



## Newsletter June 2022

### Interest Groups Timetable for July 2022

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

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	Tue 26th	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. Joan Harthan "The Meaning and Interpretation of Dreams"
Arts and Crafts	Thu 4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Bridge	Mon 4th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 11th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
	Mon 18th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 25th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
Calligraphy	Tue 12th	10 am	At Carol's. A Message Of Hope After Covid
Computer	Wed 6th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
	Mon 18th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	Thu 7th	10 am	Visit to Tropical Birdland, Lindridge Lane, Desford, LE9 9GN Meet at John's house to car share
Drawing and painting	Wed 20th	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Family History	Wed 13th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 21st	8.45 am	Coach trip to Tatton Park Flower Show Leaving from Royal Hotel, Ashby at 8.45am. £42pp for coach and show. £15 for just coach fare for National Trust members
History	Wed 27th	TBA	Berkeley Castle
Industrial Heritage	Thu 28th	TBA	Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden, Biggleswade
Literature	Tue 12th	1:30 pm	Meeting at Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 14th	12 for 12.30 pm	The Holly Bush Inn, 1 Melbourne Lane, Breedon On The Hill, Derby DE73 8AT

**Interest Groups Timetable for July 2022 cont.**

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Medium Walks	Mon 11th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at the car park opposite the Bulls Head Pub in Hartshorne DE11 7ET
Music Appreciation	Wed 6th	10 am	Neil's at 40 Willesley Gardens
Recorder	Thu 7th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
	Thu 21st	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Science & Technology	Mon 11th	2 pm	Ashby Alliance Evangelical Church. Tim Phillips (external speaker) - Scales of Creation
Social Events	Fri 29th	TBA	Bowls Evening at Ashby Bowls Club
Short Walks	Fri 15th	10 am	Swadlincote Woodland CP DE11 8EB
Supper Club	Thu 28th	7 for 7.30 pm	Zamani's, Market St, Ashby
Walking	Tue 5th	9.45 for 10 am start	Dog and Gun pub, 72 Keats Lane, Earl Shilton, Leics, LE9 7DR
	Tue 19th	9.45 for 10 am start	Visitor centre CP in centre of Castleton, Derbys. S33 8WN
Wine Appreciation	Wed 20th	7 pm	Annie's house

**Interest Groups Timetable for early August**

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Bridge	Mon 1st	2-4 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Walking	Tue 2nd	9.45 for 10 am start	TBA
Music Appreciation	Wed 3rd	10 am	TBA
Computer	Wed 3rd	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Recorder	Thu 4th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal,
Digital Photography	Thu 4th	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Arts and Crafts	Thu 4th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way.

## **NOTICE OF AGM – 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

This year we shall be holding our Annual General Meeting immediately before the July 26<sup>th</sup> 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 you can download the application form from our website under the Committee tab, or contact any committee member.

## **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](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.

## **ASHBY U3A'S 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

On Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> we shall be celebrating our 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (This should have been our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, held 2 years ago, but has been delayed due to Covid).

In the afternoon, at 2pm, 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. Gresley Male Voice Choir will be entertaining us.

## **THE UK'S U3A 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

This year it is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of u3a in the UK and it was planned that in the morning of Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, i.e. before the meeting above, we would hold an exhibition at Holy Trinity Church Hall, open to the public, to show what u3a has to offer to retired folk in Ashby.

However there is now a problem with the venue and the exhibition is now on hold whilst we find new premises. Details to follow as soon as we have a new venue, and probably a new date. Planning is still going ahead for the displays which various Groups are preparing.

## LAST MONTH'S MEETING

### **28<sup>th</sup> June – “Morecambe and Wise” by Steve Short**

Steve Short has been a professional magician for over 30 years. He has entertained on TV and radio and travelled the world entertaining on cruise ships. He is a member of The Magic Circle. Steve also travels the country giving talks on various entertainers. For us he spoke about John Eric Bartholemew and Ernest Wiseman better known as Morecambe and Wise or just Eric and Ernie.

Neither Eric or Ernie were very good scholars but both had parents who were amateur performers who encouraged them to join the industry.

Eric won a talent contest for which the prize was an audition with impresario Jack Hylton which led to him appearing in a revue at Nottingham Empire in which Ernie (then still Ernest Wiseman) was already performing. The two became friends and Eric's mother Sadie persuaded them to develop a double act. Hylton was impressed enough to give them a regular spot in the revue.

During WWII they were both called up in 1944. Ernie joined the Merchant Navy whilst Eric was a Bevan Boy working in the coal mines.

Steve then told us about their subsequent rise to fame and recreated some of their acts which consisted of “appalling” jokes and some magic. To help with the magic Steve recruited Jenny Slawson from the audience as his stooge and performed some impressive card and magic tricks including producing a hat from torn up tissue paper.

Eric and Ernie were offered a TV series for the BBC in 1954 but it didn't go well and they returned to touring the variety halls. A few years later they were offered a second series, this time with ITV, and on the advice of Abbott and Costello they took it. The writers were Dick Hills and Sid Green who became friends of the duo and subsequently appeared in some of the shows as “Sid and Dick”. The series ran until 1968 when Eric had his first heart attack. Whilst recovering in the Caribbean the pair heard that Sid and Dick had resigned thinking Eric would never work again.

The BBC stepped in and gave them a new series, this time with Eddie Braben as the writer and it was at this time that they became most popular. Their 1978 Christmas show drew over 28 million viewers. It was also at this time that all the famous guests appeared on the shows; Elton John, The Beatles, Vanessa Redgrave, Shirley Bassey and Dec O'Connor. Plus of course the unforgettable show with Andre Previn. “All the right notes...”

The duo left the BBC for ITV again in 1978 but just a year later Eric had his second heart attack and had a heart by-pass operation. He returned to work and they made their last show for ITV in 1983.

In May 1984 whilst on stage in Gloucester Eric had his third, and this time fatal, heart attack and died in hospital that night.

Ernie continued to work on stage and radio but retired in 1995 and died in 1999 after two heart attacks in a week.

Steve brought Eric and Ernie back to life with his anecdotes and stories whilst also entertaining us with his own brand of humour and magic. An excellent afternoon's entertainment.

## COMING SOON

### Social Events – Bowls Evening – 29<sup>th</sup> July

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. There are still a few places left. Contact Avril Wilson on [socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk) or 01530 413182

## GROUP REPORTS

### Arts & Crafts

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

Therefore, the date of the meeting was brought 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.~~ This date is on hold. Details to follow. See Note above.

### Calligraphy

#### June 14th

Once again there were just four of us at our latest meeting, due to Covid or visiting family from Canada! However we managed a lively discussion about the complexity of Modern Calligraphy where, unlike traditional calligraphy, you don't have to write in a straight line!! It has certainly challenged us with its freedom of form - when done properly it looks beautiful.

We also discussed the possibility of input from a tutor as we feel we need to be taken to the next stage in our work.

I am asking everyone to select some work ready for the U3A exhibition so that we can showcase the various fonts and projects we have covered.

Hopefully you'll all be impressed!!

Our next meeting is at Carly's on Tuesday July 12th, where we are going to practise and have fun with Modern Calligraphy for the last time -possibly!

### Digital Photography

#### June

We didn't meet in June as the date coincided with the Jubilee.

On July 7<sup>th</sup> we are planning to go to Tropical Birdland at Desford where hopefully we will be able to get to photograph some colourful birds close-up.

## **Drawing and painting**

15th June

June: a month of long days, sunshine and flowers, especially the Rose. We tried to capture the inspiration of the month in the drawing and painting session. It was good to share the morning together.



Delph Band Contest by John Howlett

For other paintings and drawings see the Group's webpage for their Gallery

Next session is July 20th, 10am, at 16 Winchester 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.

20th June

Today we had 7 attendees.

Sylvia had an interesting problem. She wanted to create a PowerPoint presentation using film from CDs and DVDs. Colin worked with her to sort it out.

It turned out to be better to run the films separately to the PowerPoint presentation, in a different Window, rather than try to embed them (as you would do a still image) in the presentation.

Richard and Mike had an interesting discussion about Visual Basic, and the use of auto generated macros in Excel.

John checked on the method of transferring data etc to a new phone, without changing the number or contract details.

Peter has paused work on transferring his LP collection to his laptop and is now looking at ways of transferring all his data from an old laptop to a new one.

We next meet on 6th July at 16 Winchester Way

## **Lunch**

9<sup>th</sup> June

The June lunch was at The Unicorn Inn at Orton on the Hill, a venue we have visited before with the both lunch and supper groups. The Unicorn is quite Tardis-like in being much larger than it looks from outside. It was recently redecorated and looks very smart. The menu was more varied than most pubs today and choosing was difficult. Having chosen and ordered at the bar, we waited for the food to arrive and were not disappointed with the result. Portions were huge but also very tasty. Despite this some people still managed a pudding! A very nice lunch.

The venue for 14th July will be The Holly Bush Inn at Breedon On The Hill, Derby DE73 8AT at 12 noon for 12.30. We haven't been there for ages, but it was very good last time. If you wish to come but have not yet booked, please contact [luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk) to put your name on the list.

## **Supper club**

23<sup>rd</sup> June

This month we were at the Staff of Life in Ticknall. Although we had to pre-order, we didn't need to post a deposit this time which made life easier for the organisers.

18 members were seated at two large tables where drinks were served followed by starters for those 5 that had ordered them. Jayne, the landlady had everything organised including taking the names of those who ordered drinks to add them to our individual bills. I provided her with a list of names and food orders.

The menu was relatively short, but nonetheless interesting, and it seemed the hot favourite was fish pie ordered by 7 of us! Everyone said it was delicious. The rack of ribs was really tender and falling of the bones. Most people went for puddings, again very nice.

All went mostly very smoothly and as they say, a great time was had by all!

## **Science & Technology**

13th June - Breathing at Altitude by Colin Woodland

At this meeting we were pleased to welcome back our very own Colin Woodland, Squadron Leader RAF (Retd), who gave an updated version of his talk, which he first gave on Zoom during Lockdown, on his experiences in the RAF, when they were developing high altitude military flying equipment.

This required equipment to enable the air crew to survive any loss of cabin air pressure at altitude. If not combated, the crew would lose control of the plane due to oxygen starvation.

The team on which Colin was a member were developing processes and equipment designed to save the crew's life in emergency situations where the atmosphere in the plane's cabin was lost. Colin was the guinea pig for several of these tests, which paved the way for safer planes for military fliers.

After the tea interval, Bill Devitt presented some examples of failed developments in the transport industry, citing William Brunton's locomotive "The Traveller" as well as Thomas Shaw Brandereth's "Cycloped", the former propelled itself by steam powered legs, and there was a similar road vehicle, also with legs. "The Cycloped" worked by a horse walking on a treadmill. Both designs suffered from the drawback that they could not go in reverse. Some other equally impractical designs were also illustrated.

## **Gardening**

### **16th June**

We drove to East View cottage, School lane, Shuttington which was really quaint. The garden was large and filled with seating areas and narrow twisting paths. Entwined amongst the arches were beautifully perfumed plants including roses. The garden was divided into several areas featuring a multitude of colourful interesting flowers and grasses. We were treated to a selection of delicious cakes and given a very warm welcome. Fortunately parts of the garden were shaded giving some welcome respite from the sun.

## **History**

### **23rd June. A Family History by Mark Pacey**

Our presentation today, to 29 members, was by Mark Pacey, on his maternal grandfather's service in World War II. He turned up in his ancestor's uniform, complete with the insignia of a Company Quarter Master Sergeant, and with many artefacts from his war service.

L.E. McAllister was born in 1918 and apprenticed as an electrician at the Brush works in Loughborough. Suffering problems with his lungs, when he was called up in 1939 he was not fit for combat so was posted to the Royal Corps of Signals where he quickly made his mark. After training in using and maintaining military signals equipment, he was posted to France with the BEF. Mark's account of his experiences in France, falling back before the German advance, were laconic and gave little detail of the conditions this unit must have endured, but he was eventually safely evacuated via La Panne to Margate.

In common with many servicemen, he was posted back and forth around Britain, gaining training and experience as he went. Much of his time in Scotland and afterwards in Llandudno seemed to have been low key, but then he was sent to Lisburn in Ireland. There was a distinct possibility that the Germans might attempt incursions via Eire (as it was then called) with help from the IRA, but the only action he saw was to arrest some of the local IRA men without drama.

Back to Catterick and further training, and promotions. The systems he was working on here were at the forefront of communications technology at the time.

Promoted to Sergeant in 1942 he was sent to Edinburgh, where he met his future wife, who was also in Signals. Then, after being sent down to Northumbria in 1944, preparing for the D-Day Landings he found himself once more in France, landing at Gold Beach.

By now he was a CQMS, a very prestigious promotion, and by coincidence met up with his brother, a tank driver, in Normandy.

The Army's progress through Normandy was very dangerous and confused, with close quarter fighting in the narrow lanes. We were not told if he was in direct combat, or just in support, but life must have been very precarious for all in the combat zone.

In common with many such units, he found himself attached to another Regiment, in his case the 51st Highland Divisional Signals. How far he and his unit penetrated into Europe we were not told, but he was still in Europe at War's end foraging for, and salvaging, abandoned German equipment. At one time his unit was visited by Churchill.

But his health deteriorated, and he was discharged in Liverpool in 1946 with an exemplary report, and many memories.

Mark had many slides of his wanderings, photographs from France and all over England, and the documents and artefacts marking his progress. An altogether fascinating snapshot of a short, but extremely active part of his life.



## **Family History**

### **8th June**

Today we had 7 sitting down with one additional helper. A busy session again, with everyone beavering away.

We helped Heather to make progress in building her tree, showing various ways to find records and evaluate them.

Ana is working on verifying which of several possible ancestors is the correct target for her. She will be ordering certificates to clear this up. We also looked at how to delete a record/image added to a tree in error.

Sylvia Spare is getting further into her theatrical ancestors. In particular, she has found a newspaper obituary which showed the stage names of several of these. She has also located the colourful theatre bills for many acts. In addition, she produced a print of an article about a hangman she has found in her line!

Sylvia Dearing worked on entering up data in her 'Seven Generations Logbook'. This is a very good idea for those of us who could use a visual reminder of the main lines of their research and where to go next. She and Sylvia Spare also discussed their common interests in their Music Hall ancestry.

Keith is not making too much progress in identifying any additional military records for his grandfather. He has found that he served in two regiments, which is confusing, so his next step might be to contact the regimental archivists direct to see if they have any information.

John H is trying to track a cognate line into the modern era. This may enable him to locate a living person who has done a DNA test. This is a good way of testing for missing ancestors and the possibility of triangulating on one possible ancestor to both lines.

We also looked at the 1939 Register and amendments made in later years re marriage, and an infant who might have been fostered or being looked after away from her parents.

We also touched on the things we might provide for the 40th Anniversary Celebrations in August.

We meet again in July on the 13th.

## **Recorder**

### **24<sup>th</sup> June**

(We had our latest meeting this morning. We'd changed the dates this month to try to even out the meetings, and we'll be reverting to our usual pattern in July.)

There were 7 of us this morning, while, at the previous meeting, there had been a select group of 4 (one to a part in quartets: luckily, between us, we could play all four instruments for a standard quartet). We played some popular 20th century songs: Tiptoe through the Tulips, Puppet on a String, etc, a couple of Bulgarian Folk Songs, minuets by Handel, modern variations on "Greensleeves", "The Entertainer", and explored a collection of quartets which we'd neglected recently. Some of the pieces were in three parts, some in four; some were unfamiliar, so our sight-reading was tested.

Our mascot, Squeaky, made a guest appearance, as I realised that the newest members hadn't met her. She takes responsibility for all squeaks and wrong notes, and is an essential member of the group.

We continue to play a mixture of familiar and unfamiliar pieces, as we try to expand our repertoire

## **Music Appreciation**

### **1<sup>st</sup> June**

This month we were at Sid's house for our monthly listening session.

Brenda started us off with something lively i.e. Gene Vincent and "Lotta lovin'". Dorothy followed this with the equally rousing but very different "Jupiter" by Holst. Now we were on a roll as Neil followed with perhaps the ultimate piece of stadium rock - Queen and "Radio Gaga".

Mike slowed us down a bit with his tribute to Vangelis on his recent death with Jon & Vangelis's "I hear you now", an early piece of synthesiser music of which he was both pioneer and master.

Sallie's first track was by the contralto Kathleen Ferrier singing "Blow the wind Southerly", a very poignant song and a beautiful voice.

Sid brought us back to the hippy 60s with another great female voice - Cass Elliott and the rest of the Mamas and Papas singing "Monday, Monday". Also from California and also poignant was Carol King and "You make me feel like a natural woman" offered by Brenda.

Dorothy cheered us all up with Acker Bilk playing "Sweet Elizabeth" just to remind us that there had been a Jubilee recently! One of Neil's favourite singers is Richard Marx and this time he played us "Hazard" a song you'd likely recognise even if you don't know who it is by.

Last month Janet played a piece where Elaine Paige was singing in harmony with herself and this reminded Mike of another self-duet, this time Lesley Garrett's "Lakme" better known for its use in the BA advert.

Sallie reminded us all of the long forgotten Bert Kaempfert and "Swinging safari" and Sid followed up with a vinyl recording of Elton John's "Candle in the wind" which apparently wasn't originally going to be about Marilyn Monroe but about fame itself, especially of those who die young.

Neil's third choice was that once well-known Liverpool group, The Merseybeats singing "Sorrow", a song now better known for the David Bowie version.

Brenda's box of goodies came up with another classic, this time John Dankworth and Cleo Laine playing and singing "Our love is here to stay" written by George Gershwin.

Dorothy gave us another nod towards the Jubilee with Handel's "Music for the royal fireworks". Although not actually played at any of the celebrations to my knowledge, it is so "Royal" sounding.

Also a reminder of the last Golden Jubilee, Mike gave us the very different Madness and "Our house" the video of which was projected onto the front of Buckingham Palace 10 years ago.

Sallie played us another of Bert Kaempfert's African themed tunes, this time "Zambesi" and Sid finished the session with the Beatles and "Ain't she sweet".

## **Short Walks**

### **17th June. Walk around Beacon Hill.**

The weather was fine and we were promised a hot day, when 5 intrepid walkers set off on the 2 mile walk to the top of Beacon Hill and back. The walk started well in the shade of the trees but when we reached the open area in full sunlight we debated whether to continue or take the shady path across to the path we would be taking back to the carpark and cafe. The shorter route also avoided the steeper part of the walk. At first just 2 people wanted to take the short cut but we all finally decided to shorten the walk. The path across was quite short and soon we were walking downhill where we came to the tree sculptor's base unfortunately he was not there but we had admired his sculptures on the way round. The shortened route was about 1.2 miles and took just over 45 minutes. We then went to the cafe for a well earned drink.

## **Medium walks**

### **13th June. Wilson and Breedon, led by Val and Trev**

On a cloudy but warm day, the groups set off from the village of Wilson, heading uphill, before descending to near Melbourne pool, turning there to head through fields, where Highland cows and belted Galloway were grazing. After ascending another fairly steep hill, we encountered a farmer spreading liquid manure in the field we had to cross!! Away from the farmer we took our drink stop, then continued on to cross part of the Breedon Golf course, returning to Wilson via fields and lanes. Distance 4.5miles.

## **Longer Walks**

### **21st June. Battram Wood, led by Kevin**

It was beautiful day as sixteen of us (having completed the first challenge of locating the start of the walk in Battram car park) gathered for our pre walk photograph in the sun shine. We turned from the car park heading back past a few old miners houses and after few hundred metres turned right onto the route of the National Forest Way. This area has been restored from a mining area and new foot paths are being installed taking us to Bagworth and Bagworth Park for refreshments. Due to time restraints of the pub lunch serving meals and the heat we had to abort the rest of the walk and return to the same direction with a variation at end across new footpaths in Battram wood. We then drove to the Bricklayers Arms for a very pleasant lunch.

## **Industrial Heritage**

### **22nd June – Stourbridge Glass Museum**

17 members of Industrial Heritage visited the recently opened Stourbridge Glass Museum which is known as the new home of glass. We were taken on a guided tour around the museum which is set across two floors on the original site of the Stuart Crystal glass making factory.

We were told that George Ravenscroft established a glass house in London in 1673 patenting a process for making 'flint glass'. Over time most of crystal glass making production in England moved to the Crystal Mile in Stourbridge.

In 1827 an orphaned boy by the name of Frederick Stuart was sent to work at the Red House Glass Works on the Crystal Mile and by 1853 he along with Edward and Thomas Webb and Richard Mills formed the firm of Mills Webb and Stuart.

The current site was chosen as it has easy access onto the Stourbridge Canal which enabled the Stuarts to export the finished glass products from the site onto barges where the products were less likely to get damaged than if they had been taken away by horse and cart.

We learned how the addition of lead to the glass made the glass much more malleable and easy to work. We saw examples of the Cameo Glass and the Beaconsfield Pattern which is still used today.

Stuart Crystal was supplied to the Titanic most of which lies on the sea bed although a few sample pieces were said to have survived. Also some 22,000 items of Stuart Crystal were made for the ocean liner The Queen Mary.

One of the high lights of the trip was the visit to the 'Hot Room'. There we saw a glass lamp shade being made and were given a demonstration of the art of glass blowing. The glass making furnace was heated up to a temperature of 1400 degrees centigrade at which heat the glass starts to melt. Therefore the furnace is allowed to cool slightly before the molten glass is soft enough and ready to be fashioned into the required shape.

This was a very educational and informative trip and enjoyed by one and all.

**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