

## Newsletter April 2022

### Interest Groups Timetable for May 2022

Please note that this timetable could be subject to change at any time.

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	Tue 24th	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. Dr Ann Featherstone "Sand beneath my toes" - Seaside holidays etc.
Arts and Crafts	Thu 12th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Bridge	Mon 2nd	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 9th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
	Mon 16th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 23rd	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
	Mon 30th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
Calligraphy	Tue 10th	10 am	At Di's. HUMOROUS, STRUCTURED piece of work ( own choice of paper size) 'Spring is sprung, the grass is ris. I wonder where the birdies is?'
Computer	Wed 4th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
	Mon 23rd	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	Thu 5th	10 am	At Mike's 91 Woodside - NOTE change of venue
Drawing and painting	Wed 18th	10 am	Venue Town or 2 Marlborough Way. Theme TBA
Family History	Wed 11th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 19th	2 pm	Self-drive to Old Barn, Stretton en le Field, DE12 8AF. A Yellow Book garden. £4.50. Refreshments charged extra.
History	Thu 26th	TBA	Newstead Abbey.
Industrial Heritage	Wed 25th	TBA	Quarry Bank Mill, Styal
Italian			TBA
Literature	Tue 10th	1:30 pm	Meeting at Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 12th	12 for 12.30 pm	Wolferstan Arms, Main Rd, Shuttington, B79 0DP

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Medium Walks	Mon 9th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at Beacon Hill Lower CP on Breakneck Rd LE12 8TA
Music Appreciation	Wed 4th	10 am	At Brenda's
Recorder	Thu 5th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
	Thu 19th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Science & Technology	Mon 9th	2 pm	Ashby Alliance Evangelical Church. Tanya Dempster & Chris Terry - People of the Mary Rose
Short Walks	Fri 20th	10 am	Meet at Moira Furnace
Supper Club	Thu 26th	7 for 7.30 pm	The Bulls Head, Main St, Wilson, DE73 8AE
Walking	Tue 3th	9.45 for 10 am start	The Anchor, Loughborough Rd, Hathern LE12 5JB
	Tue 17th	9.45 for 10 am start	Cricketts Inn, A444, Acresford, Overseal, DE12 8AP
Wine Appreciation	Wed 18th	7 pm	Annie's house

### **Interest Groups Timetable for early June**

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Music Appreciation	Wed 1st	10 am	TBA
Computer	Wed 1st	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Recorder	Thu 2nd	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal, May be postponed due to Bank Holiday
Digital Photography	Thu 2nd	10 am	16 Winchester Way. May be postponed due to Bank Holiday
Arts and Crafts	Thu 2nd	10 am	2 Marlborough Way. May be postponed due to Bank Holiday
Industrial Heritage	Sat 4th or Sun 5th	TBA	Papplewick Pumping Station, Nottingham
Bridge	Mon 6th	2-4 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Walking	Tue 7th	9.45 for 10 am start	TBA

## A REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### **Your membership renewal was due on 1st April.**

The fee this year is £20.00, or £16.00 if you are the 2nd member at one address or a fully paid up member at another U3A.

This is a small increase from before as the bank now charges us for every transaction, the Third Age Trust has increased its levy and the Congregational Church has raised its fees for us to meet there.

We haven't raised our fees for at least 7 years.

**Renewal forms are downloadable by clicking on the "Information" tab on the website or from the Membership Sec., Iain Banns. 01530 416697**

**Please don't just send money, we need the completed form to comply with Data Protection legislation.**

If you have renewed recently, thank you, and you may have noticed that the latest renewal form asks you to provide emergency contact details should anything untoward happen either at a meeting or out on a visit or coach trip.

There is also now a tick box to allow us to apply for Gift-Aid. This will allow us to claim back an extra 25% of your membership fee from the taxman. I'm sure you'll agree that we can think of a better way to spend it than him!

If you have already filled in an earlier membership form which didn't have either of those boxes on it, we shall get back to you later to ask if you would like to give that info to us.

## HELP & WELFARE

### Covid

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. Especially as the new variant seems to be much more transmissible.

Group leaders may also wish to remind participants that they may wish to wear face masks in crowded spaces including homes, although since Jan 27th it is no longer a legal requirement.

Again, it is no longer a legal requirement to wear face masks in places of worship which includes the Congregational Church where we hold our monthly meetings and also the Ashby Alliance Evangelical Church where the Science Group meets, but feel free to wear one if you prefer.

### Welfare

Our 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.

## LAST MONTH'S MEETING

### 26th April - 'Knitters, Nailers and Traitors' by David Skillen

When our booked speaker was suddenly taken ill, our speaker from last month, David Skillen, stepped in at very short notice to give us an entirely different talk to last month. This time it was on the history of Belper entitled Knitters, Nailers and Traitors.

Belper has a good claim to be at the very forefront of the Industrial Revolution. because of deposits of iron and coal, nail making was practised as early as Roman times. The Ferrers family were given lands around Derbyshire and Leicestershire by William the Conqueror. They came from Ferrieres Saint Hilaire in Normandy, an important iron working area and were Farriers to Williams army. Belper was part of their lands and so nails for horseshoes became an important trade for Belper with men working from home. Men expected to make upto 1000 nails a day. It is said hat America's cowboys rode on Belper nails. This cottage industry lasted until the early 20th century.

In 1589 the Rev William Lee thought that his wife was a slow knitter and that she spent more time knitting than spending time with him, so he devised the first ever knitting frame for making stockings which all men wore at the time. Queen Elizabeth refused him a patent on the machine as she feared it would put many people out of work, so he took his invention to France. On his death, his brother returned to Britain and set up business in Nottingham. The machines on made flat panels of cloth which had to be cut to shape and then sewn together into stockings, But they couldn't make the ribbed stocking tops which held them up and these were still made by hand.

Meanwhile one Jedediah Strutt married a woman whose family owned a hosiery business in Derby and in 1759 Strutt devised an attachment to the knitting frame which would do ribbed knitting and became known as the Derby Rib. When he came to build his first frames, the skilled nailers of Belper were an ideal workforce to help make them (and supply nails)

Some 10 years later Strutt was wealthy enough to give financial backing to Richard Arkwright who wanted to develop his "Water Frame", a water powered cotton-spinning machine. Their first factory the world's first water-powered cotton spinning mill was set up at Cromford in 1771 and a second mill was built in Belper in 1776. This was the beginning of the association of the Strutt family with Belper, and the impetus for this small village to become, by 1801, the second largest town in Derbyshire.

Strutt's mill burnt down in 1803 and was replaced by North Mill which was one of the world's first fireproof buildings, designed and built by Jedediah's son William, and made from iron columns and brick floors. Because cotton needs to be kept warm and damp for successful spinning he incorporated hot air ducting, heated by coal, which ran throughout the building. All the machines were powered by a large water drum fed by the Derwent waters. The river was dammed upstream to ensure a steady flow of water.

To attract and keep good workers they built the world's first industrial housing pre-dating Bourneville and Saltaire. They also built a workhouse and grammar school for the town. However to make sure that the workers worked hard they worked 6 days a week but were only paid for 5. Regular bonuses were paid from the 6th days pay but there were deduction and forfeits if they were late, unruly or mis-behaved in any way.

The Strutts were great benefactors and William designed and built Derby Infirmary which incorporated his fireproof construction and his novel heating kept the patients warm.

To process cotton, Strutt used Richard Arkwright's water spinning frame which meant he could deal with huge quantities 24 hours a day. At the time, the US was the world's biggest exporter of cotton but did not have the technology to process it. Britain knew this and passed laws in 1774 banning textile workers from travelling to America. The US offered bribes to English workers for their knowledge.

Samuel Slater was an apprentice under Jedediah Strutt and he couldn't resist the temptation. In 1789 he left Belper with plans of the water-powered spinning machine and in disguise, took a ship to America where he sold his knowledge. By 1835 the US was producing £80m of cotton a year. In 1790 it had been just £2m.

'Slater the traitor' as he became known, is credited with kick starting the whole US manufacturing industry and is a well known name in America.

Belper is now a shadow of its former glorious self and we heard that Strutt's North Mill, which closed in 1991 but remained as a museum to the start of the Industrial Revolution, has just had its £50k funding removed by Amber Valley Borough Council and will close in September, despite it being a World Heritage site. A sad end to a historically important building. And thank you to David Skillen for stepping in at such short notice to tell us all about it.

## **GROUP REPORTS**

### **Arts & Crafts**

7th April

The group were working on a small Easter project this month

### **Calligraphy**

12th April

Only four of us met this month to concentrate on our Easter project....Eostre. ( a West Germanic Spring Goddess who is the namesake of Easter in some languages) The idea was to write repetitive letters/words and we produced various interpretations on the theme.

We also discussed the possibility of finding a tutor who might be able to improve our calligraphy skills and lead us on to the next level.

The next meeting is at Di's on May 10th when we will all be writing the same humorous Spring poem but choosing our own style and size.

### **Lunch**

14th April

The April lunch was at The Riftswood in Tamworth, a venue we had not visited before. This is a Sizzler restaurant, and as the name suggests many items on the menu came sizzling hot on a skillet. We each ordered and paid at the bar which much simplified the payment process. The staff were friendly and helpful, and the meals were served swiftly. The food was good too and the puddings in particular looked delicious and suitably calorific. We were seated in the conservatory area with a nice view of the garden area below. maybe next time we will be able to sit outside.

The venue for 12th May will be The Wolferstan Arms in Main Rd, Shuttington, B79 0DP at 12 noon for 12.30. We have been there before a couple of times and enjoyed the food and the views over the River Anker. If you wish to come but have not yet booked, please contact luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk to put your name on the list.

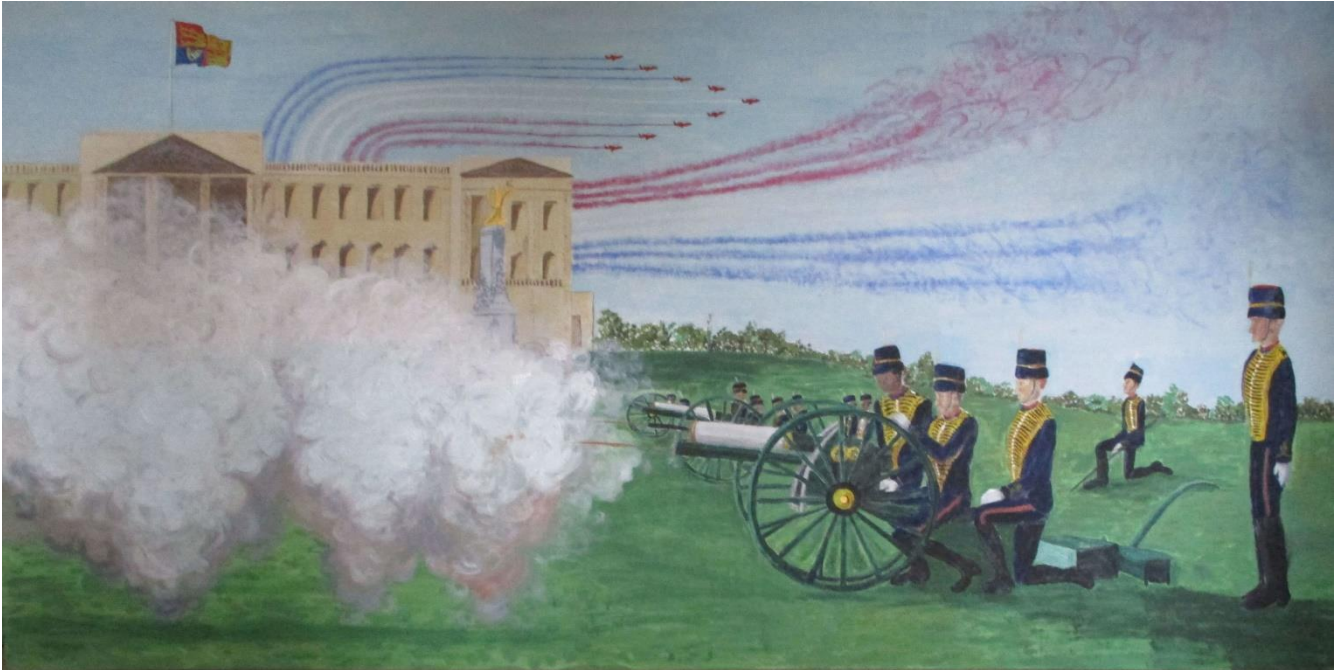
## **Drawing and painting**

13th April

The topic for the usual monthly drawing and painting morning was "Easter". Just a few of us were around for this as it coincided with Easter Week.

During the month the Exhibit for the Ashby Jubilee Art Festival 2022 was completed, and will be on view in the Town during May.

Look out for 'Salute to the Monarchy'



The next meeting will be May 18th at 10.00 am, weather permitting, to walk the Jubilee Outdoor Art Trail.

Alternatively we will meet at 2 Marlborough Way: Theme TBA.

## **Digital Photography**

7th April

We had four today. Due to a misreading of the last meeting's Report, three turned up with photos of old buildings (some of Ashby) and one came ready, as that Report said, to walk out around town.

There were, however, some very interesting photos to see, so all was not lost!

We next meet on the 5th May, at 91 Woodside and will decide then what we will do.

## **Gardening**

21st April

A good time was had by all on our coach trip to Johns Garden at Ashwood Nurseries. It was a lovely April day with plenty of sunshine and we were split into 2 groups for our tour of the garden. That was very interesting with a pond, stumpery and very interesting planting. The nursery was very well laid out, meals at the restaurant were very tasty with some unusual scones that were scrumptious. The gardens will feature next week on Love your Garden with Alan Titchmarsh.

## History

### 28th April. Dad's Army by Jed Jaggard

27 attendees. Jed gave an enthralling canter through the origins and development of the Home Guard, with some very interesting exhibits for us to handle.

The origins of a national defence force, raised from local populations, can be found in the raising of various militia or yeomanry regiments on a local basis, often for the purpose of maintaining public order. The Trained Bands of Elizabethan times seem to be the first of this type of force to be organised on a national scale. This was formalised in 1908 with the creation of the Territorial Force, as the U.K.'s reinforcements for the Army in times of crisis.

However, as these were men of an age and fitness group that could be ordered overseas for combat, the idea was transformed in the run up to WWII to make use of those who were not suitable for combat to act as a sort of local volunteer force to help the authorities in the event of localised incursions. It was thought that, with the springing up of local, independently organised, vigilante style groups sometimes armed with shotguns and other weapons, things could quickly get out of hand. So a general call went out for men to join a nationally organised force. Initially the authorities thought they might get up to 10,000 volunteers. They got 250,000!

This quickly evolved into the Local Defence Volunteers, and it was seen increasingly that they should be equipped to put up a fight of sorts in the event of an actual invasion, and possible occupation. The average age of these turned out to be 36, with the oldest 86.

As the War developed, so the LDV (soon to become The Home Guard) was equipped with better and better kit. Many and varied were the actual resources, from local boating clubs acting as water born patrols (advancing on the enemy at 4 mph!) to roller skates and knives taped to broom handles.

But they eventually received standard army weapons and books on how to kill invaders. Some units, made up of ex-Regular soldiers, were even readied to go into bunkers in the event of invasion and pop up behind an advancing army. These were in some ways the forerunners of the Commando units. Jed outlined for us one spectacular commando raid during the War on St Nazaire. It earned the Commandos 5 VC's, but the cost was enormous, losing 179 dead out of 612, with 215 captured.

Jed handed round examples of weaponry, such as a Lee-Enfield rifle, a Tommy gun and a Sten gun, with hand grenades, booklets and photos, and badges from various units. These latter included women in the later stages of the War.

The Home Guard was stood down in 1944, and every member received a special letter from the King, and two medals.

One questioner asked whether there had been any assessment of what would happen in the event of an invasion. War-gaming suggests that the Germans would have got no further than a line roughly from Bristol to the Wash, as the Royal Navy was still functional, and they could not be resupplied.

One wonders.

A really entertaining and informative talk on a piece of history that just touches on our own generation but is history for those who come after us.

## **Family History**

### **13th April**

A very good session today, with seven present, including two new friends. We were, though, three down, due to various problems.

Keith is persevering to locate his grandfather's Navy records but keeps coming up blank. His next port of call (!) will be a direct approach to the MOD and an application to the Navy records.

He also performed once again above and beyond with the beverages.

Richard is working in parallel, but so far with little success. Next time we must apply some elbow grease to open some doors!

Ana reported a success in finding her grandfather's grave at Hugglescote. After a frustrating lack of response from the Local Authority, she went to the cemetery and was given a lot of help by an official actually there, who showed her how to find a grave and the coding system in use: actually engraved on the surrounding edging stones!

She also wanted to see how to use a gedcom file but decided ultimately to take a screen shot of her tree and print it up, sticking sections together.

Carolyn has identified two possibilities for her great great grandfather but needs to pin one down. She also interested in the gedcom export process, as it can be confusing once you have exported the gedcom. There is a 'Download' button appears instead of the 'Export' button. But that doesn't do much save give you another download file! The next step would be to look in your PC's Download files and upload your gedcom from there to another software app, usually a family tree package.

Sylvia worked on her ancestors steadily without any new discoveries.

Mary Jones, an experienced researcher, and a visitor who will be joining the U3A very shortly, has a very interesting Italian link which we looked at via Ancestry Worldwide. We may have to recruit an Italian speaker for some of the documents we turned up.

We next meet on May the 11th at 2 Marlborough Way.

## **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. Or you can come along to one of our meetings in person.

### **6th April**

Today we had 8 sitting down, but with few problems to solve.

Peter had been trying to copy his LPs to his laptop and encountered several obstacles along the way.

However today he was on the last lap and was playing his turntable directly into the laptop. He still has a way to go in labelling his albums and tracks, but the main task is done. At least he thought he was on the last lap, but it turned out that the computer was recording garbage. Much head scratching failed to find a solution, so the task continues.

Trecia Makepeace, a new attendee to the group, needed assistance in searching for and sorting documents on her phone. Richard sorted this for her but she also has problems with her tablet, which, unfortunately, seems too old to be cured.

Bic was trying to upload a pdf of the minutes of Friends of Castle Medical Group to their website which he looks after. Unfortunately the best minds of the computer group have not yet worked out how to do it!



## **Industrial Heritage**

### **27th April. Framework Knitters Museum, Ruddington**

Purely by chance, the day after we had a talk at the monthly meeting about Jedediah Strutt and his improvement of the framework knitting machine, the Industrial Heritage group visited the Framework Knitters Museum at Ruddington.

We last visited it about 8 years ago, but the museum received a Lottery grant just before Covid lockdown which allowed them to buy some property next door along with a chapel, and spent the next two years developing a reception building, coffee shop, gift shop and an art gallery in the chapel plus some gardens which have greatly improved the site.

After coffee, we were split into 3 groups to visit the 3 main areas of the museum, namely the framework knitting hall, the workers cottages and the circular knitting stocking machines room. All were fascinating.

The knitting frames are much larger than expected, looking similar to a hand loom crossed with a domestic knitting machine. The mechanism is extremely complex even for a modern machine. How anyone built or even thought them up in the 16th century seems impossible. Our guide demonstrated one of the 19 frames packed into a room not much bigger than the average lounge. They are extremely hard work as well as being quite complex to operate. With 3 foot pedals and 4 or more hand levers to push and pull in just the right sequence would have taken plenty of skill and manpower. And I mean manpower as they were almost exclusively operated by men.

Before the factory was built knitting frames were usually in peoples cottages. They were too expensive to buy and so they were rented from a landlord or other agent. The husband operated it whilst the wife sewed the stockings together and the children wound the bobbins from skeins of cotton or wool. Wives would also be sent out to buy replacement needles which were quite fragile and broke often if not looked after. Whilst needles were all the same, the way they mounted in the frame wasn't and so the needles had to be cast into lead holders which fitted each individual machine.

When the factory opened, men were paid piece rates to operate the frames but still had to buy the cotton and pay for broken needles. Children aged 6 were limited to working 69 hours a week!

The cottages on site were built as back-to-backs with one room upstairs and one room down and a small attic space for the children to sleep in. A family of maybe 6 or more lived in the two rooms. There was no toilet - that was across the yard, as was the washroom. That's for washing clothes, not people. The only water supply was from a hand pump in the yard.

The manager and his family fared slightly better in that theirs was a through-house i.e. it had a scullery downstairs and two bedrooms above. Cooking was done on the range in the living room. But they still shared the toilet and washroom with all the other families.

Circular knitting machines were invented in the late Victorian era, mostly for use by lower middle-class women in order for them to earn a little extra money, whilst working from home. However the machines were expensive to buy and the agents who supplied the yarn and bought the output made all the money and the women made little. They were also used in workhouses where children were put to work for no pay other than their lodging. The machines could make stockings or scarves and with practise could make tapered tubes for stockings and socks and could even knit in the heels and toes all in one piece.

This was a fascinating visit which we all enjoyed greatly. We had to drag ourselves away after 3 hours in order to keep our appointment at the White Horse pub at the end of the street, which served some very nice food and drink with no complaints that we were over 30mins late arriving.

## **Music Appreciation**

### **6th April**

This month we were back down to 4 to meet at Sallie's house as commitments kept others away. This gave the 4 of us time to play plenty of tunes!

Brenda kicked off with Dusty and "Son of a Preacher Man" from her excellent Dusty in Memphis album, then Nev gave us The Platters and "Only You". Mike offered Cat Stevens and "The First Cut is the Deepest", a song usually associated with PP Arnold but which was actually written by Cat in his early days. As a poor musician he sold the rights to it for £30! Sallie woke us all up with a high speed version of "Flight of the Bumble Bee" which lasted barely 90 seconds. Phew.

For our second round Brenda started with Ray Charles and "Georgia on my Mind", Nev played Hugh Laurie singing "Changes" which is based on the tune of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". Mike had just bought a Best of The Kinks album and chose "Dedicated Follower of Fashion" for us to all sing along to. Sallie gave us something different. As the Queen's Jubilee is approaching, she chose "Elizabethan Serenade" played by the R.P.O and written by Ronald Binge. A tune you'll all know, if not its name.

Next, Brenda brought us "What the World Needs Now" by the much underrated Jackie de Shannon. Nev gave us The Beatles and "I Saw Her Standing There" famous for the first appearance of Paul's "Wooo"! Mike followed that with Chuck Berry and "Route 66". Sallie gave us a lovely version of "Plink, Plank, Plunk" composed by Leroy Anderson which gave us a good laugh.

For our last round, Brenda started of with "Yesterday" played by the jazz group Modern Gustin Trio. It's amazing how many ways that tune can be interpreted. Nev also brought some Chuck Berry and chose "Memphis, Tennessee". Mike returned to the Kinks to give us "Lola" one of their humorous looks at life. We finished of with Sallie's choice of Tom Jones and "Green, Green Grass of Home"

## **Supper club**

### **28th April**

This month we met at the Mill Wheel at Hartshorne which the Lunch group met at last November. We had pre-ordered our food and so once drinks were served the starters arrived quite quickly, which seemed to be enjoyed by all those who had them. Mains arrived shortly after that and it seemed that we would be finished by 8.15! Nevertheless we took our time to enjoy the food and company before some of us ordered the very tempting desserts. Colin and Sharon had a little wait while the chef rustled up the large quantities of custard ordered. Meanwhile we were entertained by the frequent rumbling of the mill wheel which started up every few minutes. It seems it is turned over by an electric motor and the water is splashed over it! We were again the only diners in the upstairs restaurant area. It would seem that the combination of pandemic and inflation are really affecting the hospitality trade.

Despite the lack of other eaters, we all had a good time and the conversations flowed as if powered by the water wheel.

## **Wine Appreciation**

### **20th April**

This month's meeting was cancelled at short notice as Annie was not feeling well. The wines chosen for tasting will be held over until next month when I'm sure they will be appreciated.

## **Short Walks**

### **15th April.**

As the date fell on Good Friday and many would be visiting, or being visited, by family it was decided to cancel this month's walk.

Next month's walk will start from Moira Furnace on Friday 20th May

## **Medium walks**

### **11th April. Ticknall Tramway and Calke Park, led by Alison**

The group set off from Ticknall Village Hall car park 10.00am on a fine morning. There were 11 of us and we joined the tramway just inside Calke grounds. Underfoot was very good with none of the dreaded gooey stuff called mud. The Estate workers had been very thoughtful by felling some trees for us to sit on for our pit stop half way through the walk - much appreciated - but shame for the trees. Just under 6 miles later we arrived back at the car park at about 12.30pm.

## **Longer Walks**

### **5th April. Packington to Hicks Lodge, led by David and Lilian**

We met at the Bull and Lion to place our food orders before setting off, but despite having previously arranged that someone would be there to open up, no-one was. Much phoning on landline or mobile could not elicit a response, so we set off hoping to make contact later. The walk took us out of Packington, along the A42 and across it and the golf course into Willesley Wood Side. From there we entered into Willesley Wood and into Hicks Lodge. A short walk up the lane brought us to the Ivanhoe Way and through the only muddy stretch and onwards across fields to Ashby. On arriving at the new(ish) estate of Philip Bent Road, we managed to make contact with the pub and placed our food orders over the phone. Onwards along Moira Rd, down by Hilltop school and into the allotments brought us to Tamworth Rd then across Western Park onto Packington Nook Lane, over the A42 and on to Packington. The pre-ordered food duly turned up and very nice it was too. An interesting local walk through parts of Ashby that many did not know.

### **19th April. High Peak Junction, led by Steve, Bob and Tony**

Ten happy souls gathered in perfect walking weather at the High Peak Junction car park ready to start another walking adventure, albeit a little shorter distance this time at 5 1/2 miles rather than our normal 7+.

Having crossed the river and the railway we were presented with beautiful view of the very impressive inclined plane.

You can't help to be impressed with the engineers that built this wonderful structure. The incline, though steep was not sufficient to deter our party of oldies from walking 3/4 of the way up before we needed to turn off, onto a not surprisingly steep slope down. That pretty well describes the whole of the walk, a lot of up and a lot of down but very beautiful, and although only 5 1/2 miles long we all thought we had walked the equivalent of 7+.

As there is no pub at the Junction we all adjourned to the Old Black Swan in Crich where we enjoyed good pub fare, excellent beer and splendid company.

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

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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 Organiser	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