



Newsletter May 2022

Interest Groups Timetable for June 2022

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

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	Tue 28th	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. Steve Short "The story of Morecombe and Wise"
Arts and Crafts	Thu 7th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Bridge	Mon 6th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 13th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
	Mon 20th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 27th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
Calligraphy	Tue 14th	10 am	At Lynda's. PATRIOTIC BANNER in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Computer	Wed 1st	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
	Mon 20th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography			Cancelled this month as it clashes with Jubilee Bank Holiday
Drawing and painting	Wed 15th	10 am	Venue and theme TBA
Family History	Wed 8th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 16th	2 pm	Self-drive to East View Cottage, Shuttington B79 0DX. A Yellow Book garden. £7 inc cake and drink
History	Thu 23rd	2.15 pm	Packington Village Hall. Mark Pacey - 'Family History'
Industrial Heritage	Sat 4th	9.15 am	Papplewick Pumping Station, Nottingham
	Wed 22nd	9 am	Stourbridge Glass Museum
Literature	Tue 14th	1:30 pm	Meeting at Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 9th	12 for 12.30 pm	The Unicorn Inn, Main St, Orton on the Hill, CV9 3NN

Interest Groups Timetable for June 2022 cont.

Group	Date	Time	Venue
	Mon 13th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at Wilson village, parking in Green Lane near the Breeden Priory Health Club
Music Appreciation	Wed 1st	10 am	At Sid's, 23 Grange Close, LE65 2PQ
Recorder	Thu 9th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
	Thu 23rd	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Science & Technology	Mon 13th	2 pm	Ashby Alliance Evangelical Church. Colin Woodland – “Breathing at Altitude”
Short Walks	Fri 17th	10 am	TBA
Supper Club	Thu 23rd	7 for 7.30 pm	The Staff of Life, Ticknall, DE73 7JH
Walking	Tue 7th	9.45 for 10 am start	Ilam Park NT car park. DE6 2AZ
	Tue 21st	9.45 for 10 am start	TBA
Wine Appreciation	Wed 15th	7 pm	Annie's house

Interest Groups Timetable for early July

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Bridge	Mon 4th	2-4 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Walking	Tue 5th	9.45 for 10 am start	TBA
Music Appreciation	Wed 6th	10 am	TBA
Computer	Wed 6th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Recorder	Thu 7th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal,
Digital Photography	Thu 7th	10 am	Visit to Tropical Birdland, Lindridge Lane, Desford, LE9 9GN Meet at John's house to car share
Arts and Crafts	Thu 7th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way.

A REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your membership renewal was due on 1st April.

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.

Welfare

Our Welfare person is Sharon Woodland. 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.

NOTICE OF AGM

This year we shall be holding our Annual General Meeting immediately before the July 26th Monthly Meeting as usual. As members are returning to the meetings in reasonable numbers now, we shall be reverting to the normal process of asking you to vote on the day and we will not be holding a postal vote.

The formal notice along with the Chairman's report, last years accounts and details of committee members standing for (re)election will be sent out with next month's newsletter.

CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In the mean time we are looking for members willing to join the Committee. The job is not onerous; we meet once a month to discuss matters arising and to plan for the future. New committee members are not expected to take on any of the major posts such as Chairman, Treasurer or Membership Sec (unless they wish to) but can take part in discussions and vote on any proposals. If you would like to join the Committee

U3A 40TH ANNIVERSARY & ASHBY U3A'S 12TH ANNIVERSARY

On Aug 23rd we shall be celebrating our 12th Anniversary (This should have been our 10th Anniversary, held 2 years ago, but has been delayed due to Covid) and this will now coincide with the u3a movement's 40th Anniversary.

In the morning we will have an open day at Holy Trinity church hall to show the public what we can offer to retired folk. We have asked Group leaders to provide some displays of what they do and we shall be looking for some volunteers to man the stands in the hall and to hand out notices in Market Street on the day.

In the afternoon we will have our usual Monthly Meeting with the usual cream tea but also a cake cutting ceremony with hopefully a local dignitary or two present as well.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

24th May "Sand beneath my toes" by Dr Ann Featherstone

Ann gave us an interesting talk about various aspects of Summer Holidays over the years. She started with a recital of Marriott Edgar's poem "The Lion and Albert" made famous by Stanley Holloway. It is a tale of young Albert visiting Blackpool Zoo whilst on holiday and of his misadventure".

Ann moved on to talk about holidays during World War II and how the government didn't want people to travel by train, thereby delaying vital freight traffic so they came up with the concept of Holidays at Home. This encouraged people to visit local parks and amenities rather than the seaside, but it was not a great success. They asked people to consider spending their holidays working on a local farm, for no money, as part of the Dig for Victory scheme. It was not popular! Bognor Regis held local events for local people such as a Beauty Pageant, Most Beautiful Baby, a miniature railway and a band playing in the park every day. No-one came. Similar stories came from many towns attempting to hold local events.

Ann went on to tell us about the music hall acts who would sing about holidays and days out, in particular Mark Sheridan who was famous for singing "I do like to be beside the seaside". These songs were simple tunes which the audience could join in with and remember when they went home.

She also read a lovely whimsical poem by A A Milne called "Sand between the toes" describing a walk on the beach with Christopher Robin.

Ann finished by telling us all about her own holiday experiences as a child going to Skegness with her whole family; Mum, Dad grandparents and her younger brother. She recalled the famous advertising slogan for Skegness – "It's so bracing" which just meant it's so cold! Her family photos showed everyone wearing overcoats in mid-summer. Her grand mother would bring bags full of food and precooked meals as if Skeggy didn't have shops, and huge quantities of sandwiches for the journey which only took 2 hours. Despite this they still shopped every day as the flat they stayed in (the same one every year) didn't have a fridge. The children played on the beach whilst the adults sat and watched. No-one went in the sea, firstly as it was too cold and secondly because it was half a mile away when the tide was out!

Her parents didn't drink or go to the theatre and so never went out in the evening and never socialised, and so everyone was in bed early even though it wouldn't be dark for several hours.

Despite this Ann said she enjoyed her childhood holidays, and we all had a good time listening to her tales of them.

GROUP REPORTS

Social Events

On Friday 29th July we are planning a repeat of the Bowls evening of a few years ago at Ashby Bowls Club on Bath Grounds. Come along and try your hand at bowls for free. Bar open afterwards.

The club can accommodate up to 20 people so this is open to the first 20 people to apply. Contact Avril Wilson on socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk or 01530 413182

Arts & Crafts

Our U3A craft session should have been on 2nd June. However, this is a Bank Holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Therefore, we have brought the date of our meeting forward to Wednesday (not Thursday) 25th May at 9.30am (Not 10am).

In July the meeting will be on the 7th at 10am and in August the meeting will be on the 4th at 10am.

Finally, all crafters are asked to be at the Holy Trinity Church Hall at 9am on 23rd August to help set up the Arts and Crafts table for the U3A 40th Anniversary Open Morning.

Calligraphy

May

Unfortunately we decided to cancel this month's meeting as so many members were unable to attend.

Next month we are at Linda's on June 14th..

Drawing and painting

18th May

This month was devoted to following the giant gallery of exhibits, created by local artists and displayed on walls around Ashby, celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee.

There are 30 amazing artworks, and it has been good to contribute yet again to the Ashby Outdoor Art Gallery.

Our exhibit is titled "Salute to the Monarchy," and can be found on South Street opposite the entrance to Bath Grounds.



Digital Photography

5th May

As both Johns were unavailable this day, we met at Mike's for the first time. We briefly discussed the merits of using high iso film sensitivity to force the camera to use higher shutter speeds and hence give sharper pictures. The downside is the possibility of 'noise' - ie speckles - appearing in the photo and spoiling the image. Steve showed us some of the objects he has acquired to use in close-up photos such as glass prisms and spheres and star-burst filters to give odd effects, along with various other things to add into a scene.

Finally we discussed where to go in July, and decided on Tropical Birdland at Desford where hopefully we will be able to get to photograph some colourful birds close-up.

Recorder

The recorder group met twice during the month, as usual.

We played a variety of music, ranging from early music to popular tunes, including "The Hippopotamus". Most pieces are written for 2, 3 or 4 parts, although we play some music in 5 parts, including parts for the soprano and Great Bass. Some pieces are quite easy, but others need more practice and concentration.

We now have nine members, with different sizes of recorders. While we try to improve our playing, we don't take ourselves too seriously.

Next month, we will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays: we decided to avoid the half term week.

Next meeting: Thursday 9th June

Lunch

12th May

The May lunch was at The Wolferstan Arms at Shuttington, a venue we have visited before. We were seated in a nice spacious and sunny area but unfortunately without the view over the valley. However we were all so busy talking that I doubt if anyone noticed! The menu was 'two for the price of one', so after we all paired up we placed our orders at the bar and settled down to wait. All the food arrived promptly and was very tasty. A few hardy souls opted for pudding. I won't name names but a large quantity of custard was required!

The venue for 9th June will be The Unicorn Inn at Orton on the Hill CV9 3NN at 12 noon for 12.30. We have been there before a couple of times and enjoyed the food and the ambiance. If you wish to come but have not yet booked, please contact luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk to put your name on the list.

Supper club

26th May

This month we met at the Bulls Head at Wilson. This pub has been extensively repaired after a near tragic fire a couple of years ago but still retains its atmosphere. We had an all time record 20 members wanting to come, yet the pub didn't require us to pay a deposit nor pre-order food. We were seated at two large tables in the dining area whilst many other diners filled most of the pub.

Once we were all settled, our orders were taken and food arrived fairly quickly considering. All the food seemed to be to a very high standard and very tasty. Sensibly large portions were served without being overly large as some places sometimes do. Some people managed to eat three delicious courses.

The landlord/chef appeared to cook everything himself, quite remarkable.

History

26th May. Trip to Newstead Abbey

This month, instead of listening and talking about history, 23 of us visited Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire, the ancestral home of the renowned Romantic Poet, the late Lord Byron. Set in 300 acres of parkland it was originally built as a monastery by King Henry II, dissolved by Henry VIII and now owned by Nottingham City Council.

John, our excellent guide for the afternoon enthralled us with his interesting and amusing tales of Lord Byron who, while he was at Trinity College Cambridge and dogs were not allowed, rebelled against authority and had a tame bear instead! Later in life his favourite pet was a Newfoundland dog called Boatswain who sadly died of rabies and has a monument much bigger and grander than his own.

He was also well known for his love affair, one of many dalliances, with Caroline Lamb (whom later married Lord Melbourne of Melbourne Hall) who described him as "mad, bad and dangerous to know." Was she a woman scorned I wonder?

Following our tour John guided us to the Victorian Kitchen, where visitors are not usually allowed, for our delicious cream tea, the scones being the best ever!

Family History

11th May

The best meeting so far.

We had nine sitting down and one remote contribution.

Our new member, Heather, was inducted and started on her travels. Mary stepped in after the Leader was called away to keep her going and start her tree. A way needs to be found to allow her to access that tree as a guest.

Keith is making slow progress with researching his grandfather's WWI Army service and his father in law's WW2 Navy service.

Richard has still had no luck locating a citation for a Military Medal in WWI. The Gazette yielded just a note of the engagement, as did the Newspapers in FMP. More work needed. Eileen helped him with FMP.

Dora is making good progress with Scottish records: she has unearthed four birth registrations and two marriages from the mid 1700's using Scotland's People and Ancestry but needs the death records to close off these links.

Eileen is still trying to sort out the lineage of two separate Dumolo lines and establish any links further down the chain.

John H is still trying to untangle a set of records which seem duplicated but are at different times on two different sites.

John D has been looking at the latest format of the DNA segment in Ancestry. It is looking interesting as it seems to be able to identify which part of your own DNA came from which parent, without them having a test.

Sylvia Spare is still working on her music hall and entertainment ancestors: perhaps she could ask the Events Organiser for a contact with the recent Speaker on this topic.

And once again, Keith did sterling work organising the beverages and biccies: well done Keith!

We next meet on Wednesday 8th June at 2.00 pm.

Gardening

19th May

Our gardening trip today was fairly local at Stretton en le Field. We were greeted by several noisy peacocks and peahens which added to the already interesting gardens. As usual there were many beautiful plants and delightful spaces to sit and enjoy the view and which probably inspired the overall planting. Questions were asked and answered by the garden owners and some of our very knowledgeable members.

The supplied refreshments were delicious, made even better by being able to enjoy them in the hot sunshine. The local historical church was also open for a visit.

Industrial Heritage

27th April. Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Cheshire

Despite the distance of over 70 miles, all 4 cars arrived at the NT property at virtually the same time and yet we had taken different routes to get there. Only one of our group was not a NT member and Kevin has a Volunteers pass which allowed him to get them in for free. We were met at reception by someone to personally check us all in and give us our individual passes and walked us down to the house to meet our guide, Adrian, who turned out to be a member of Knutsford u3a.

After a quick cup of coffee Adrian led us into the mill factory to begin the tour. After explaining the Greg family history and how they had come from Belfast to start a cotton mill we were shown the various machines on display starting from early cottage looms through to the last spinning mule, as it is called, which was still working there in 1926. Various volunteers demonstrated how the machines and processes worked running them briefly so that we could get an idea of the noise levels and speed of the later machines. We had a quick look at the millwheel turning in the basement of the building. It is 40 ft long and 40 ft in diameter and was capable of outputting 100 HP. At any one time the buckets on the wheel contain 3 tons of water.

We were also told some gory stories of injuries to workers who hadn't followed the safety regulations. Surprisingly the number of serious injuries was much lower than one might expect, although the definition of "serious" was perhaps a little different to today. Loss of a finger was considered "mild"!

The volunteers were extremely knowledgeable and more than pleased to chat for ages about life in the mill.

After a quick lunch, which was not quite up to usual NT standards as everything seemed to be running out as we stood in the queue, we walked up the path to the Apprentices House.

Samuel Greg had difficulty getting enough skilled men and women to work in the mill and had the bright idea of taking on apprentices to learn how to work the machinery. The boys and girls, aged 9 and up, were recruited from Workhouses around the country. The workhouses paid Greg 2 guineas per child to take them off their hands. The children were indentured to the mill for 12 years during which time they received no pay but did get free board and lodging and clothing. This was considered quite enlightened for the time, as the food was much better than the workhouse and there was much less cruelty to them. At the end of their indenture they were free to go elsewhere but many stayed on as paid employees living in cottages in the village.

The Apprentice house housed 90 children at any one time 2/3 of whom were girls as they were considered less troublesome! After working a 12 hour day and after supper they had an hours schooling so that they could read and write and learn basic skills – maths for the boys, needlework for the girls. The girls made all the apprentices clothes for the cotton cloth woven at the mill.

We heard many fascinating tales of life in the House, far too many to relate here. We could have spent far longer looking around the mill, the family house and the extensive gardens. Another time perhaps.

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

16th May

There were seven of us today, with a series of problems to attend to.

Dorothy has problems with Google blocking her access to shopping sites. It seems that her VPN (Virtual private network), installed as a security measure, has had the opposite effect! The advice seems to be to turn off the VPN setting in order to go shopping..

She also has a problem with BT, her email provider, making things difficult with her emails.

And finally, she has been finding it impossible to annotate or rename photos. It seems as if OneDrive has a folder named 'Pictures' and any search on the PC for pictures, defaults unknown to her, to that.

However, we found that her photos are actually on her 'C' drive. With this information she can now go ahead and view them. She might use OneDrive for backup but needs to think about that.

Peter is making slow progress with his music, transferred from vinyl to his laptop. Currently the results are sounding wavery as if under water. He worked on his settings to see if he can rectify the problem, and will report back on the results.

John reported an inexplicable slow down in one of his AutoCAD drawings. That has been solved by removing a specific embedded element. If it can be reinstated more simply, he will do that.

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!

Wine Appreciation

18th May

Today we sampled a selection of Pinot Gris wines supplied by Annie. Pinot Gris is the same grape as Pinot Grigio but made in a different way resulting in a richer, slightly off-dry style with a lingering aftertaste.

We tasted 5 wines, 3 from Alsace, 1 each from Jura and New Zealand including one rosé. One of the bottles had been languishing at the back of a cupboard for 5 years and should have been past its best but all 4 of us reckoned it to be the best of the bunch! It had a richer, heavier taste and if left another year or two might have made an excellent dessert wine. It was pretty good now. It wasn't particularly sweet but it had a honeyed flavour and long aftertaste and would have gone well with patés or crab. The New Zealand wine was slightly disappointing as was the Alsace rosé, neither having much to distinguish them. Not wines that you'd spit out if you weren't just tasting them (not that we spit out the wines!) and perfectly pleasant but not remarkable enough to want you to rush out and buy more!

One of the wines was described on the tasting notes as having a persistent aftertaste which we all agreed sounded like one that you couldn't get rid of! It wasn't actually that bad.

An interesting session in which we all learnt a lot about Pinot Gris..

Science & Technology

9th May - The People of the Mary Rose by Tanya Dempster

The Mary Rose was Henry VIII's flagship and the pride of his navy. In 1545 a huge French Armada tried to invade England and the ship sank in the Solent, close to shore while watched by the king during this encounter. The exact reason for its sinking is not known but it was not sunk by the French ships. The most likely explanation is that it had been modified to carry more guns and was now top-heavy. In trying to make a sharp turn with its gun ports open, the ports flooded as it heeled over and it sank rapidly. Over 500 men were on board and only 35 survived.

Due to the very fine silt many objects were preserved in anaerobic conditions, including rosaries, books, silks, many English war bows and arrows and other valuable items, giving us insight into the life on board a fighting ship and many are displayed in the Mary Rose Museum. The skeletons of 175 men were also recovered of whom 92 have been partially reconstructed, varying from 10 - 40 in age. These enable us to find out more about the ordinary boys and men of Tudor England than usual, not just the toffs. Their skeletons were strong showing hard work, former injuries but are only slightly smaller than men currently.

More recent work has looked at the chemical signatures which show the climate where people were born, lived, and their diet as children. Some being malnourished, some living inland, others near the sea eating fish. While, as we might expect, many were local, some were not. Some of the craftsmen were well paid and clearly valued for their skills, like the master carpenter and cook. As expected, the archers showed twists in their spines and unequal development of their arms due to constant practice. But there were surprises, the purser was disabled, an archer had an expensive wrist guard of ivory and their appeared to be a Venetian gentleman on board too. The carpenter was of Spanish origin, and the Royal Archer in the bodyguard was born inland in North Africa! Another crew member, a teenager, (Named Henry by the archaeologists) was brought up in England but DNA showed he had at least one parent, possibly both, who were African. So the crew were not all White Anglo Saxons, but came from diverse European counties, and included at least one black man. (Indeed, historians have uncovered quite a few black Tudors, some in prominent positions) So Tudor society was quite multicultural.



A touching relic was the skeleton of the Mary Rose dog, Hatch, whose DNA had also been carefully studied and has given information about dog breeds and diseases. He is now the mascot of the Mary Rose museum, has a Twitter account and a global fanbase.

A trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to see this museum is recommended.

Photo by courtesy of Mary Rose Museum

Music Appreciation

6th April

This month eight of us met at Brenda's house.

Sallie kicked off proceedings with a piano piece, Listz's beautiful Liebestraum No3 wonderfully played by Lang Lang. In a different mood, Janet gave us Cher singing "If I could turn back time". Different yet again, Yogi told us how he is interested in the human voice and offered Paul Robeson's "Sometimes I feel like a motherless child" in his deep rich bass-baritone voice.

Sid's first choice was Brian Hyland's "Sealed with a kiss", a song I've not heard for ages. Dorothy's first choice was very different again (Don't say we don't have any variety!) with a piece from the soundtrack of "Titanic" - "Take it to sea Mr Murdoch" written by James Horner, although it sounds like it could easily have been written by John Williams.

Neil had something very unusual - a video of Don Mclean's "Vincent" which shows where each line of the song relates to a different (that word again) painting by Van Gogh. Very interesting and it makes the song more understandable.

Brenda gave us "Why do fools fall in love" by the Diamonds. The original was by Frankie Lyman but this version, recorded the same year, was more Doo-wop in style. Frankie Lyman was only 13 when he wrote and performed the original!

Mike was inspired by some harmony music Sid played a couple of months ago and so brought along The Beach Boys and "Good Vibrations"

Sallie returned us to a semi-classical piece - Shostakovich's Waltz No2 written for the Russian State Jazz Orchestra. It's a well known piece but from where? It has been used as a theme tune for many films and ads. Janet's next piece was "Windmills of your mind" not by Rex Harrison but this time by Elaine Paige. Originally from the film "Thomas Crown Affair".

Yogi's choice was not exactly a tune, but Stanley Holloway reciting "3 Ha'pence a Foot", a hilarious story about Noah and the flood set in Blackpool! Sid followed on from Mike's choice last month of Cat Stevens, this time playing "Father and Son" where Cat sings high for the son's voice and lower as the father.

Dorothy brought us down to earth with the sombre "When I am Laid In Earth" from Dido and Aeneas by Henry Purcell. A truly moving piece. Back up to something modern but still soulful, and this time Brenda offered Norah Jones and "Come Away With Me"

Mike was still on the theme of harmonies and gave us The Beatles and "Penny Lane", a song evocative of Paul's upbringing in Liverpool.

Neil introduced us to a relatively new album by Linda Ronstadt and Emmy Lou Harris, two voices which blend beautifully on Bruce Springsteen's "Across the Border"

As a finale Mike played another Beach Boys harmony, the lovely "God Only Knows"

Short Walks

20th May. Moira to Donisthorpe and back.

7 people arrived at a very busy Moira Furnace getting ready for the weekends Canal celebration. We worked our way through the busy people and made our way to the canalside. We quickly branched onto the path over the top of the lime kilns and out onto the old railway. We turned left towards Donisthorpe. We kept to the main track until we reached the last turning in the wooded area towards the woodland centre where we stopped for coffee and cakes. After the break we continued on the path back to the canal which we followed back to the Furnace and the car park.

Medium walks

9th May. Beacon Hill and Outwoods, led by Alison

9 of us set off on a lovely sunny morning from Beacon Hill Country Park lower car park.

The route took us up to the summit of Beacon Hill and then across to the Outwoods, just outside Loughborough before heading back to the car park. Just under 5 miles but a walk of diverse terrain and landscape. We all enjoyed the chainsaw carvings in the Park and the impressive crags at the summit of Beacon Hill, which are amongst the oldest found across the world.

The Outwoods is an area of ancient woodland. Fortunately, there was plenty of shade along the way as the sunshine was very fierce. For some it was the first time in this area and all found it enjoyable.

Longer Walks

17th May. Overseal, Netherseal and the River Mease, led by Iain

13 walkers set off from the Cricketts Inn, Acresford with excellent weather conditions. After walking a short distance along Gorse Lane, we diverted onto a footpath leading to the Southern end of the village of Netherseal. The route went halfway through the village, including a visit to see the grave of Sir Nigel Gresley on the way. We headed West from this point along the River Mease to begin with, proceeding in the direction of Clifton Campville. Well short of the village, the route turned back towards Netherseal, arriving at the Northern end of the village. We continued Northwards and then took a footpath under the slopes of Cadborough Hill, leading to Valley Road in Overseal. At this point, a path took us South and back to the same turn-off point on Gorse Lane (not so good for those wearing shorts!), and back to the Cricketts. The meal proved interesting, as the main course was followed by tea or coffee served up in very nice china, with a substantial slice of cake included, all very well organised by the friendly staff.

IF YOU WANT TO GET IN TOUCH, OUR 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 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