or a Group have managed to organise despite all the difficulties, or you have some information on safety, health, scams or anything similar, please contact me, Mike Stow at webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk or 01530 469152.

Covid

Covid cases still seem to be rising sharply in the NW Leics area so be extra careful out there. The good news is that once double-vaccinated the chance of hospitalisation or serious illness seems to be extremely rare.

We remind you that we cannot guarantee that all members or other participants at u3a meetings or gatherings will have been vaccinated nor that they are virus-free and that it is up to individuals to decide whether or not they are comfortable with the risks of mixing in groups when the virus is still very much at large.

Group leaders may also wish to remind participants that whilst it may be advisable to wear face masks in crowded spaces, it isn't compulsory nor is it a legal requirement.

HELP & WELFARE

Welfare

As you may have seen elsewhere, Sharon Woodland has taken on the role of welfare after Estelle had to step down from the post.

Sharon can be contacted at welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk

If you know of any member who is unwell or isolating or has a family member who is unwell, please contact Sharon or any other committee member and we can see if there is anything we can do to help, whether it is collecting shopping or prescriptions, having a chat or just sending a card.

NHS Covid Pass

As the country and world is starting to open up to travel and larger events, here is some information about obtaining a NHS Covid Pass should you need one to prove your double vaccination status.

A NHS Covid Pass letter can be obtained by calling 119. There is no expiry date on these.

You can also request a NHS Covid Pass via the NHS website or the NHS app (not the NHS Covid app, that's for contact tracing)

You can then print this out. It contains a QR code which can be scanned wherever it is required.

Some venues will accept mobile phone proof of vaccination status in England through the NHS app.

Please be aware that the rules can be different for travel in Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

NHS Covid-19 Test and Trace

If you have a smartphone, we would encourage you to download the NHS Covid App. It tracks whether you have been in close proximity to someone who subsequently tests positive for Covid-19 and allows Test and Trace to contact you and ask you to isolate for a number of days. Remember this app only works if you carry your phone with you when you go out! It can also be used to check-in to pubs, restaurants and other premises for Test and Trace to save having to give your details at the door.

ZOE COVID-19 Symptom Tracker

If you wish to help Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals to track the spread of Covid-19 across the country and find out what type of person is getting infected, you can sign up to the Covid-19 Symptom Tracker here at <https://covid/joinzoe.com> You need a smartphone to which an app is installed.

It asks you for some personal details of age, height, weight etc. and general health and medication. This can all be anonymous if you wish.

You can then report each day how you feel even if you are well, it takes seconds. You can see how Covid 19 is spreading or retreating and you will be helping research into how and why it spreads, and who is most vulnerable. Over 4.5 million people are already signed up and contributing.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

August 24th – Annual Cream Tea Event

For our second meeting since the restart it was our annual cream tea event so there was no speaker as is usual for August. The inducement of free scones, jam and cream tea drew 52 members to attend!

As we had some dry and warm, if not sunny, weather on the day, the cream teas could be eaten outdoors or inside and everyone seemed to enjoy meeting up again to chat and catch up with the goings on of the last eighteen months.

On September 28th we shall have our first guest speaker since lockdown. Mike Storr will give a talk entitled "Masters of Mirth"

GROUP REPORTS

GROUPS ACTUALLY MEETING IN PERSON

Computer Group

The Computer Group is still able to help people with their computer, tablet or smartphone problems. Obviously we can't do repairs, but if you have software problems or other difficulties email help.computer@ashbyu3a.co.uk or phone John Howlett on 01530 461774 and someone will have a look at your problem and get back to you. Subject to the social distancing regulations in force at the time, we may even be able to do house calls.

This was our first meeting in 15 months, and we had a really good turnout, meeting at our alternate location of 2 Marlborough Way. It was good to get back together in the flesh and we did have some things to discuss.

Joan needed to be able to organise her photos in a sensible fashion, in which she can easily retrieve them and Colin worked with her to help get a procedure together and she left happy.

John D had a problem with his mini laptop where there isn't enough space for Windows to install the latest updates. Despite having additional storage available via a thumb drive, Windows was peculiarly uncooperative. Mike eventually managed to install the update, although by now there are later updates waiting installation!

We discussed other more general matters and managed to pass a very pleasant time and the biscuits were back to standard!

We next meet on Wednesday, September 1st, at 2 Marlborough Way

Walking

Tuesday 17th August. Swannington.

15 members of the walking group met on Tuesday 17th August at the Robin Hood pub in Swannington. We set off down the Main St and up Church Lane before crossing a field and joining the Swannington incline and walking up to the top. The incline dates back to the 1830's and was used to haul coal wagons up the steep slope. A stationary steam engine constructed by George Stephenson was built at the top of the incline to operate the winding gear which pulled the wagons up the hill. The walk then took us to the Whitwick fishing lake and along the track bed of the former railway linking Coalville and Loughborough. We followed the Ivanhoe Way towards Thringstone and then back along Hospital Lane and to Hough Mill. Returning to Swannington we had a well earned lunch at the Robin Hood.

Medium walks

Monday 9th August. Breedon and Cloud Trail, led by Trev and Val

10 enthusiastic walkers started from Breedon Green, on what was then a lovely morning. We headed out through the village towards the Cloud Trail, and after crossing the Trail we continued to Tonge via several fields. Unfortunately by now it had started to rain but luckily it was a short shower. At Tonge we rejoined the Cloud Trail following it to Wilson, where we walked up the lane and fields to the golf course. We turned back towards Breedon along the grassy paths across the golf course, arriving back at the Green having taken 2 hours and travelled 5 miles.

Short Walks

Friday 20th August. Beacon Hill

Unfortunately only three members turned up for this lovely, if slightly energetic walk. As those present were feeling adventurous we decided to do a slightly longer and steeper climb from the lower car park up to the summit where the clear skies gave an excellent view out to the horizon. We again took the long way down to the café for coffee and cake and were enjoying it so much that we nearly overran our time in the car park.

Recorder Group

Most of the members had grandparenting duties throughout August and so the group struggled to find time to get together and play. Things should be better next month.

Gardening

Thursday 19th August - Garden Party

Trev and Val hosted this year's garden party which was very successful and they just managed to fit it in between rain showers. There were compliments for the lovely homemade cakes and scones. A good time was had by all.

Drawing and painting

Wednesday 18th August

Just three members were able to contribute to this month's theme of "Glorious August". This is Christine's "Glorious August Sunflower":



Other paintings and drawings can be seen on the group's art gallery webpage at www.ashbyu3a.co.uk

GROUPS MEETING REMOTELY OR VIRTUALLY

Family History

Wednesday 14th July

Another good session with three plus the Leader. We elected to use the table for our first proper research session.

Sylvia is chasing her maternal grandmother, but has encountered some confusing links. She will need to merge many duplicates.

Dora has managed to track her ancestors on one side back to 1674 in the Parish Records for Scotland, and still working on her New Zealand links. She has made great progress, with more yet to come.

Eileen has encountered a puzzle with some of her ancestors; in particular a child, seemingly baptised on one day and then buried two days later, who then goes on to have many children and a full life! Clearly a case of mistaken identity but identifying which child of a choice of several with the same name is not so easy as it sounds.

Shirley reported later virtually that she has found a record of a marriage by special licence of her great grandmother's grandfather in 1818. Said individual married twice with children by each wife.

Ana reported virtually, although without much to say, except that she is still having difficulty in contacting the Hugglescote burial services to locate her grandfather's grave.

John D is making some progress with his Northumberland ancestors but is currently researching an intriguing mystery associated with lady described as the wife of a butler, but for whom no butler seems to exist. A later census says almost the same thing but adds that the butler is working in the country. Yet it seems from an earlier census that the gentleman concerned already has a wife and a large family which is almost untraceable afterwards.

We next meet on Wednesday, September 8th, 2021

Literature Group

The group appear to be continuing with their WhatsApp group so that they can read at home and then discuss the books they are reading.

Science & Technology

We did not meet either in person or via Zoom this month as it seems many people were on holiday or generally busy.

Our next meeting will be in person at the Alliance Evangelical Church on 13th September at 2pm. A talk by a retired Chief Fire Officer on the changes in the pattern of fires and accidents since he joined the fire service in 1964.

Music Appreciation

For the first time since the pandemic started we failed to have a meeting either in person or via playlists of songs on YouTube.

We were planning to meet in person in August but unfortunately almost everyone was busy doing something else so it was postponed and we will meet on 1st September at Sallie's house.

IF YOU WANT TO GET IN TOUCH, OUR NEW COMMITTEE ARE:

Tony Smith	Chairman	chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 831822
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
Sharon Woodland	Welfare	welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413867
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
Colin Ellis	Member	member_wo@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 272592