



## Newsletter September 2021

### Interest Groups Timetable for October

Group	Date	Time	Venue
<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	Tue 26th	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby Sandy Leong will discuss "A nice cup of tea"
Crafts	Thu 7th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Calligraphy	Tue 12th	10 am	At Sue's house. General practice session
Computer	Wed 6th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	Thu 7th	10 am	16 Winchester Way then Moira Furnace.
Drawing and painting	Wed 20th	10 am	2 Woodcock Way, Ashby. (opp. Ashby School in Nottingham Rd)
Family History	Wed 13th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 21st	2.15 pm	Packington Village Hall Buffet. This is now sold out
Industrial Heritage	Wed 27th	TBA	A visit to the "Museum of Making" in the old Silk Mill, Derby DE1 3AF
Literature	Tue 12th	1.30 pm	At Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 14th	12 for 12:30	Turpin's, Main Rd, Twycross, CV9 3PL
Medium Walks	Mon 11th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at Moira Furnace upper car park
Music Appreciation	Wed 6th	10 am	Neil's at 40 Willesley Gardens
Recorder	Thu 7th, Thu 21st	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Science & Technology	Mon 11th	2 pm	Ashby Alliance Evangelical Church, in jitty between Tamworth Rd and Avenue Rd. A talk by Michael Hardy "A Blast from the Past"
Short Walks	Fri 15th	10 am	Meet at Snibston Country Park car park. The fee is £3 for 2 hours. The entry is further into Coalville than the Golf centre and into the old colliery entrance.

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Supper Club	Thu 28th	7.15 for 7.45pm	The Unicorn Inn, Main St, Orton-on-the-Hill, Atherstone CV9 3NN
Walking	Tue 5th	9.45 for 10 am start	Meet at The Bradgate Arms, Cropston, LE7 7HG. NOTE that is NOT The Bradgate at Newtown Linford
	Tue 19th	9.45 for 10 am start	Meet at Visitor Centre car park, Castleton, Derbyshire S33 8WN
Wine Appreciation	Wed 27th	7 pm	79 Nottingham Rd, Ashby

### Interest Groups Timetable for early November

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Walking	Tue 2nd	9.45 for 10 am start	TBA
Computer	Wed 3rd	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Recorder	Thu 4th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Medium Walks	Mon 8th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at QE Diamond Jubilee Wood CP LE67 2TD

### Coming Events

Event	Date	Time	Venue
Christmas Lunch	Thu 9th Dec	12:30 for 1 pm	Willesley Park Golf Club £23.95pp. Orders are being taken now. See details below
Burns Supper	Thu 27th Jan 2022	7 for 7:30 pm	Willesley Park Golf Club. Details to follow

## NEWS

### INTEREST GROUPS RESTARTING

As you can see from the timetable above, things are starting to get back to normal. 18 groups will be meeting this month. Bridge, Italian, Quiz and History groups are not yet restarting mostly through lack of premises to meet at the moment.

Industrial Heritage is planning to restart this month with a trip to the recently opened Museum of Making in the old Silk Mill in Derby on Wednesday October 27th. I shall email details to all those who have previously come on Industrial Heritage trips and put details on the website. Anyone else wishing to join us can email Mike at [indhist@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:indhist@ashbyu3a.co.uk) or phone 01530 469152

Both the Calligraphy and Music Appreciation groups could do with a couple more members. If you are interested in joining either, email either [calligraphy@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:calligraphy@ashbyu3a.co.uk) or [musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk) to get more information.

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Thursday 9th December, 12 for 12:30 pm**

The Christmas lunch is back on this year. We have booked the Willesley Park Golf Club as usual and Avril is taking bookings.

The booking form will be at the next monthly meeting on 26th October, or you can send

- a. Your menu choices (please state if you have any dietary requirements, almost all can be catered for)
- b. A cheque, payable to Ashby u3a

to: Ashby u3a Social Sec, 8 Rotherwood Drive, Ashby, LE65 2JD

### **MENU**

**1.** Leek, Potato & Pancetta Soup

**2.** Duck Liver Parfait – Duck Bonbon – Spiced Apple & Date Chutney  
Sour Dough Bread Crisp

**3.** Goats Cheese, Pear & Walnut Tart – Micro Herb Salad (v)

**4.** Smoked Salmon & Prawn Salad – Pickled Beetroot – Gin Crème Fraiche

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**A.** Roasted & Honey Basted Leicestershire Turkey - Chipolata & Chestnut Stuffing – Warm  
Cranberries– Roast Potatoes

**B.** Confit of Duck – Rosemary Buttered Mash – Red Cabbage  
Clementine & Cointreau Jus

**C.** Pan Fried Seabass – Olive Oil & Crab Crushed New Potatoes  
Buttered Samphire

**D.** Mushroom & Cashew Nut Wellington – White Wine & Leek Cream Sauce (v)  
(All served with Seasonal vegetables)

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**W.** Hot Vanilla Waffle – Bananas – Vanilla Pod Ice cream – Caramel Sauce (v)

**X.** Traditional Christmas Pudding – Brandy Custard- Spiced Fruit & Nuts (v)

**Y.** “Black Forest Trifle” – Cherry Ice Cream (v)

**Z.** Selection of Cheese – Festive Chutney – Celery & Nuts (v)

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Coffee & Mints

**3 courses £23.95**

All choices can be provided in GF and/or DF

## HELP & WELFARE

### **Covid**

Covid cases are now falling steeply in the NW Leics area but the numbers are still much higher than earlier this year so be careful out there.

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 they may wish to wear face masks in crowded spaces, although it isn't compulsory nor is it a legal requirement.

### **Welfare**

Our new Welfare person is Sharon Woodland. Sharon can be contacted at [welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto: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.

### **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](mailto:webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk) or 01530 469152.

## LAST MONTH'S MEETING

### September 28<sup>th</sup> – Guest speaker Mike Storr - “Masters of Mirth”

This was the first time we have had a guest speaker since our return to monthly meetings and Mike Storr gave us an interesting and funny talk about the old time music hall comedians from the 1920s to the 50s plus one or two later comics that he happens to like.

Mike himself was diagnosed and treated for severe asthma 9 years ago and since then he has been giving talks around the country to groups like ours to raise money for Asthma UK. This was his 630th talk and he has raised a remarkable £40,000 for the charity in this time.

He talked about and in many cases gave us impressions of many artists from Robb Wilton - “The day war broke out..” to Pam Ayers.

He reminded us that, unlike today where a joke or script has a very limited life once it has been used on TV, many of these comics could use the same script for years as they travelled the music halls until they had visited the whole circuit.

Sir George Robey was to become a straight actor but he was best known as a slightly risqué comic. Marriott Edgar was unknown to most of us but it was he who wrote the original “Albert” monologues later to be made famous by Stanley Holloway. The most famous of these, which Mike recited to us, was “Albert and the Lion”. Mike also recited Gerald Hoffnung’s speech to the Oxford Union of “The Bricklayer’s Lament”, a wonderful story of mishap.

Bernard Miles will be remembered for being one of the first people to appear on the BBC without having a BBC accent. His stories were told in a strong Herefordshire dialect.

Mike gave a very good impersonation of Pam Ayers whilst reciting some of her poems and he finished with “You should ask my husband”, a lovely poem about the man who has an opinion on everything, mostly wrong!

A very entertaining afternoon.

## GROUP REPORTS

### 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](mailto: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.

### 20th September

Today we were all back at Winchester Way.

Not a lot to discuss as there were no real problems; maybe as the season progresses this will change. The subject of Direct X came up in the context of a notification from Windows to one of our members when trying to run a programme. This is software which allows games and other graphical apps to display better on the screen. It seems that his version was out of date.

John H had a laser printer which seemed to be misbehaving. After buying a new one, he decided to offer it to anyone to see if they could fix it. Mike has taken it on so that it can maybe be used for printing u3a notices etc. If he can get it to work!

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

## **Walking**

### **Tuesday 7th September. Heather to Ibstock and Swannington, led by Trev & Val**

On a clear, bright and sunny morning, 18 members set off from the Queens Head, Heather, for an 8 mile section of the 'Birthday Walk'. Initially, going out on paths and tracks, arriving near Ibstock Church. Then by lane and woodland via Ibstock Grange and on towards Ellistown. Because of the unexpected hot weather, regular stops were taken for drinks, on one of these we encountered some very inquisitive horses. Leaving Ellistown we proceeded to Donnington le Heath passing through Kelham Nature Reserve, then back to Heather via Sence Park. Back at the Queens Head we were all in need of some liquid refreshment followed by some excellent food.

### **Tuesday 21st September. Boot Inn, Repton circular via Newton Solney and River Trent, led by Bill Wilson**

After a little difficulty for some to find a parking spot in Repton, we pre-ordered our lunches at the Boot and set off along the back alleys and footpaths of Repton before coming across a farm full of different animals. Sheep, pigs, cows, ducks and geese are common but one large white bird appeared to be a Rhea. All the creatures were intermingled in several pens and fields. From there we walked over the hill to Dale Farm, through Newton Solney and down to the Trent where the Dove joins it. A pleasant walk along the river bank brought us back to Repton School and the Boot Inn. Lovely food and drink rounded off the morning.

## **Short Walks**

### **Friday 17th September. Burton Washlands**

This month 10 walkers came and we did a slightly longer walk as we took in some more of the area on the Stapenhill side of the river. We took the bridge over the new Road into Burton and again walked along the 'Ferry' Bridge walk into Burton taking the path near the river up to the Bookuchino cafe in the Library and we sat outside. The weather at this stage brightened from the dull cloudy start to full sunshine. The return walk was long the path on the town side of the Washlands up to the walkway that replace the ferry. On the Stapenhill side we walked through the flower beds which were between seasons as they were empty.

## **Recorder Group**

### **Thursday 9th September**

The recorder group met at St Matthew's Community Hall in Overseal on Thursday, 9th. There were 5 of us, so we were able to play a variety of music, from traditional Celtic, through Renaissance, to popular songs and modern compositions, but nothing to frighten the horses. Some pieces were challenging, others quite easy, but we still needed to concentrate. Good fun!

## **Gardening**

### **Thursday 16th September - Waterperry Gardens**

Our garden trip for September was to Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire where we enjoyed beautiful weather all day. On this beautifully landscaped 8 acre site the colour in the gardens was stunning packed with late flowering plants with many varieties of Michaelmas daisies etc. The museum was interesting with lots of vintage tools and implements, there was even Ronnie Barker's till which he used in his shop. A very nice outdoor seating for the cafe area offered some shade as well as sunshine. A good day was had by all.

## **Drawing and painting**

Wednesday 15th September

The September D&P was attended in person by 7 of us and one virtual contributor,  
We welcomed 3 new folks to have a trial and hope they enjoyed it enough to come again.

For our inspiration this month we took Keats' Ode To Autumn, "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". Below is Megan's Autumnal reed bed. See the gallery at [www.ashbyu3a.co.uk](http://www.ashbyu3a.co.uk) for more results.



Next month, meet at 2 Woodcock Way (opp Ashby School, Nottingham road entrance) 20th October at 10am. Theme to be announced.

## **Crafts**

Thursday 2nd September

The Craft group met for the first time since lockdown to discuss what projects they would like to pursue in future. They have decided to paint Christmas cards at the next session on 7th October at 2 Marlborough Way.

## **Calligraphy**

Tuesday 14th September

The Calligraphy group has just had it's first meeting back. Yippee!! We have planned our programme as far ahead as next January.

We still have room for two more people if anyone is interested in joining us. If you are, contact Sue, details above.

## **Literature Group**

The group are now meeting at Sandra's house each month so that they can discuss the books they are reading. The discussions are lively, one hears.

## **Photography**

### **Thursday 2nd September**

This has been our first 'live' meeting since March 2020. We had five members present, including a new member: Frank. New to Ashby, new to the local u3a and new to the Group. We had a general chat to catch up, and then looked at ideas for topics in the coming year.

Among those were: Autumn colours; Wildlife; Editing and Postproduction; Mobile phone cameras and Presentations.

It was noted that the husband of one of the Ashby u3a members has been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society for his wildlife photography. We will discuss further whether to make an approach to see if he would be willing to come along to one of our meetings.

We then played with the settings of our mobile phones to see what these devices can do, as they are getting more and more sophisticated all the time.

## **Lunch**

The luncheon group were all set to have their first meal out in 18 months at the White Hart in Ashby but they were informed just the day before that the pub had had a "catastrophic failure" in their kitchens and would be unable to serve lunch. As it was too late to book somewhere else, lunch had to be abandoned until next month.

They will be meeting at Turpin's in Twycross on 14th October at 12 for 12:30pm

## **Supper club**

### **Thursday 23rd September**

The supper club had it's first gathering since early 2020 at the Globe Inn at Snarestone. 18 members pre-booked their menu choices and all arrived hungry for food and conversation. Unfortunately for the conversation we were seated at two tables, one in each of two adjacent rooms. It was not ideal but each table seemed to get on ok without the other table!. Several new group members joined us and they fitted in just fine. I hope they all enjoyed themselves. We all agreed that the food was lovely, the portions generous and the conversation was brilliant with lots of stories to catch up on since last we met.

## **Science & Technology**

### **Monday 13th September**

Retired Chief fire officer Graham Edwards gave a very interesting talk to the Science and Technology group entitled, "How times have changed" reflecting on changes in the fire service over his career.

When he began most people had open coal fires, but as living standards rose more flammable consumer goods in the home meant that fires burned hotter and longer, and gave off toxic fumes. Older large houses were turned into flats and bedsits with multiple occupation, but no planning to improve fire safely. There is a strong connection between social conditions and death risk.

Changes in building standards resulted in large open spaces in factories and warehouses, with flimsy and flammable partitions, cheaper to build, but more dangerous as fire could then spread and engulf the whole area in a few minutes.

Some famous fires with multiple deaths were considered, and whilst much was learned from the causes of these, the necessary rules, laws and planning details were not always altered to prevent similar tragedies occurring as new technologies were applied with insufficient understanding.

## Music Appreciation

Wednesday 1st September 2021

This was our first in-person meeting for 17 months after we had to cancel last month's scheduled meeting at short notice. Neil introduced us to a potential new member, Sid. Welcome Sid. So after much chat and "good to see you"s, the five of us settled down to listen to music all together in the same room.

As has become a tradition of ours, Neil started us off with the Everley Bros and "Crying in the rain" to commemorate the passing of Don Everly this month; his brother Phil having died 7 years ago.

He next introduced us to Damian Rice signing "Eskimo" a singer and song that none of us had heard of, but we must listen out for again.

Another legend passed away this month, bassist Dusty Hill of ZZ Top. The original 3 members Dusty, Billy Gibbons and drummer Frank Beard (ironically the one without a beard!) had been together for 51 years which must be a record for any rock band to have the same unchanged line up. Neil played us "Sharp dressed man" which he assured us was written about him!

Our newcomer Sid brought us Simon and Garfunkel and "The sound of silence". Despite popular belief this track was not on "Bridge over troubled water" but on their debut album "Wednesday morning 3am".

Sid had hoped to play us some Beethoven but found the wrong CD in the slipcase (haven't we all done that!) so instead we got an equally lovely extract from "Swan lake" by Tchaikovsky. He followed this with Barbara Dixon and the self-penned "Palm Sunday"

Our host Sallie gave us the incomparable Louis Armstrong & Ella Fitzgerald singing "Summertime" from George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess". Pops, Ella and Gershwin. It really doesn't get any better than that.

Sallie followed this with more Louis Armstrong, this time "Hello Dolly" from the musical of the same name originally starring Carol Channing. It was Barbra Streisand in the film. Another classic. We noted that in the words of "Hello Dolly", Louis pronounces his name Lou-is and not Louie as we English tend to call him.

Following Neil's example Mike gave us music from two other performers who died this month and one who announced his retirement from the stage.

Nanci Griffith, a great singer of mostly American folk died at the early age of 67. Her own song "Love at the five and dime" is a story about Woolworths.

Tony Bennett, now 95, disclosed that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease 5 years ago and has stopped performing due to his frailty rather than his voice. He is still recording. His most famous song is of course "San Francisco". We heard a recording from the '60s when his voice was at its best.

Charlie Watts of the Stones also died this month. Regarded by many as one of the best rock drummers of all time, although this roots and first love were jazz. His drumming can be clearly heard driving along "Honky Tonk Women" even though Jagger inevitably steals the show.

Nev had intended to play some tracks by the Everly Bros and the Stones but was beaten to it by Neil and Mike. Nev was also in an autumnal mood and so brought us 4 tracks all with September in the title.

He started with Bryan Ferry singing "September Song" by Kurt Weill from Ferry's album of standards "As time goes by".

This was followed by The Tempos and "See you in September", and then Carole King with "It might as well rain until September" originally written for Bobby Vee by King and Gerry Goffin. He finished with Frank Sinatra's rendition of "September in the rain".

It was great to be back together to listen to each others music and to discuss and comment on it. We will be back together at Neil's house on the 6th October.

## **Family History**

Wednesday 8th September

An excellent session today, with four at the table and one in remote attendance. In particular we welcomed Keith back.

Eileen is still making progress with the Parish Records back into the 18th century.

Shirley showed us a copy of a marriage special licence of her great grandmother's grandfather in 1818. A fascinating document: one none of us has seen before. She is struggling to trace her Salvin ancestors, as the name, seemingly uncommon, isn't, especially in its variants.

Ana is still having difficulty in contacting the Hugglescote burial services to locate her grandfather's grave. We looked at Google maps to locate the cemetery. It seems still to be there, with most of the headstones in place, so a drive by and close inspection might produce results, as correspondence with the local authority is proving frustrating. She has also had a contact from someone who seems to think they are very closely related, but for which Ana has no information. This person has thousands of people on her tree, so has probably been collecting them from Hints.

Keith has been busy chasing his grandfather's relations. He has followed the brother and his relations to Canada. And back!

Sylvia was unable to join us in person but did email to say that she had a birth certificate back from the G.R.O. for her great grandmother, only to find it was not her! Right name, place and time, but wrong parents. We have asked her to let us have more details so that we can put the team to work for her.

John D helped out where possible and introduced the team to the National Library of Scotland's wonderful map resources, especially the geo-referenced ones.

We also had a general discussion about contacts via Ancestry. These need always to be treated carefully, for a variety of reasons. Often, these contacts have no real connection with you. However, if you believe it is a scam you should not respond. We also talked about what to do if you find a link to someone whom you believe is genuine, but who hasn't contacted you. It is always best to proceed with caution, to avoid opening a can of worms.

But occasionally they come up trumps, so it is always useful to see what they have to say.

### **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