



Newsletter September 2022

Interest Groups Timetable for October 2022

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

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	Tue 25th	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. Ian Maber "Laughing my way around the world"
Arts and Crafts	Thu 6th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Bridge	Mon 3rd	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 10th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
	Mon 17th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre
	Mon 24th	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
	Mon 31st	7 pm	Ivanhoe Club
Calligraphy	Tue 11th	10 am	At Sue's. Word of the month is Coffee
Computer	Wed 5th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
	Mon 17th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	Thu 6th	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	Wed 19th	10 am	Venue and topic TBA
Family History	Wed 12th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 20th	2.15 pm	Packington Village Hall Harvest celebration and craft activity. £1 entry
History	Thu 27th	2:15 pm	Packington Village Hall. Yogi Godwin - 'Victorian values and enlightenment'
Industrial Heritage	Wed 26th	TBA	Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope, Bornish Lane, Macclesfield SK11 9DW
Literature	Tue 11th	1:30 pm	Meeting at Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 13th	12 for 12.30 pm	Greyhound Inn, 149 Ashby Rd, Boundary, Swadlincote DE11 7BU
Medium Walks	Mon 10th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at Sutton Cheney Wharf, Wharf Lane CV13 0AL
Music Appreciation	Wed 5th	10 am	Neil's at 40 Willesley Gardens

Interest Groups Timetable for October 2022 cont.

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Recorder	Thu 6th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
	Thu 20th	10 am	
Science & Technology	Mon 10th	2 pm	Ashby Alliance Evangelical Church. Bob Onions - 40 years a Geologist
Short Walks	Fri 21st	10 am	Meet at the Oakthorpe colliery picnic site.
Supper Club	Thu 27th	7.30 for 8 pm	The Royal Oak, Long Whatton LE65 5DB
Walking	Tue 4th	9.45 for 10 am start	The Wheatsheaf, Baslow DE45 1SR
	Tue 18th	9.45 for 10 am start	TBA
Wine Appreciation	Wed 19th	7 pm	Annie's house

Interest Groups Timetable for early November

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Walking	Tue 1st	9.45 for 10 am start	Newdigate Arms, West Hallam DE7 6HW
Music Appreciation	Wed 2nd	10 am	TBA
Computer	Wed 2nd	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Recorder	Thu 3rd	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal,
Digital Photography	Thu 3rd	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Arts and Crafts	Thu 3rd	10 am	2 Marlborough Way.
Bridge	Mon 7th	2 pm	Hood Park Leisure Centre

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

OUR OPEN DAY - TUES 13TH SEPTEMBER

Despite some reservations as to whether we should go ahead with our Open Day during the mourning period for the Queen, it was eventually decided that we should continue to hold it as a recruiting drive for Ashby u3a, and in this we were very successful.

The doors of St Helens Heritage Community Centre were due to open at 10am but people were arriving before that whilst we were still setting up. I don't know if they thought that, like a car boot fair, there would be bargains to be had by arriving early! Nonetheless we tried to make them welcome and as the morning went on more and more people arrived. It got quite crowded at some points. The recorder group played on outside in the warm weather and our volunteers in the kitchen provided teas, coffees and biscuits whilst group leaders manned their stands and tried to explain what we had to offer to anyone wishing to join us.

By the end of the morning Iain had signed up 32 new members and a further 8 have joined since.

Hopefully many of those are now reading this newsletter. If so, welcome to Ashby u3a. I hope you enjoy your time with us.

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 is now active and so bank transfers can now be made to:

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

Cheques will still be accepted. 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.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We are having our Christmas lunch at Willesley Park Golf Club on 8th Dec. 2022, 12.30 for 1 pm

If you wish to join us please contact Avril at socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk or 01530 413182 and send her your name and menu choices (just the number or letter of each course i.e. 1, A, X) from the menu below plus any dietary requirements (most can be catered for).

Payment can be by bank transfer to Ashby u3a, Sort Code 08-92-99 Acc No. 67259878, marked Xmas or by cheque payable to Ashby u3a sent to Avril Wilson, 8 Rotherwood Drive, Ashby LE65 2JD

Avril will also be taking orders and collecting monies at the next monthly meeting on Tues 25th Oct

Menu

- 1** Roast Parsnip & Apple Soup – Pancetta Croutons (VO)
- 2** Duck Parfait – Bramley Puree – Brioche – Picked Blackberries
- 3** Beetroot & Gin Smoked Salmon – Sourdough & Lemon Butter - Cucumber & Dill Crème Fraiche
- 4** Glazed Red Onion Tart Tatin, Goats Cheese, Rocket & Toasted Pine Nuts (V)

- A.** Roasted & Butter Basted Turkey – Pigs in Blankets & Chestnut Stuffing – Thyme Roast Potatoes
- B.** Glazed Braised Belly of Pork – Buttered Roast Potatoes – Caramelised Onions – Cider Gravy – Crackling – Pork Stuffing
- C.** Oven Roasted Sea Bass, Herb Crumb – Olive Oil & Samphire Crushed New Potatoes – Prawn & White Wine Butter Sauce
- D.** Walnut & Butternut Squash Roast – Creamed Juniper Savoy Cabbage – Sautéed Potato – Red Wine Reduction (V)

(All Served with Seasonal vegetables)

- W.** Egg Nogg Crème Brulée – Mulled Berries – Butter Biscuits
- X.** Traditional Christmas Pudding – Brandy Custard- Spruced Fruit & Nuts
- Y.** Dark Chocolate Torte – Cherry Ice Cream – Kraken Rum Caramel
- Z.** Selection of Cheese – Cranberry Chutney – Celery & Nuts

Coffee & Mints

VO = vegetarian option. All choices can be provided in GF and/or DF

3 courses £26

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

"Hey diddle, diddle. The origins and meanings of nursery rhymes" by Sandy Leong.

Sandy was with us last October when she gave us a very interesting talk about the origins of tea and tea-drinking customs, but this time she talked about the origins and meanings of nursery rhymes.

Nursery rhymes appear to have been around for centuries but their heyday was in the 1700's and although they seem to us today to be harmless and innocent tales to tell our (grand)children they mostly have a much more interesting tale to tell.

At a time when most folk were illiterate and social media, and even the post, didn't yet exist, people wouldn't have been able to read them anyway. So the only way for gossip and stories to be distributed was orally. And how better to do that than with a short rhyming ditty which everyone could remember. Of course the Church and the State would not have approved of the often slanderous gossip, so the meanings of the ditties were often hidden or disguised in seemingly innocent verse.

A classic example is Baa, Baa, Black Sheep:

Baa, baa, black sheep,
Have you any wool?
Yes, sir, yes, sir,
Three bags full;
One for the master,
One for the dame,
And none for the little boy
Who lives down the lane.

This is believed to be a comment on the Wool Tax imposed by Edward I in which 1/3 of the money from a sack of wool went to the King, a 1/3 went to the Dame i.e. the Church and 1/3 to the farmer, and probably landowner, with none left for the shepherd boy and his family.

Four and Twenty Blackbirds is probably a comment on the practise of rich people playing frivolous jokes on their guests at dinner by putting live songbirds in a pastry case and bringing it to the table to be opened.

Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary is Bloody Mary who tried to turn protestant England back to Catholicism via torture and murder. Her "garden" is an allusion to the graveyards filling with martyrs, whilst the "silver bells" were thumbscrews and "cockleshells" were instruments of torture.

Pop Goes The Weasel is a Cockney rhyming slang term for popping, or pawning, ones weasel and stoat, coat, in order to have money at the end of the week.

Sandy gave us dozens of other rhymes and their supposed meanings mostly satirising Royalty, the rich, the Church or just comment on the lot of poor working folk.

The meaning of many of these rhymes is only speculation as of course they deliberately alluded to the real meaning in order to avoid persecution of those disseminating them.

Overall this was a fascinating look at how people passed on the gossip or criticism of others before there was general literacy and how the rhymes have survived down the centuries.

GROUP REPORTS

Arts & Crafts

5th Sept

The Arts and Crafts group met on Mon 5th Sept rather than the usual Thurs 1st Sept. This was due to holidays and grand-children minding.

We had two new ladies join the group this month which brought us to a total of eight. Three of the ladies continued to work on their macramé hangings actually managed to complete them. These will be on display at the 40th Anniversary Open Day on the 13th. Four of the remaining ladies began making small air drying clay flowers, while Sharon moved between the groups to help where help was needed. The clay flower projects will continue next month. Everyone seemed to what they were doing.

Next month we will be back to our usual week of crafting - Thurs 6th Oct

Calligraphy

Sept 6th

Five members met at Sue's house to plan the display for the exhibition. Everyone brought a selection of their work, reflecting the different fonts we have used and the various topics we have covered. It was really interesting to see the range of work and to give ourselves a tap on the back for its quality! We also wanted to stress that none of us are experts but enjoy meeting together to 'Have a go' and to support each other. We will complete the display in situ, with the various boards etc at our disposal.

We then discussed our way forward for the coming year. Jenny suggested choosing one word each month that members can explore individually, choosing any font or style. For example the words chosen so far are ... COFFEE, BOOK and BRIGHT. This will take us to the end of the year when we'll review and see how this plan has worked out!! The idea will be to plan before the meeting, start at the session and then finish at home, in time for the next word.

We look forward to seeing the results._

Wine Appreciation

September 21st

After quite a long summer break we were glad to be back wine-tasting again but unfortunately due to illness and holidays there were only 3 of us this month but we decided to go ahead anyway.

Annie had arranged a blind tasting of 5 red wines from around the world. Although she knew which wines she had bought, she didn't know which bottles were which as her daughter had put all the bottles in identical bags.

Working out what each wine was proved surprisingly difficult, especially as Annie had thrown in a couple of curve balls in the form of a wine made from an obscure grape variety found only in Uruguay (very nice as it happens), and an almost sweet red Californian blend which fooled us all, except Annie of course. She knew what she'd bought! It too was surprisingly good and would go very well with Xmas lunch or a BBQ with all those sweet chilli sauces.

The other wines were a Chilean Merlot, a South African Cabernet and an Aussie Syrah. Your reporter got one right, more by luck than judgement! All were very drinkable.

Next time Kurt has promised a Sauvignon Blanc comparison tasting.

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.

7th September

We had six today with not too much to report.

David and Richard worked to sort out David's desktop display which they managed to tidy up.

Much of the time was spent on the display for the exhibition on the 17th. This mainly involved completing the photographic group display and moving all the pictures into a single folder to stop the continuous display of one photograph in the slide show.

The posters for the two groups (photographic and computer) were printed out for display on the table.

Peter collected information for publicity purposes.

Digital Photography

1st September

4 or 5 of us got together to review the photos which various members had submitted for display on the Open Day. Having decided to show them in a random order, we displayed them on John's TV and watched them through a few times to see they were all ok, which they were.

The display on Open Day went very well and quite a few visitors stopped to admire them, but we didn't get any new members.

Drawing and painting

September 21st

It was a very sparse attendance in September where Shades of Autumn was the theme.



Christine's Autumn Poppies

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

Lunch

8th September

For September's lunch we returned to the Gate at Osbaston, a Marstons pub which we last visited in March. A good turn out had over 20 members show up. The food was the usual Marstons fare, but none the worse for that. Service was quite slow today partly because we were such a large group, but also because the pub was quite well patronised. When it arrived the food was good and hearty and enjoyed by all.

Next month we shall be eating at the Greyhound at Boundary. With Colin and Sharon away, John and Margaret Howlett have the sign-up list, so contact them at john.howlett@inebooks.com or 01530 461774 if you wish to come along.

Supper club

September 22nd

The Red Lion at Newborough was the venue for September's supper Club. The Walking Group had visited it a couple of months ago and several members recommended it as being suitable for us. And so it proved. Despite the numbers wanting to attend varying up and down considerably in the days before, the pub were very understanding and accommodating.

On arrival, drinks were served at the table and orders soon taken from a varied and interesting menu. Food arrived promptly and was very tasty. The portions were large enough that only one person could manage dessert but he did us proud and didn't let the side down.

The only problem we found with the pub was that the current managers, Gail and Ryan, are leaving the pub in two weeks time. We can only hope that the new lease-holders will keep up the great standards that we encountered so that we can visit again.

Gardening

15th September

What a fabulous day the garden group had on our last trip of the year! We travelled by coach to RHS Garden Bridgewater, Worsley, Salford and were delighted to find a beautiful plant centre, shop and cafeteria. We then went outside to find extensive gardens (154 acres), which had been created in 2020.

There was a varied collection of plants and different themed areas such as a bee and butterfly garden, a very large walled garden, Chinese water garden and orchard gardens. There were three cafes with spacious eating areas, one overlooking a lake. In addition we had good weather and a smooth journey each way.

Recorder

1st, 8th and 22nd September

We had three meetings in September: on 1st, 8th, in preparation for the Open Day, and another on 22nd. Numbers were down, as it's holiday time, and we had only 3 on the 1st, and 4 on the 8th.

However, we managed a group of 4 for the Open Day, and played a selection of music to entertain the hordes of people in and near the hall. We feel we've improved over the last couple of years, and can play more interesting music. We had some positive comments, and enquiries from 3 people interested in joining us.

Next meeting will be on 6th October, then 20th, in the Hall.

Science & Technology

12th September - Climate Change by Kurt Kovach

We started by defining the term "Climate Change" and then listed recent examples of climate change in action. The extreme heat in central England in July, the massive floods in Pakistan, the wildfires in Australia in 2019 and 2020, the threatened loss of many Pacific islands from rising sea levels and the impact on UK farmers. We briefly looked at 6 "tipping points" which once crossed would signal an irreversible reaction leading to destabilisation and system breakdowns.

We then covered the causes of "Climate Change", the growth in emissions of CO₂ and methane and nitrous oxide and their impact. These emissions are caused by burning fossil fuels, coal, oil and gas, which currently provide 83% of the world's energy. Also the world is increasing its energy use by 2.4% per annum, an exponential rise.

We looked at CO₂ emissions in metric tonnes per person from various countries ranging from Kuwait with 23.9 metric tonnes per person, USA at 16.1 metric tonnes per person per year. China which emits 8 metric tonnes per person is still the biggest emitter due to its population size. Only 3 countries are currently carbon neutral, namely Bhutan, Suriname and Panama. While China is the biggest polluter it also has more solar panels than any other country and more offshore wind turbines and is currently planting millions of trees.

We spent some time looking at the opposition to Climate change that have delayed the necessary steps to limit climate change. This was led in the US by Exxon Mobil who staged a massive PR campaign to discredit Climate change science. Another US company Koch Industries funded Republican politicians who opposed any action on Climate Change. In the UK Nigel Lawson was a major opponent to action on Climate Change and we are now seeing negative comments from the present Government.

Then we looked at the solutions to solving Climate Change.

The first is to move to new Earth, Planet B. This is unfeasible according to Professor Mike Berners-Lee. We looked Michio Kaku's (a US Professor) idea to expand into the Solar system and even our galaxy. It is too early for this solution. Efficiency savings only encourage us to use more fuel, so that doesn't really solve it.

The only viable solution was for everyone to commit to NetZero. We have committed to NetZero by 2050. This means stopping our use of fossil fuels completely and relying on renewables and nuclear and embarking on a massive carbon capture scheme to take out the carbon already in the atmosphere. This could be by planting billions of trees or direct carbon capture or both.

The 2015 Paris Climate Accord saw 196 countries agree to keep the world's average temperature rise to below 2°C preferably below 1.5° C of pre-industrial levels. The problems we are currently facing outlined at the start are caused by a rise of 1.1°C, so we are likely to experience many more of these.

Lastly, we discussed some of the other problems: over grazing, overfishing, species loss, pollution, soil erosion, plastic, etc.

Finally, we talked about Solar Together Leicestershire, a scheme to bulk buy solar panels and batteries. So far 750 families have signed up to this scheme. Also, Leicestershire has pledged to become NetZero by 2040 and claim to be on course to reach this by 2030. Lots is being done.

BUT is it enough?

Have we done it soon enough?

AND even at this the 59th minute of the 23rd hour are we seeing the spectre of efforts to water down our actions and even reverse some of them?

After the tea break Paul gave a short talk on "The Nuclear Power Option - friend or foe of climate change"

This was a brief overview of the current status of the government's proposals to massively increase the proportion of electricity generated by nuclear power as a strategy to move away from fossil fuel power stations to counter their effects on climate change. The benefits and penalties of nuclear power were outlined, including its crucial contribution towards meeting the country's climate change objectives.

Nuclear technology is safe, closely regulated to ensure high safety standards and the science of nuclear fission is well understood. The basic layout of a nuclear power station was explained and the unique safety features highlighted. Despite all this, nuclear power stirs up strong opposition politically because of its expense and long project timescales.

It is also disliked by many on environmental grounds because of the radioactive waste problem and the public do not want a nuclear power station nearby. A lively debate followed and a member of the audience, with detailed knowledge and experience in radioactive waste management, promised to give a talk on this subject.

Family History

14th September

Following the 40th Anniversary Open Day we had eight present, including a new recruit: Jane Chilvers. Jane is proficient and a very useful addition to the team. She needed only a little help today to see how to add a picture to her profile. She also helped Heather in extending her tree.

John D also worked with Heather to keep building her Tree. 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.

Carolyn found out how to add a photograph to her Profiles and has been researching the Tree of a possible relative.

Eileen today concentrated on ploughing through Parish Records following some leads she has unearthed.

Dora has been into the Dutch records to see if she can pick up on her Dutch aunt's recent death. No luck yet as it is too soon for the record to be put online. (There is no mention of her Dutch Uncle....!) So she returned to trawling through 17th century Parish Records.

Sylvia Dearing had little to report but is working on her acting ancestors.

Keith has been chasing down Ancestry Hints (with appropriate care) and has been delving into the Non-Conformist registers.

Finally a general note: the 40th Anniversary Open Day was a great all round success, and our 'stand' evoked quite a lot of interest, with several indicating they might come along next time. Cross fingers!

Keith and Carolyn were extraordinarily helpful in setting up and taking down, and attending to enquiries and the Team supplied a great deal of material for the stand. I could not be more proud of the effort.

We next meet on October 12th.

History

22nd September. Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre - A self-drive visit

17 members drove down to Bosworth Battlefield where we were met by our guide Gary who talked us through the history of the Plantagenets and how for over 30 years the two rival branches of the family ie Lancaster and York fought for control of the English throne. Through complicated machinations involving deaths, marriages, unions and fallings out, the two ever changing sides fought each other at various battles until Henry Tudor and Richard III met at Bosworth.

Gary then had several of us take the roles of the main protagonists on the field, each of us with our battle standards, arranged as it is believed actually happened, and talked us through the battle until Jane (as Henry Tudor) defeated Colin (Richard III)! He then walked us to the top of the hill where we could look down onto the site where it is believed the Battle actually took place. (As you may know, Bosworth Battlefield is now understood not to be where the battle was). An hour and a half flew by and we all learned something new about this turbulent period, even if we previously thought we already knew it all.

We then retired to the café to be served tea, coffee and cake before walking around the on-site museum. A thoroughly entertaining afternoon.

Industrial Heritage

24th September. Severn Valley Railway

After having to cancel the trip to Ecclesbourne Valley Railway when it's only working steam loco broke down, and then cancelling the overnight trip to Brooklands Racetrack and museum when hotel prices in nearby Woking became ridiculously expensive, we had to arrange something else. A trip the SVR was planned for the Saturday as there would be more steam trains running at the weekend.

Unfortunately, due to the short notice and various holidays etc, only 8 people could come. The trip down to Kidderminster was uneventful and the two cars arrived within a few minutes of each other. The first foursome bought their tickets and headed for the café but when the second carload bought their tickets they were informed that there would be no steam engines running that day! The first group were not told at all! It seems that after some trackside fires, the local fire brigade had told them not to run steam locos due to the risk of sparks starting more fires.

Undeterred, but disappointed, we boarded our train to Bridgnorth. The scenery was just as nice but there wasn't that lovely smell of smoke, oil and steam. On arriving at Bridgnorth, we walked up the hill to the castle ruins, through the beautiful park and into town where we had an excellent lunch at the picturesque and beflowered Old Castle pub. The food, and the beer, was excellent.

Returning to the station, we caught the next train back to Highley and the museum at the Engine Shed where there was an exhibition and sale of O gauge model trains as well as all the full size stuff. After a quick cuppa, we boarded the train back to Kidderminster. The weather had been very kind with plenty of sunshine and some warmth. All agreed that it had been a good day out but would have been much better with a steam loco or two. It has now of course rained heavily and so I expect steam working will resume soon!

Music Appreciation

7th September

We met at Nev's house for this month's listening session. Although several members were unable to attend due to holidays and other commitments, we had a guest in the person of Nev's neighbour Adrian and so there were still 7 of us present.

Yogi started proceedings with some lovely coral singing from the choir of Clare College Cambridge singing "Crown of Thorns" written by John Rutter. Janet continued the high vocal standard with Pavarotti singing "Nessum Dorma" while Brenda followed that with Billie Holiday and "Georgia on my mind"

Mike's first offering was Eva Cassidy, whose life was cut tragically short before her records became famous, singing the beautiful "Autumn Leaves". Nev took advantage of being on home turf to access YouTube on his TV to play us an excerpt from a Roy Orbison concert with him and Bruce Springsteen singing "Sweet dreams baby" with an all-star line-up backing group.

Sallie told us of a radio program she had heard featuring John Williams (the composer, not the guitarist) explaining how he wrote his many, many award winning film scores especially "Jaws" from which she played us the opening theme. A far more complex piece of music than just the famous two notes.

Adrian for his first piece of music chose Rita Coolidge accompanied by Kris Kristofferson singing the Bee Gees song "Words". A great first choice. Going round again, Yogi brought us the same excellent choir as before, this time singing the lovely "King Jesus hath a garden"

Janet's next choice was the first pop song of the session, the inimitable Abba and "I have a dream". Brenda took pop one step further into Rock 'n' roll with Jerry Lee Lewis and "Great balls of fire"

Mike's next choice took us all back to our childhood with "Big rock candy mountain" made famous as a children's song by Burl Ives, although this version by the song's writer, Harry McIlintock, and used in the film "O brother, where art thou" had rather more adult lyrics about a hobo's idea of paradise including streams of whiskey, cigarette trees and not having to work for a living.

Nev used the TV again to show us a video of Judith Durham, after leaving The Seekers, demonstrating the purity of her voice singing "Danny Boy". Sallie had more tales of John Williams and then played the original "Star Wars" theme in which one can hear all the origins of all the other themes which would become so familiar in the other movies.

Adrian had another interesting song, the first we have heard sung in Flemish, "Marieke" by Jacques Brel.

Yogi passed on the third round, but Janet offered Tina Turner and her version of The Beatles "Help". By chance Brenda had another Beatles tune - "Michelle" played by the Modern Gustin Trio. Both Beatles tunes are very different to their originals but very good.

Mike's third choice was by the virtuoso violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter playing the very soothing "Berceuse in D major" by Fauré. A berceuse is a form of lullaby and we all nearly dozed off but Nev woke us back up with a video of an unknown pianist playing Fats Waller's "Alligator Crawl", a very tricky but fun piece which was once on the syllabus for grade 8 piano!

Sallie stayed with her John Williams theme and this time played a very different tune, "The theme from Saving Private Ryan" which is more military in style. Adrian finished of the session with a classic piece of English Folk-rock - Fairport Convention and "Who knows where the time goes". An apt piece to end a listening session which flew by!

Short Walks

16th September - Walk around Swadlincote Woodlands

On the second time of trying six people met at the car park to walk around the Woodlands. We set off just after 10 when the last walker arrived having had difficulty finding the entrance. It is easily missed if you are on your own. We walked the few yards to the climbing rock for the photograph. No one climbed the rock as it is there for the children!

We then walked around onto the main track from the car park through a cool wooded area. Once on the main track we continued as far as the wild gardens for want of a better name which included the site of a time capsule. This was from the date the area changed from an industrial waste land into a parkland. We returned to the main track and crossed the road and entered the wetlands. These were very dry underfoot but would obviously be marshy outside a drought season.

This path goes down to a circular route around some ponds. We turned left and headed in an anticlockwise direction. The first pond is mostly hidden but you get glimpses of it through the trees. The second pond is first seen together with its viewing platform. We spent a little time looking at the wild life - mostly ducks. We then walked around this pond and back to the road and the main woodland area. We took a different and slightly higher path and saw some squirrels. This led back to the car park. Total distance just under 2 miles. The cafe of choice was Morrisons.

Medium walks

12th September. Carlton, led by Alison

Fortunately the weatherman (or woman) was wrong, again, it was a beautiful day with lots of sunshine and the predicted rain did not materialise until right at the end of the walk. Eight of us set off from Main Street, Carlton and our group included 2 new members to our select band of ramblers, and we hope we see them again in the future. The walk was across farm land to Shackerstone Railway Station and the leader thought mud might be an issue, but like the weather forecast, she was wrong. From the station we joined the Ashby canal at bridge 52 and came off at bridge 44, then across the railway line and back to the start point. The walk was 5.5 miles and took just under 2.5 hours.

Longer Walks

20th September. Barton under Needwood, led by Iain

With excellent weather conditions for walking, 14 members set off from the Shoulder of Mutton pub in Barton-under-Needwood to undertake the Silver Circuit walk, in reverse direction. This walk was created in 2016 to commemorate 25 years of the National Forest. The 8-mile circular walk took in Barton Marina, the Trent and Mersey canal (where we helped to pull a narrowboat through a lock), Tatenhill Common and the Dunstall Estate. All 14 stayed on to enjoy excellent food and hospitality at the pub.

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	-