

12th Anniversary Issue

Newsletter August 2022

Interest Groups Timetable for September 2022

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

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Open Day	Tues 13 th	10 am – noon	St Helens Community Heritage Hall Open to the public
Monthly Meeting	Tue 27 th	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. Sandy Leong “Hey diddle, diddle” The origin and meaning of nursery rhymes
Arts and Crafts	Mon 5 th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Bridge	Mon 5 th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 12 th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
	Mon 19 th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 26 th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
Calligraphy	Tue 6 th	10 am	TBA
Computer	Wed 7 th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
	Mon 19 th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	Thu 1 st	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	Wed 21 st	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Family History	Wed 14 th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 15 th	8.45 am	Coach trip to RHS Bridgewater Gardens. Leave Royal Hotel at 8.45am £25 inc. entry
History	Thu 22 nd	Arrive at venue by 2 pm	Bosworth Fields, CV13 0AD. Guided tour and afternoon tea. Self-drive visit. £14 inc. tea.
Industrial Heritage	Sat 24 th	TBA	Severn Valley Railway
Literature	Tue 13 th	1:30 pm	Meeting at Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 8 th	12 for 12.30 pm	The Gate, Hinckley Rd, Osbaston Hollow, Osbaston CV13 0HP

Interest Groups Timetable for September 2022 cont.

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Medium Walks	Mon 12th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at Main St, Carlton CV13 0BY
Music Appreciation	Wed 7th	10 am	Nev's at 26 Homecroft Drive, Packington
Recorder	Thu 1st	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
	Thu 22nd	10 am	
Science & Technology	Mon 12th	2 pm	Ashby Alliance Evangelical Church. Kurt Kovach - Climate Change, the facts and the opinions
Social Events	TBA	TBA	
Short Walks	Fri 16th	10 am	Meet at Swadlincote Woodland car park which is on the right between the new roundabout and the traffic lights to Morrisons coming from the clock roundabout.
Supper Club	Thu 22nd	7 for 7.30 pm	The Red Lion, Newborough, Burton on Trent, DE13 8SH
Walking	Tue 6th	9.45 for 10 am start	Bulls Head, Wilson DE73 8AE. No pub lunch. Bring sandwiches, drink and a chair to lunch in Steve's garden afterwards
	Tue 20th	9.45 for 10 am start	Shoulder of Mutton, 16 Main Street, Barton-under-Needwood, DE13 8AA
Wine Appreciation	Wed 21 st	7 pm	Annie's house

Interest Groups Timetable for early October

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Bridge	Mon 3rd	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
Walking	Tue 4th	9.45 for 10 am start	TBA
Music Appreciation	Wed 5th	10 am	Neil's at 40 Willesley Gardens
Computer	Wed 5th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Recorder	Thu 6th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal,
Digital Photography	Thu 6th	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Arts and Crafts	Thu 6th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

23rd August - Our 12th Anniversary Meeting

We should have been celebrating our 10th Anniversary on this date 2 years ago but the world had other ideas in 2020 which caused its postponement. So we decided to celebrate our 12th anniversary this year instead, which happens to coincide with the 40th anniversary of u3a being founded in the UK.

To celebrate we had invited Consensio choir to sing for us, Ashby's Mayor to cut the cake and we had a glass of bubbly (or non-alcoholic option) to raise a toast to our 12 years completed so far.

Proceedings started with Consensio, a dozen singers along with an accompanist and musical director, who are also all members of Gresley Male Voice Choir. One of the singers, Tim Cox, was also compere and he gave us a potted history of GMVC interspersed with the choir singing songs relevant to the period that Tim was talking about. After some 45 mins, the choir took a break whilst drinks were handed round to all the members, and the choir, to allow us to toast 12 years of Ashby u3a.

The mayor of Ashby, Councillor John Deakin, and his wife Karen the Lady Mayoress, were then invited to cut the wonderfully decorated cake made by our very own Val Reed. Whilst we all finished our drinks, the cake was whisked away to be portioned up (along with more cake) ready for us all to eat with tea or coffee later.

Consensio then returned to the stage to continue to sing their way through the history of GMVC gradually coming up to date with songs from the movies and musicals along with more traditional songs and to finish got the whole audience to stand and sing "Land of Hope and Glory" and "Jerusalem". The acoustics of the church helping to make us all sound nearly as good as the choir itself.

After a further encore, and rousing applause, we moved to the back room for tea, coffee and cake served by the committee members.

The 97 members attending all agreed that the choir were excellent and very entertaining, the cake was lovely and everyone had a good time.

Here's to the next 12 years!!



Consensio Choir in full voice



The Anniversary Cake depicting our various activities, made and decorated by Val Reed



Ashby Mayor John Deakin and his wife Karen, the Lady Mayoress, cut the cake

HOW ASHBY U3A BEGAN

When we were preparing to celebrate our 10th anniversary 2 years ago, I asked some of our longer serving members how Ashby U3a got up and running, and I received this interesting account from one of the founders, Carole Harriman.

“Back in 2010 I was due to retire in May, but fortunately for me my company decided to make the HR department redundant, and move the operation to Telford. So I was basically paid to retire early. This left me having to try and find new things to do. My boss had told me that her mother was in U3A, and she was never at home, always doing different activities. I had not heard of U3A, so I Googled it, and thought it sounded interesting. I contacted a few people who were in Loughborough U3A, and asked them about the organisation. They told me that their U3A would not be for me, as it was a very large group with mostly academic groups. At that time, I saw a poster on the notice board near the Post Office, stating that U3A wanted to form a group in Ashby, and asking for people to meet up to discuss this.

I went along to the meeting, and only myself and Malcolm Bird turned up. We met the then Trustee for the East Midlands, Liz Wilson, and we talked about how U3As are run, and Malcolm and myself took away posters to put up around the local area. The Trustee had booked Holy Trinity Church for the first meeting in July 2010, and had asked several different U3As to come and talk about their groups.

The day came and we wondered how many people would turn up. I don’t really remember how many came, but think it was more like 50. We listened to the talks, and the Trustee explained all about U3A, and asked for volunteers to form a committee. Both Malcolm and I volunteered along with about 6 others.

We had our first committee meeting, and we all took on a position, it was all very basic at the start, but things started to develop and now we have a thriving U3A. We put up lists of potential interest groups at the back of the church with and people signed them if they were interested. If there was enough to form a group, the group was created and a leader volunteered to run it. From the start we had about 10 groups, and it has grown to what we have today.

Our groups tend to be more ‘social’ than academic, fitting the needs of our members. However, as we developed, a wide variety of groups have been formed.

We soon realised that Holy Trinity was too big for our needs, and we moved to the Congregational Church, our present meeting place. This suited the needs of the U3A better.

I was the second Chairperson. We met once a month for committee meetings, in a member's home. I used to attend the Networking meetings in Leicester which were held quarterly, with another member of the committee. From these meetings, we absorbed information both from the meeting and talking to other Chairmen. During my leadership we started the Meet and Greet and New starters coffee mornings. I was on the committee for 5 years, and really enjoyed how we grew a new U3A from scratch. After 5 years, it was time to let new members run the U3A."

From reading the minutes of the early committee meetings it appears that 9 people came along to the first meeting on 6th July 2010 (more came along later) to form the Steering Committee who would run Ashby u3a until the first AGM where committee members would be elected. Various people agreed to take on certain posts. Michael Golightly as Chairman, Malcolm Bird as Treasurer, Carole Harriman as Newsletter Editor & Events Organiser, Margaret Baxendale as Business Sec, Jane Barnett as Membership Sec, Anne Donegan as Group Co-ordinator and Sue Cornell as Speaker Seeker amongst others as yet unidentified.

Over several months they laid down the rules and procedures which we have today. They had to decide on the cost of membership, when and where to hold meetings, to book speakers, agree the formation of interest groups and to set up the constitution.

On 26th July 2011, they held the first AGM, with 35 members attending, at which nominations were made to elect committee members. Michael Golightly and 2 or 3 others from the Steering Committee chose not to stand for election, but 11 members were elected. As is still the case, the Committee decided amongst themselves which roles they would undertake.

Carole Harriman became our first elected Chairperson, Margaret Baxendale was business secretary and Malcolm Bird continued as Treasurer. Jane Barnett, Sue Cornell, Bob Baxendale, John Howlett, Sue Perry, Sandra Fox, Anne Donegan and Tim Salter were the other committee members.

And so Ashby u3a was officially under way.

Whilst we are celebrating the anniversary of our formation, I thought you might like to see the full list of our previous Chairmen and women who were, or still are:

Michael Golightly	2010
Carole Hariman	2011 – 2013
Jane Barnett	2013 – 2015
John Howlett	2015 – 2017
Tony Smith	2017 – 2019
Colin Ellis	2019 – 2021
Tony Smith	2021 -

Since the initial Steering Committee was formed, at least 36 members have been on the committee at one time or another and they have all helped to get us where we are today.

THE U3A MOVEMENT'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE UK.

OUR OPEN DAY - TUES 13TH SEPTEMBER

This year it is the 40th anniversary of the founding of u3a in the UK and we are celebrating it, like many other u3as around the country, by holding an Open Day for the public.

After some initial problems, a revised date and venue for our contribution have now been arranged.

Open Day will be on Tuesday 13th September at St Helens Heritage Centre from 10 am to Midday.

Various Groups will be showing the public what we as Ashby u3a can offer to retired members of the Ashby community. 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.

WE HAVE A NEW BANK ACCOUNT

As some of you may know we have been trying for ages to get internet banking to reduce bank charges and to make life easier for Val, our Treasurer, and we have had to change bank from HSBC to the Co-op in order to do so.

The new account will be active from Sept 10th. Please don't make any bank transfers from now until the 10th. Cheques will still be accepted, now and in future. For bank transfers, our new account is:

Co-operative Bank. Sort code 08-92-99 Acc. no. 67259878.

Make any cheques payable to "Ashby u3a" as before.

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.

GROUP REPORTS

Arts & Crafts

4th Aug

The Craft Group met on Thurs 4th Aug where we continued to work on our macramé hangers. Most of the ladies who were there managed to complete their hangers which will be displayed at the Sept 13th Open Day. The ladies seemed to enjoy this project which has taken 3 months to complete.

Next month we will NOT be meeting on the 1st but instead on the Monday 5th Sept. This change is due to holidays and grand-child minding.

A couple of the ladies will complete their macramé hangers but the majority of us will move on to making dry clay flowers.

Calligraphy

August

The group didn't meet in August but took a summer break

We shall meet again on Sept 6th to prepare our display for the Open Day on Sept 13th

Wine Appreciation

The wine appreciation group has been on a long summer break but hopes to resume in September.

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.

15th August

We had seven today with not too much to report.

Peter and Richard worked to sort out clearing cookies and cached data from Peter's laptop.

We talked about compilation procedures and a YouTube influencer called Leila Gharani, who is an excellent instructor in Excel and PowerPoint.

John D raised a problem he has with a PowerPoint presentation for the Family History Group which he wants to show at the 40th Anniversary display. He has trouble making it run properly on his laptop, although it works fine on his PC. MS offered a suggestion to clear the problem. This was found later not to work.

Next day MS and JD worked on site to sort it out. It seems that a copy of Microsoft 365 which should be operating on the laptop was installed but the individual apps had not been downloaded. It was then necessary to make them the default apps and not those of Open Office. The successful solution was tested with and without a Wi-Fi connection, to make sure that OneDrive was not also interfering.

We'll meet on Wednesday 7th September for a final look at the arrangements for the Group's table on the 13th.

Digital Photography

Aug 4th

Five photographers gathered to look at the photos taken at the last meeting on 7th July: a visit to Tropical Birdland at Desford.

We saw four sets of photos, and a seemingly endless stream of exotic birds in fantastical colours.

Parrots, parakeets, macaws, Ibis (revered by Ancient Egyptians as the god of wisdom and reason), flamingos and others. And three goats! The birds all seemed very friendly and perhaps a bit too keen to get 'in the shot' as it were, ready to be fed whatever was offered, including an unwary finger or two.

As gaudy a set of birds as you could expect to see outside the Gaumont on a Saturday night.

We then discussed the preparation for the DP table at the Open Day presentation in September. We agreed to submit a selection of our photos over the years for assembling into a slide show.

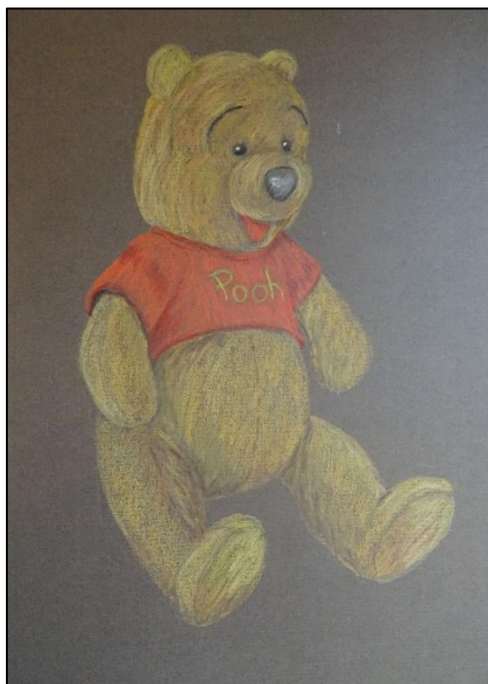
Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1st September, where the final presentation will be agreed.

Drawing and painting

Aug 17th

The theme for August was "household objects"; a session to explore observation and drawing techniques.

We also discussed and assembled our exhibits for the September 13th Open Day.



Pooh Bear by Megan

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

Lunch

11th August

The August lunch was at The Globe Inn at Snarestone, a venue we have visited many times before with the supper group. It was a baking hot day and we were quite glad to be indoors in a cool(ish) room. We were not all seated at one table but at 4 or 5 smaller ones. This was less sociable but probably cooler than all being squashed together in one place. The food when it arrived was pretty good but some felt it was not as good as it has been in the past. We're not sure if it has changed hands. Anyway we all enjoyed ourselves and someone had a double helping of custard!

The venue for 8th Sept will be The Gate, Hinckley Rd, Osbaston Hollow, Osbaston CV13 0HP at 12 noon for 12.30. We were last there in March and it was pretty good then. 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

July

The July Supper Club was planned to be at 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.

20 people gathered outside Zamani's on their patio area, in lovely weather for a drink before going inside to eat. We had the place pretty much to ourselves as Zamani's have not been opening on a Monday recently and this was their first Monday. We could probably have eaten outdoors but it was starting to get a bit cool by the time we left.

We didn't need to pre-order our food, so we were able to choose from the specials board as well as the menu. Our waitress took orders from the two tables in turn to ease the load on the kitchen and after a little wait, food started to appear, and very good it was too.

The wine flowed as did the conversation. In fact one or two people thought it got a bit noisy until it was pointed out that it was us making the noise!

Everyone seemed to have a good time and we drifted away quite late with many being able to walk home in the cool evening air.

Aug 1st

For our actual August gathering we went to the Winery in Burton. 14 people found their way there where we were greeted by the friendly staff. Once we were all seated the pre-ordered food arrived quite quickly and very nice it was too. An interesting selection of starters was followed not too long afterwards by the equally delicious mains. The desserts were also excellent and properly calorific! The staff were very well trained and on the ball as well as being friendly. It made a change to have a restaurant menu rather than the more usual pub-style one.

Some people thought we should go there a lot more often!

Science & Technology

August

The group took the month off for summer holidays.

We shall be back on Sept 12th for a talk by one of our own members, Kurt Kovach, on "Climate Change, the facts and the opinions"

Gardening

18th Aug

Today we had our garden party at Bob and Margaret's.

The morning began wet, after all the sunshine we have had, but fortunately it dried up and the afternoon turned out warm and sunny.

We had 45 members attend the event and we were treated to beautiful homemade scones and cake. It was a lovely relaxing afternoon, admiring the garden and discussing various plants and vegetables. In addition we held a free raffle with plants as prizes .

Our host Margaret requested a voluntary contribution from members to go to a breast cancer charity. Everyone had a lovely time.

History

25th Aug - A history of Cornishware by Dr Iain Hambling

The August meeting featured Dr Iain Hambling, who gave a presentation regarding T. & G. Green & Co, a firm of pottery manufacturers based locally at Church Gresley. Mr. Green originated from Boston, Lincolnshire and, after being rejected three times by Miss Mary Tenniel, emigrated to Australia, where he was very successful in business enterprises. This success resulted in Mary having a change of mind; the couple married and, during their honeymoon in Scarborough, a chance meeting led to Mr. Green's involvement in the Church Gresley pottery in 1864. He was extremely successful although, apparently, a somewhat unpleasant character. The pottery employed around 1,000 at it's zenith, surviving at least three fires.

The best known product, Cornishware, was produced from 1923. The name was due to the use of Cornish china clay as the distinctive blue and white bands were difficult to produce satisfactorily using only local clay. Production continued until 2007, by which time the company was no longer independent. Following the closure, a new company was established in Somerset to produce a range of Cornishware products.

The site of the pottery is now largely derelict although four of the distinctive bottle kilns still remain. These are now listed structures but are on the 'at risk' register due to their neglected condition.

Iain gave us a comprehensive history of the pottery and it's products with a wide range of examples available for us to see and handle. Some of the rarer examples are worth many hundreds of pounds. A most excellent and informative presentation.

The Group's next meeting on 22nd September is a self-drive visit to the Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre for a talk, site visit and tea. The cost is £14 plus car share and anyone not already signed-up should contact Jane Harris by e-mail or phone (01530 838025) to arrange to be included..

Recorder

11th and 25th Aug

The group were due to have two meetings in August. For the first they met in Marion's garden to make the most of the fine weather but the second had to be cancelled as only two members were available.

For September they are meeting on the 1st and 22nd at St Matthew's Community Hall and hopefully also on the 8th for a last rehearsal before performing at our Open Day on the 13th

Industrial Heritage

25th August – Ecclesbourne Valley Railway

17 members were due to visit the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway at Wirksworth in the Peak District to ride the steam train up and down followed by lunch at a famous pub in the town centre and then a visit to Cromford High Peak Junction beside the canal, where there is some interesting early Industrial Heritage.

Unfortunately at the last minute we discovered that the steam loco had broken down! That combined with some track problems, preventing any trains running into Duffield, which had to be urgently fixed before the Bank Holiday, meant that the advertised service would not be operating.

Rather than sit behind a smelly diesel for just half a journey we reluctantly cancelled the trip. It was too late to organise anything else but plans are afoot for September.

Family History

10th August

This was our last meeting before the Open Day in the Heritage Hall on the 13th of September.

We had seven present with two contributing via the ether.

John D ran a short slide show on a laptop outlining what we do. This will run, possibly on a continuous loop, at the 'show'.

We decided that the 'Who Do You Think You Are' programme music would not be played as accompaniment!

Heather is continuing her tree building work, including searching and validating 'Hints'. She is concentrating on her father's side, as there is relatively little information there. But we are making progress.

Mary used the Worldwide feature in Ancestry to search German records and found what looks like a Parish Register document. Unfortunately, it is both in cursive, and German, so we will need a translator. Work is ongoing to deal with that, if possible.

Richard has managed to access some early 19th century parish records for the marriage of his 3rd great grandfather and may have some WWI information to show.

John H was working with some success on the 1939 Register in order to establish a link to his Irish ancestors in modern times.

Eileen is building up an album of Family History records to present to her sister on her 70th birthday. What a wonderful idea!

Dora is deep into 17th century Scottish Parish Records chasing her 4th great grandfather.

Sylvia Spare reported by email on a very interesting visit she paid to Exeter University Film Library. No results forthcoming, but the hunt goes on. Her grandfather worked in the industry for 30 years and there was a large collection of information lodged with the BFI Archives. This is proving frustratingly difficult to access.

Sylvia Dearing reported interesting developments, with DNA tests being taken by two relatives, which will hopefully lead to discoveries. In addition, she has had contact with someone involved with the descendants of her maternal grandfather which will produce information not only of ancestors but living descendants.

After the meeting Richard, Mary, Eileen, John D and the two Sylvias submitted copy for Open Day, and Carolyn will loan us a Flip chart easel to display a lot of this.

We next meet on September 14th.

Music Appreciation

3rd August

This month we met at Janet and Yogi's house for our listening session.

Mike started us off this time with a nod to the Commonwealth Games happening in Birmingham and so had chosen one of Brum's favourite daughters, Joan Armatrading, singing possibly her biggest hit "Love and Affection".

Nev followed with, the much ignored nowadays, Billy Fury and "When will you say I love you", a track many of us hadn't heard before.

Yogi had an Irish theme this month and started with the beautiful "Black is the colour of my true love's hair" sung by the choir of University College Dublin and soloist Desmond Early

Janet's first pick was "Unchained Melody", not by the Righteous Brothers and certainly not by Jimmy Young, but sung by Elvis Presley and which features at the end of the biopic "Elvis".

Dorothy gave us an unusual choice for her; Dido and "Life for rent". A lovely song

Neil gave us another beautiful heart-breaking song, "Don't give up" by Peter Gabriel and Kate Bush, a song about the Depression in 30's America.

Sid played us The Pierces singing "Glorious". The Pierces are a little known US act of two sisters from Alabama who sing in a style reminiscent of the Mamas and Papas.

After several reflective songs, Mike stepped it up a gear with the Glam Rock band Roxy Music and their first hit single "Virginia Plain". Nev followed that with Eric Clapton's version of Robert Johnson's "Malted Milk" from Eric's "Unplugged" album.

Yogi brought us back to Ireland with the folk song "The Creggan White Hare" by Daoiri Farrell. The story relates how the white hare was able to outsmart the greyhounds hunting it.

Again Janet brought the tempo back up with Queen and "We are the champions" and then Dorothy gave us the lesser played "Summer" from Vivaldi's "Four seasons" played by the incomparable Yehudi Menuhin.

Neil offered The Beautiful South and "A little time". Paul Heaton's lyrics are always so witty. Sid's next choice was the little played "I'd have you anytime" from George Harrison's "All things must pass" album, Nev then played "Careless love" by Chris Barber and Ottillie Patterson. An excellent version of the song.

Yogi kept up his Irish theme with "Song for Ireland" by Mary Black, Dorothy played "The Queen and the Soldier" by Suzanne Vega and Neil offered "I Want to See the Bright Lights Tonight" by Richard & Linda Thompson.

Janet gave us one of her favourite singers, Neil Diamond with "I am, I said" and Sid finished the session with The Beatles and "Paperback Writer".

An excellent selection of varied tunes.

Short Walks

19th August - Walk around Burton Washlands

Seven U3A members turned up at the carpark. At 10am after the traditional photograph we all set off walking towards the rowing club staying in the wooded part. We reached the path that doubles back by the river and found a carousel horse on which there was a painting of a 'secret waterfall'. Having studied this we continued back towards St Peter's Church and over the footbridge to the Stapenhill gardens. Here we found 2 more carousel horses. From here we went straight to the footbridge over the River Trent. Once across the river we dropped down to the Washlands where there was another horse. We continued on the path near the river and crossed a bridge to the children's play area where we found a black and white chequered horse. We stopped for coffee at the cafe in the library. We returned to the path that replaced the ferry and crossed back to Stapenhill and walked to the swan flower gardens, where we encountered 2 more painted horses, and back to our cars. 3 miles 2 1/2 hours.

Medium walks

8th August. Ticknall to Foremark school, led by Mike

Mike decided it was about time that he led a walk for a change and managed to choose a very pleasant day that was neither too hot or too cool and with plenty of sunshine. Eleven others were foolish enough to follow him on this 6 mile walk.

Starting from Ticknall CP, we walked down Chapel St to the green at the end and left into a field, following a well trodden path across two fields and through Stanton Woods and down to the pond at Seven Spouts Farm. Turning left at the pond and then taking the track on the right of the farm brought us to Ingleby Lane.

Crossing the road and over the only stile on the route, we walked straight on through Heath Wood and followed the track right into Foremark School grounds. Passing the school's lake and then turning left onto the unmade road brought us to St Saviour's church where we stopped for a break. From there we passed through Home Farm and turned left onto the National Forest Way which leads right back to Ticknall CP. One or two members, including our leader, were a little worried about completing the course due to prior injuries but we all got back safely and in one piece.

Longer Walks

16th August. Mam Tor, led by Tony

10 members of the walking group met up in the car park at Castleton on a pleasantly warm and dry morning for a third attempt to climb to the top of Mam Tor (previous attempts had been cancelled due to extremes of weather. First wet then hot).

We set off negotiating the back alleys of Castleton and took the path up towards the entrance to the Blue John Caverns. It was a gentle climb through fields and some wooded areas until we reached the road coming up from Chapel. We stopped for a tea break and then began the ascent up the shoulder of the hill until we reached the trigonometry point. 2 kind ladies took pictures of the group for us and we reciprocated for them. We continued along the ridge stopping for a picnic lunch before beginning the descent. The views from the top were magnificent. The route down took us past Losehill Farm and into the back of the village. We had tea and cakes before leaving for home. It was a most enjoyable day out.

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	membercolin@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 272592
John Pilgrim	Member	memberjohn@ashbyu3a.co.uk	-