



Newsletter July 2022

Interest Groups Timetable for August 2022

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

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	Tue 23rd	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. 12 th Anniversary celebration. Gresley Male Voice Choir
Arts and Crafts	Thu 4th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Bridge	Mon 1st	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 8th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
	Mon 15th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 22nd	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
	Mon 29th	TBA	TBA
Calligraphy	Tue 12th	10 am	TBA
Computer	Wed 3rd	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
	Mon 15th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	Thu 4th	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	Wed 17th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Family History	Wed 10th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 18th	2 pm	Garden Party at Bob and Margaret's. Free Cream Tea. Please notify Paul if you are attending to ensure we have enough food available
History	Thu 25th	2.15 pm	Packington Village Hall. Dr Ian Hambling - 'Cornishware'
Industrial Heritage	Fri 26th	TBA	Trip on Ecclesbourne Valley Railway, Wirksworth plus visit to Middleton Top winding engine
Literature	Tue 9th	1:30 pm	Meeting at Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 11th	12 for 12.30 pm	The Globe Inn, 4 Main St, Snarestone, DE12 7DB

Interest Groups Timetable for August 2022 cont.

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Medium Walks	Mon 8th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at Ticknall Village Hall CP on Ingleby Lane for a walk to Foremark School and back.
Music Appreciation	Wed 3rd	10 am	Yogi and Janet's, 54 Pennine Way, LE65 1EW
Recorder	Thu 11th	10 am	If fine weather, the meetings may be in a garden or else St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal. Check before coming
	Thu 25th	10 am	
Science & Technology			Closed for summer break. Resuming in September
Social Events	TBA	TBA	
Short Walks	Fri 19th	10 am	Car park near St Peter's church, Stapenhill.
Supper Club	Thu 25th	7 for 7.30 pm	The Winery, Manor Drive, Burton-on-Trent DE14 3RW
Walking	Tue 2nd	9.45 for 10 am start	Red Lion, Duffield Ln, Newborough, Burton, DE13 8SH
	Tue 16th	9.45 for 10 am start	Mam Tor. Meet at Visitor Centre CP, Castleton, S33 8WN
Wine Appreciation			Closed for summer break. Resuming in Sept.

Interest Groups Timetable for early September

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Recorder	Thu 1st	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal,
Digital Photography	Thu 1st	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Arts and Crafts	Thu 1st	10 am	2 Marlborough Way.
Bridge	Mon 5th	2-4 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
Walking	Tue 6th	9.45 for 10 am start	TBA
Music Appreciation	Wed 7th	10 am	TBA
Computer	Wed 7th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way

RESULT OF AGM – 26TH JULY

At the July monthly meeting we held our 2022 AGM. The Minutes of the previous year were approved unanimously as were the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports along with the Accounts for 2021-22. The Group Co-ordinator gave his report live, and in verse, as is now customary, which was received to much applause.

Seven current members of the committee were standing for re-election as their two year term of office had expired. John Pilgrim was also standing to join the committee. All were (re)elected without dissent. Kevin Green was re-appointed as Auditor for another year.

That completed the AGM which closed at 2.18pm and we continued with the usual monthly meeting starting with a talk by Joan Harthan, details of which you can read below.

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.

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).

In the afternoon, at 2pm, we will have our usual Monthly Meeting but instead of the traditional August cream tea there will be a cake cutting ceremony, with cake for all, along with a celebratory glass of bubbly (or something non-alcoholic if you prefer.) Tea and coffee will also be available.

There will be no guest speaker but Gresley Male Voice Choir will entertain us.

Hopefully there will be a local dignitary or two present as well.

THE UK'S U3A 40TH ANNIVERSARY

This year it is the 40th anniversary of the founding of u3a in the UK and a revised date and venue for our contribution have now been arranged. Various Groups will be showing the public what we as Ashby u3a can offer to retired members of the Ashby community at an Open Day on Tuesday 13th September at St Helens Heritage Centre from 10 am to Midday. Groups will be able to set up their displays from 9am. It is hoped that volunteers will be in Market Street on Thurs 8th, Sat 10th and Tues 13th to hand out leaflets telling the public where the display can be found.

Colin Woodland, as groups Co-ordinator, is liaising with the Groups about their displays.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

26th June – “The meaning of Dreams” by Dr Joan Harthan

Joan Harthan has a PhD in Chemistry and is a retired lecturer from Nottingham University who now concentrates on her other interest, that of the study of dreams. She is a Certified Dream Teacher and has been recording her own dreams since 1990 and has over 10,000 dreams logged.

Joan started by explaining how dreams are gifts to ourselves to help us understand what is happening in our lives. They offer solutions to problems and dreams don't lie. The problem is in interpreting those dreams as, unlike many books would tell you, the symbols in dreams are mostly personal to you and not cultural, so that a symbol such as a dog would mean something different to each person depending on their previous experiences with such a symbol. Some people may love dogs, some may hate or dislike them, others may be afraid of them. To each of those people a dog in a dream would represent something different.

Some symbols though are fairly generic and are metaphors for something in real life; houses usually represent ourselves. Water, storms and clouds are mostly metaphors for some form of turbulence in our lives.

Interpreting those dreams requires training, either by a dream teacher or from books, and Joan has written several books on the subject. She pointed out that Sigmund Freud's interpretation of dreams is now mostly discredited but Carl Yung is more highly regarded still.

This was a fascinating insight into the world of dreams and their meanings and it is up to each of us to decide how they interpret “The meaning of dreams”

SOCIAL EVENING

29th July - Try your hand at Bowls

On Friday we had our first social evening since Burns Night in January. Fourteen members were invited to Ashby Bowls Club on the Bath Grounds to try their hand at bowls. The club members welcomed them and supported them, giving some advice and training. The evening ended with drinks and chip butties in the club house. A good time was had by all.

GROUP REPORTS

Arts & Crafts

7th July

The group met on the 7th July. They are planning their Arts & Crafts table for the Open Day at St Helens Heritage Centre on Tues Sept 13th

Calligraphy

July

With so many people unable to get to the meeting this month, it was cancelled. The call has gone out to everyone to get samples of their work together so that we can add display at the celebrations in September and demonstrate the progress we've made!!!

We hope to have an early meeting in Sept to gather and organise our work.

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.

18th July

Because of the heat today we only had three attendees.

Very little was discussed, except possibly how to block annoying intrusive notifications to a phone.

No final answer could be found yet, as they do not seem to be accessible to the usual blocking technique. But this will be solved soon.

Digital Photography

July 7th

Due to Covid, only four members were able to visit Tropical Birdland at Desford, but those that went had a great morning photographing some colourful birds close-up. It was not all parrots and macaws, although there were plenty of those, but also various other exotic birds such as hornbills, flamingos and cockatoos. Many of the birds are free to fly around out of their cages and are very used to humans especially if you offer them food!. We hope to have a viewing of all the photos next time we meet.

Drawing and painting

July 20th

It was a free choice topic this month and so the paintings and drawings were naturally varied. Below is a sample from those, this one by Lesley.



Sailing boats by Lesley

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

Next month we will meet at 2 Marlborough Way and the topic will be "Household objects"

Lunch

14th July

The July lunch was at The Hollybush Inn at Breedon on the Hill, a venue we hadn't visited for ages. The food was excellent but the lunch was made particularly special by the waitress for whom it was her first day on the job. Her friendliness and attention to all really made the day.

The venue for 11th August will be The Globe Inn, 4 Main St, Snarestone, DE12 7DB at 12 noon for 12.30. This has been a popular venue for the Supper Club but a first visit for Lunch. If you wish to come and have not yet booked, please contact luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk to put your name on the list.

Supper club

July

The July venue was planned to be Zamani's in town but it proved so popular that they were unable to take us on our planned date of 28th July, but could take us all on Monday August 1st. This means that our meeting will be too late for a report to appear in this newsletter. Hopefully there will be a review in next month's edition along with a report from the August Supper Club meeting which will be at The Winery in Burton on Aug 25th. We have only been able to get 15 places reserved (with possibly one or two more) so it will be first come, first booked.

Science & Technology

11th July – "The Scales of Creation" by Tim Phillips

The human mind can cope with small numbers, 1- 10, for example. But science takes us into the very small, the microscopic world of human cells, or even smaller the DNA inside the nucleus of cells. How can we begin to imagine how small those are? When considering outer space, the celestial world uses huge numbers. We have trouble visualising the size of mountains on Earth, so how can we imagine these extremes of size, from cells to distant planets in the solar system?

Tim's talk was to give us stepping stones, without using a presentation of visual images, to enable us to better comprehend these scales. Imagining how different the world would look if you were an ant, or the size of a red blood cell or the size of the Earth!

Red blood cells travel at astonishing speeds reaching the extreme parts of the body before returning to the heart in 30 seconds! He then translated these speeds to other journeys, for example, speed to reach the moon.

If just one strand of human DNA was unravelled it might be comparable to human height, but if you added all the DNA strands, and unwound the tightly kinked proteins it would be an astronomical distance. It seems impossible to imagine this coiled up inside each cell in our body (apart from red blood cells which have no nucleus). Tim gave these discrete changes in scale labels, for example shrinking down to DNA level, was 'DNA Alley', and scaling up to solar system size was 'Lunar Valley', an interesting trick to help the imagination. He also moved his position when talking about the various scales, so we associated position with the scale, a useful and clever trick to aid memory.

Scaling up a human body presents interesting conundrums. If you double the height of a person their volume and mass increases by a far greater ratio, approximately by 8 times (2 cubed), although Tim was keen to avoid the use of mathematical relationships in his talk. To move the heavier limbs of our imaginary giant at the scaled up speeds means that they approach the speed of sound. This puts impossible strains on the anatomy, hence all giants seen in fiction films are always portrayed moving relatively slowly.

A very interesting, mind stretching talk.

Gardening

21st July

Today the Garden group went to the RHS flower show at Tatton Park in Cheshire. Our coach journey began with drizzle but the roads were good and the weather soon changed to dry and warm.

As you can imagine the show ground was filled with many different stalls each selling a wonderful variety of plants and other gardening goodies. In addition there were many craft stalls and designer gardens. There was a large floral display tent containing a wide variety of specimen plants and also plants for sale. Food and drink outlets were of course available and there was a music area for entertainment. The list goes on.

All our group seemed to enjoy the day.

Sheila

History

27th July A self-drive trip to Berkeley Castle and Dr Jenner's House

It had been intended to organise a coach trip to Berkeley but the numbers signed up couldn't justify the cost of hiring a coach so Colin organised several drivers to take people by car. Berkeley Castle is between Gloucester and Bristol, overlooking the River Severn and so it was approximately a two hour drive from Ashby. We all arrived at much the same time, before the castle opened, but in time to get a cup of tea or coffee.

We met our tour guide at the castle gate where she took us into the courtyard to give us some of the history of the castle.

It was first built as a wooden motte and bailey around 1067 on the orders of William the Conqueror and was held by the first Roger de Berkeley. It was rebuilt as a stone castle in the 1150s.

The Berkeley family, (via one or two side steps when direct descendants did not exist) still own and occupy the castle to this day. It is believed to be the oldest building in Britain occupied by the same family since its construction. (Although there was a period during the Civil War when it was captured by Parliamentary forces but the family were allowed to retain ownership provided that they didn't repair the breach in the wall.)

The castle was reputed to be the site of the murder of Edward II in 1327 after he was deposed by his wife Queen Isabella.

Much of the castle is in very original condition and it is therefore quite often used as a location for period films. Parts of the castle are off limits and private as members of the Berkeley family do actually live in the castle. They own it still. It is not owned by National Trust or English Heritage. The Berkeley family's wealth has waxed and waned over the centuries and in early 20thC they sold Berkeley Square in London for to raise funds. One of the family, Bishop George Berkeley, moved to the US and founded a library at Yale University where a college is named after him as is the University of California, Berkeley.

After lunch we visited the house of Dr Edward Jenner who in the late 18thC pioneered the concept of vaccines including one for smallpox, the world's first vaccine. His work is said to have "saved more lives than the work of any man" The house is a museum to the man and his work and also has a physic garden containing many plants reputed to be cures for all ailments although some are now thought to do more harm than good!

A very interesting day out.

Family History

13th July

8 of us foregathered on a fine day, so we had the patio doors open and shades drawn against the potential heat.

Mary is building up a Tree for her son-in-Law's people.

Eileen is working on the Dumolow Parish Records in the late 18th, early 19th Century.

Dora is also hard at work on Parish Records, this time from late 17th Century Scotland. These are increasingly difficult to read, but progress is being made.

Ana has been researching a set of cousins but has lost a link which means that that section no longer appears with the main Tree.

The Team looked at various ways of identifying the fault, and of relinking the trees. Work is needed on the procedure for merging trees, as none of us so far attempted this.

Richard is doing general research work on his mother's side.

Carolyn is well into a branch with Welsh ancestors, although these have London roots, so not so difficult as many with pure Welsh roots have found.

Sylvia D also needs to look at merging trees. We looked at a method Mary showed us using a split screen and duplicate versions of the Tree side by side.

(LATER: Using Mary's idea for pulling up two versions of the Tree side by side in split screens, Ana will have another look at her problem.)

We next meet on 10th August when we will take another look at our preparations for the 40th Anniversary Celebrations.

Recorder

21st July

We had our most recent meeting this morning, in the Hall at Overseal. There were 5 of us, which meant we could play a variety of music, using all 5 sizes of recorders present. At the previous meeting, there were only three people present. It was enjoyable, but the choice of music was limited.

We tried a new piece, a gavotte by Albeniz. It has tricky passages, so we'll have to practise if we want to do it justice! The rest of the music was pieces we'd played before, from various periods and different styles.

We decided to go for the Thursdays when we think most people will be able to attend, to make the most of the hall. Our August meetings will be on:

11th August, and

25th August.

If the weather is fine, the meetings may take place in a garden, so, if you plan to come, please check first.

Normal service should be resumed in September.

Music Appreciation

6th July

This month seven of us met at Neil's house for our monthly listening session.

Yogi started us off with a piece by Enya called Shepherd Moons. It has particular resonance for him as some years ago he was in a bad car accident which put him in hospital in a coma. His wife Janet played this to him at his bedside and it may well have helped his recovery.

Janet herself played us "Candle in the wind" by Elton John. This was the original version, not the Diana version. The original is generally thought to be about Marilyn Monroe but Elton says it is about anyone struggling with the pressures of stardom.

Sid's first piece was "Rainbow High" sung by Elena Roger from the West End revival of Evita.

Brenda gave us some Glenn Miller, and possibly his most famous piece "Moonlight Serenade".

Nev played us a Paul McCartney piece which the rest of us had not heard before called "English Tea". Although unknown it was instantly recognisable as being by Paul.

Mike's first choice was "Lullaby of Birdland" by Sarah Vaughan. Ella Fitzgerald gets played a lot by us but Miss Vaughan gets overlooked.

Neil took the opportunity of being on home soil to play a DVD on his TV and showed us an excellent video of Bruce Springsteen in concert playing "Dancing in the Dark"

For the second round Yogi offered something different, the Cornish singers, Fisherman's Friends, singing a very sad song about the last great whale titled "Bold Leviathan".

Janet had chosen another unknown (to us) Carlos Montoya playing the flamenco piece "Malaguena" on Spanish guitar. Wonderful

Sid's choice was more familiar but no less wonderful, Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge over Troubled Waters"

Neil brought us his namesake – Neil Sedaka singing "Stairway to Heaven", not the song by Led Zeppelin!

Nev's second piece was Hugh Laurie and Jean McClain with the humorous song "I hate a man like you"

Mike chose some more classic jazz, this time "Mack the Knife" by Louis Armstrong. The song originally came from the Threepenny Opera by Kurt Weill, which in turn was based on the Beggars Opera of 1728.

Neil was worried when he saw Mike had brought the same CD as him and had actually planned to play the same song, but Neil got in first with the Eagles and "Desperado"

Yogi gave us another sad song, this time about the Irish migration to America. "Thousands are Sailing" is played by James Galway on flute and narrated by Liam Neeson. Very moving.

Brenda cheered us up with Peggy Lee and "Mr Wonderful, Nev gave us Hugh Laurie and "Kiss of fire" and Mike managed to get in his Eagles track, this time the live version of "Hotel California".

Neil rounded off the morning with the Pet Shop Boys and Dusty Springfield and "What have I done to deserve this", a song which briefly restarted Dusty's career.

Short Walks

15th July. Walk around Swadlincote Woodland, part of the National Forest

The weather was excellent, cloudy and warm, perfect for a walk. Unfortunately nobody else came so I walked on my own. I waited until 10 past 10 just in case someone had got lost but then I set off past the climbing boulder and through the woods heading up to the main path. I stayed on the main path until I reached what appears to be a memorial garden where the time capsule is. I continued on the main path across the road and around to 'Mexican Joe Way', down to the wetlands where there are two ponds one of which has a viewing platform. I did see a heron here. I returned across the road and decided to climb to the viewpoint. This was quite difficult and disappointing when you get there. The walk was just under 2 miles and took just under 1 hour. I promptly returned to the car park and drove to Morrisons for coffee and a bit of shopping.

Medium walks

11th July. Hartshorne to Smisby, led by Trev and Val

On a beautiful sunny morning 6 intrepid walkers headed off on a 4.5 mile walk from Hartshorne. We started out past the church and on to Daniel Hayes hill, then on through Several Woods and on past the gallops towards Smisby, We had a group discussion about the heat and if we wanted to continue further, everyone was happy to carry on, so on to Smisby where we had our coffee stop in the shade of a large beech tree.

We returned through Smisby graveyard, on through fields, some chest high with broad beans and a stop to pick wild cherries before dropping down through woods and across the new section of the National Forest and back to our start point.

Longer Walks

19th July. Calke Abbey, led by Kevin and Christine

Due to the extreme hot weather warning, our Mam Tor walk was cancelled for the second time, this is now re-scheduled for the 19th August. The hot weather warning did not put off 15 of us who gathered for the re-arranged walk from the Staff of Life complete with sun cream, hats and water. We walked on the shady side of the street to the Lime Kilns, part of the Calke Estate, before heading up the main drive in the shade of the Lime trees and stopping under the shelters for our first stop at Calke Explore. After a longer than usual stop we set off for the main house, keeping as best we could under the tree canopy. After another stop for ice cream and drinks at the main cafe, we set off past deer park, the lake and the Old Man of Calke Oak tree and back to the Staff of Life for about 12.15 and a well earned drink and lunch.

Industrial Heritage

28th July – Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden Airfield, Beds

11 members car shared from Ashby to Old Warden travelling in 3 cars and 1 motorbike. Apart from the usual crawl all along the M1 the journey was uneventful and we all arrived at similar times. Arrival was made a little complicated by the airfield having closed its main entrance right next to the hangers and instead diverting us, without particularly good signposting, right around the airfield for about 4 miles before ending back at the hangers. Buying tickets from a hut whilst queuing in the cars wasn't ideal either. However once we were in all was well. We could all sit outside by the grass runway with a cuppa and watch the world go by.

Once refreshed we headed for the museum sited in the 6 hangers. The amount of paraphernalia on display is awesome. From aircraft to tiny cap badges and models, via engines and propellers and uniforms and photographs, there is loads to see. The youngest planes are from WWII, but the vast majority are much older.

There are replicas of early 19thC attempts at building gliders and some replicas of early powered aircraft but most interesting are the original planes many of which are still airworthy.

The oldest is the world's oldest flyable aircraft, a Bleriot XI, built in 1909 just 6 years after the Wright Brothers first flight. The first example of this type was used by Bleriot himself to make the first ever crossing of the English Channel in 1909 by a heavier-than-air aircraft. Shuttleworth's example still flies today on special occasions, if the weather is settled enough.

Also on display are a number of old cars and motorcycles, three of which date from 1898/9.

Unfortunately no old planes were flying during our visit although a couple of modern Cessnas did land, but it was a very enjoyable trip, well worth the tribulations of the M1 to get there and back.

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
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