



## Newsletter February 2023

### Interest Groups Timetable for February 2023

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

Group	Date	Time	Venue
<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	Tue 28th	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. Men in Harmony. Songs and Monologues
Arts and Crafts	Thu 2nd	10 am	Packington Village Hall
Bridge	Mon 13th	7 pm	All meetings are at the Ivanhoe Club
	Mon 27rd	7 pm	
Calligraphy	Tue 14th	10 am	At Jenny's. Word of the month is Bright. This is carried over from December's meeting which had to be cancelled
Calligraphy 2	Wed 1st	10 am	At 148 Woodside, Ashby. The first meeting of this new group
Computers	Wed 1st	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
	Mon 20th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	Thu 2nd	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	Wed 15th	10 am	2 Marlborough Way
Family History	Wed 8th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	Thu 16th	2.15 pm	Packington Village Hall. Garden talk by Simon Gulliver, gardens and parks adviser to the National Trust. £4 entry
History	Thu 23rd	2.15 pm	Packington Village Hall. Speaker TBC
Industrial Heritage	Wed 22nd	10 am	Rolls Royce Heritage Trust Museum, Gate 5A, Wilmore Rd, Derby DE24 9BD
Literature	Tue 14th	1.30 pm	Meeting at Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 9th	12 for 12.30 pm	The Gate, Hinckley Rd, Osbaston Hollow, Osbaston CV13 0HP
Medium Walks	Mon 13th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at Oakthorpe Colliery picnic site car park, Ashby Road, Donisthorpe, DE12 7QG
Music Appreciation	Wed 1st	10 am	Yogi and Janet's, 54 Pennine Way, LE65 1EW

### Interest Groups Timetable for February 2023 cont.

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Reading	Wed 15th	2 pm	Meeting at 79 Nottingham Rd
Recorder	Thu 9th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
	Thu 23rd	10 am	
Science & Technology	Mon 13th	2 pm	The Meeting Room, Packington Village Hall. Chris Hesketh "John Snow; the father of epidemiology"
Scrabble	Mon 13th	10.30 am	Bulls Head pub, Market St, Ashby
	Mon 27th	10.30 am	
Short Walks	Fri 17th	10 am	Meet at Mount St Bernards Abbey CP, LE67 5UL
Supper Club	Thu 23rd	7 for 7.30 pm	The Beeches, Burton Rd, Ashby, LE65 2LP
Walking	Tue 7th	9.45 for 10 am start	Meet at The Staff of Life, 7 High Street, Ticknall. Led by Kevin, 07519 975997. This will be a local walk of approx 6.5/7 miles
Wine Appreciation	Wed 15th	7 pm	Annie's house.

### Interest Groups Timetable for early March 2023

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Calligraphy 2	Wed 1st	10 am	At 148 Woodside, Ashby
Music Appreciation	Wed 1st	10 am	At Brenda's, 36 Willesley Gdns
Computer	Wed 1st	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Arts and Crafts	Thu 2nd	10 am	Packington Village Hall
Digital Photography	Thu 2nd	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Bridge	Mon 6th	7 pm	At the Ivanhoe Club
Walking	Tue 7th	9.45 for 10 am start	TBA

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**A reminder that your membership renewal will be due by April 1st.**

The fees this year have unfortunately had to rise due to increased costs such as venue hire. The fees for 2023-24 are:

£22 for a single member and

£18 for a second member at the same address as another Ashby member, or anyone who is a fully paid up member of another u3a.

Membership forms can be printed from the Ashby u3a website; click on the Information tab. Or obtained from the Membership Sec at the monthly meetings. Payments please by bank transfer if possible, or by cheque. Please return signed forms to the address on the bottom of the form.

## REMEMBER WE HAVE A NEW BANK ACCOUNT

The new account is now active and so any payments to Ashby u3a whether for membership fees, trips or social events like the Christmas Lunch can now be made by bank transfers 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. Cash can be accepted but please try to use bank transfers or cheques if at all possible.

Please remember to add some indication to the bank transfer or the back of the cheque as to what the payment is for.

## HELP & WELFARE

### Do you need transport?

Have you got a hospital or Doctor appointment but haven't got transport and can't use a bus?

There is a community transport service available through the Marlene Reid Centre. This is a voluntary service where local drivers use their own cars to get people to appointments.

Contact them on **01530 512456** and please give them much notice as possible to have a better chance of them fulfilling your request

If you live in NW Leicestershire, are over 60 and retired, they should be able to help.

Typical charges are\*

Ashby to Ashby - £6

Ashby to Burton return £20

Ashby to Leicester Royal return £26

Ashby to Glenfield return £22

\*NB Always check the price to be charged when booking transport as they are liable to change.

### 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.

## LAST MONTH'S MEETING

### 24th January - Rebecca Spillane, Fraud Vulnerability Officer, Leicestershire Police. "Scams etc. and how to avoid them"

The subject of Rebecca's talk proved very popular as we had a record turnout to hear her. 133 people crammed into the Congregational Church, more even than we had for Gresley Male Voice Choir or Marilyn Monroe.

Rebecca started by pointing out that there are basically 4 ways that the scammers can initiate contact; by phone, by computer with email or website, by post and by knocking on your front door.

She made the point that phone calls are easiest to deal with - JUST HANG UP. If you are in the least bit suspicious, hang up. You are not being rude, although you can say whatever you like before hanging up! Just don't get into a conversation with them. Once the scammer starts talking they can be very persuasive. Just put the phone down. If it is someone who really wants to contact you, they can leave a message. Listen to that message carefully before replying to it.

Remember, banks. Police or HMRC will never call you asking for money or your bank card details. Anyone asking for that is trying to rob you.

Your bank may call you to say that there has been unusual activity on your account. If, for instance, you've made an unusual purchase, they may phone to check if that really was you. This can be for real, however if they ask you to give bank details or personal info and particularly if they want you to move your money to a "safe" account, HANG UP. This will be a fraud and you could lose a lot of money.

Remember also, if someone phones you claiming to be from Microsoft, Apple or your internet provider to tell you there is a problem with your computer - THEY ARE LYING. Whatever they say, they will be trying to install virus software on your machine or searching for your personal details or your friends email addresses or some other scam that will cost you money in the end. JUST HANG UP.

Postal scams are becoming much rarer but there are still some circulating. You cannot have won the lottery if you didn't buy a ticket! You are very unlikely to have a long lost great aunt you has left you millions in their will! Stop and think, maybe ask someone's opinion, before even considering whether to reply to any of these sort of letter.

Doorstep salesmen can be difficult to deal with. If you need to buy something or get some work done, look in the phone book or a local magazine for a suitable tradesman. Doorstep sellers will often quote a very low price to do some work. The price will almost always escalate to much more than they quoted, and the work will be to a very low quality assuming they do anything at all.

The best thing to do with doorstep sales people is to close the door on them no matter what story they try to tell. From penniless students selling brushes to tradesmen "working just down the street" with some left over tarmac to sell you, just politely but firmly close the door.

A common fraud in Leicester at the moment is a phone call supposedly from your bank or the police asking for your assistance in catching a criminal. They may ask you to withdraw "counterfeit" money from your account and hand it to a courier for testing as they want to catch a criminal bank teller in action, and that you will supposedly be reimbursed for your trouble. They will say that you must not tell the bank why you are withdrawing so much money, even if they ask, as this may alert the criminal teller. Do not fall for this. You won't ever see your money again.

So called Romance Fraud can be one of the worst types of fraud. People are tricked into starting a conversation either online or on one of the phone chat apps. These people can be very plausible but after a while they will ask for a small amount of money to pay an urgent debt or to buy something needed immediately. They now have you hooked.

These scammers are very clever at stringing people along and will gradually work their way into their lives and possibly their affections, and will take as much money from them as they can. Some people have lost their entire savings, gone into vast debt and even ended up homeless because of these heartless thieves. Don't trust anyone online who asks for money. It is very difficult to spot them at first but alarm bells should start to ring after a while.

Never send money to people, and never receive money either. This will most likely be a way of laundering proceeds of crime and you could end up in court accused of money-laundering. A serious offence.

So, a very interesting and informative talk from Rebecca.

And as they used to say in "Hill Street Blues" - "Let's be careful out there"

## **NEW GROUPS STARTING IN THE NEW YEAR**

Several new groups are in the process of getting started. Details will follow both here and on the website when more information is available. Colin Woodland, as Groups Co-ordinator, is helping them get under way. If you are interested in joining any of them please contact Colin at [interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk) or 01530 413867. The groups are:

### **Scrabble**

This group has had it's first meeting and is off and running.

### **French**

This group has 15 potential members but is looking for someone with some abilities in speaking French to lead it. Can you help?

### **Croquet**

Rupert Knapton is organising this group which is hoping to get started in March or April.

### **Calligraphy 2**

The current Calligraphy group has a waiting list of approx 10 people and so it has been decided to start a second group. Tom and Jenny Ingham have agreed to lead it and Sue Cornell and the rest of the original group will be helping them to set it up.

### **Book Club**

The Literature group is also fully subscribed and so Annie Scotney is starting a second group. This should be up and running soon.

## **GROUP REPORTS**

### **Gardening**

#### **19th January**

Today we had a talk on bees. It was amazing how interesting they are, how much there is to learn about them, and the different jobs they have.

Nigel Collier is a local beekeeper from Measham and he has different hives around a wide area of the district. He brought samples of honey from 5 different areas for us to taste all with their own distinctive taste and sweetness.

We were all fascinated by Nigel's talk, at the end of which he successfully answered the many questions we asked.

## **Social Events – Burns Supper**

### **26th January**

70 people arrived at Willesley Park Golf Club for this year's Burns Supper. Don Jarram was there again this year to entertain us with the bagpipes whilst we socialised before taking our places. The evening commenced with Bill parading the haggis around the room accompanied by Don and his pipes. Bill then gave "The Address to the Haggis" - "Great chieftain o' the Puddin-race..." before ritually cutting it open with the Toast to the Haggis followed by the Selkirk grace. The Haggis was then paraded back round the room and out to the kitchen to be served up.

The meal started with the traditional Scotch Broth before the Haggis neeps and tatties arrived (some opted for chicken or a vegetarian option) which was followed by Cranachan dessert. All very lovely and served nicely by the staff at the Golf Club.

After the excellent meal, Don played a selection of well known Scottish tunes which had us all singing and clapping along, Chairman Tony gave us a potted history of Rabbie, and our resident poet laureate, Colin Woodland, gave the "Address to the Lassies" with a hilarious poem of his own composition.

Bill was in fine voice as he sang one of Burns' many songs and recited the tale of "The Wee Timorous Beastie"

The evening closed, of course, with us all singing Auld Lang Syne after being reminded that one doesn't hold hands until the second verse. We are getting better, a few more this year knew the words to verse two!

Another excellent evening with lovely food, great entertainment and plenty of good company. Thank you to Bill and Avril, Tony, Colin and all the staff at the Golf Club.

## **Arts & Crafts**

### **12th January**

The January Arts and Crafts group went very well on Thursday. We were in our new location at Packington Village Hall, in the small back room. It was plenty big enough for the 12 of us that attended. We had lovely tables, ample chairs, a sink, kettle and fridge. We even had our own private toilet – couldn't be better!

The ladies all tried a new craft: Crystal Art. We did a small project – Luggage Tags. The ladies found it very therapeutic and have asked to do a bigger project later in the year.

Since everyone was so pleased with the room, I have now booked it for the first Thursday of each month from 10am to 12 noon, except for the month of May, when the room will be used as part of a polling station. Since, this year, there are 3 public holidays in May, I have decided we will NOT be meeting for that month.

I look forward to seeing you this coming Thursday, 2 February at Packington Village Hall, when we will begin making Easter Wreaths which I think will take us 2 sessions to complete.

**NOTE:** If you are coming on Thursday and have a glue gun, can you please bring it.

## **Calligraphy**

### **17th January**

The Calligraphy group had our 'Christmas' lunch on Tuesday and the next meeting will be on Feb. 14th at Jenny's house.

We'll be finishing off the work we've done on the work BRIGHT and then planning for the rest of the term.

## **Calligraphy 2**

The group are holding their first meeting at Tom and Jenny's to get together and hopefully sort out a programme for the next few weeks with the aid of Sue and Jenny from the original Calligraphy group. We wish them good luck.

## **Drawing and painting**

### **18th January**

On the very day scheduled for the January session, the theme of which was "Snow scene" we were inspired by real SNOW !!!

Six of us had "fun" in the snow. See the gallery on the website

Next month, February 15th, --- 10am at 2MW, --- theme "BUILDINGS"

## **Bridge**

The Bridge group now meets fortnightly on Mondays at the Ivanhoe Social Club from 7 to 9pm. Free parking is still available. The schedule may change occasionally so please check the website.

## **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.

### **16th January**

An interesting afternoon today. There were 7 attendees, and some interesting discussions.

The first was concerning the way different email software handled Group emails. Most, including Outlook and Virgin Mail have a useful facility for creating group distribution lists, but Gmail does not directly allow that.

You have first to assemble a group with the Google People app, then label the Group. That label is what you use as the addressee.

Of course, if you wish only to assemble a one-off list of people, and not a defined Group, all you need to do is attach the addressees one by one in the address line.

There was also a discussion on the use of bcc, i.e. sending a blind copy of the email so that other peoples email addresses are not disclosed to all recipients. This keeps email addresses private but does make it difficult for people to reply to other recipients as they don't know who they are!

WhatsApp is very useful if you have a small group. If there is a great deal of interaction it is necessary for clarity to use the discipline of swiping a comment before adding a reply. Otherwise, others will not know to what or whom you are answering

The other discussion was on the use of 'Track changes' for editing other people's work in Word. You can call it up using the Comments pull down menu but some of the options available are not obvious.

No other problems were offered, although we did look briefly at the Burton Group's method of dealing with requests for help which seems to be a lot more formal than our method, although I have since spoken to Burton Group's leader and they have good reasons for this such as the cost of a venue.

## **Digital Photography**

5th January

For our first meeting of 2023 we had 6 attendees.

We had an enjoyable time viewing each other's photos of Christmas and the New Year.

Then John P showed a very interesting YouTube video of colourising old photos. We discussed the way people have colourised from the earliest attempts to the latest digital procedures, and the pros and cons of the process. We agreed that there were at least two contexts: artistic and historical realism.

Altogether a pleasant start to the year. Next time, on the 2nd February, we will show our pictures recalling 2022.

## **Supper club**

January

The Supper Club didn't meet in January as it clashed with the Burns Supper. In February we shall be visiting The Beeches in Ashby.

## **Lunch**

12th January

The Lunch group had its first outing of the year at the Bull's Head, Thringstone. A good turnout enjoyed their very nice looking carvery but your author was the only one to have something else which I enjoyed too.

## **Science & Technology**

9th January – The Far Side of the Moon by Dr Julian Onions

We had a change of venue to the meeting room (not the main hall) at Packington Village Hall, this month but a record attendance of 30 people meant that we were a bit crowded. Paul is still looking for a venue which can take our larger numbers comfortably.

Dr Julian Onions is a researcher and lecturer in the Astronomy Department of the University of Nottingham so was well qualified to talk to us about the side of the Moon we cannot see from Earth, often called the 'Dark' side, which reflects how little is known about it, not its lack of illumination. Julian reviewed the race into space in the 1960s between the US and Russia, which was led initially by Russia launching the first satellite (1957), Luna 3 to photograph the far side of the Moon, then the first human, Yuri Gagarin (1961) and finally the first space walk (1965). After disasters by both sides in 1967, the US finally edged in front by a manned orbit of the Moon (Apollo 8) and won the race with the first manned lunar landing and walk (Apollo 11) in 1969.

At the same time as all this scientific exploration, there were many conspiracy theories written in the popular press about earthly objects being seen on the lunar surface, a WW2 bomber, a builder's hut and many towers and pylons, all fuzzy images created by the poor resolution of the telescopes and cameras of the time. Looking to the future, Julian showed how lunar resources could be flown to Earth using far less fuel than that used to get to the Moon, because of its lack of atmosphere and low gravity. Recently, other countries have launched their own Lunar missions, notably China, India, South Korea and Japan. A 'fun fact' from this entertaining talk; where we see a Man in the Moon, the Chinese culture has a rabbit!

The meeting also included a review by Lynda Kovach of Hannah Fry's book, Hello World: How to be Human in the Age of the Machine, a lively, engaging introduction to the topic of algorithms, machine learning and artificial intelligence. Paul McKay then gave a short presentation on the imminent launch of the Virgin's Orbit mission to put satellites into space from an airport in Newquay, Cornwall



## History

### 26th January. 'Rasputin. Saint or Sinner?' by Yogi Godwin

Today was an historic day as we had 62 attendees, an all-time record!. We were all there for Yogi's talk on Rasputin. And as usual he did not disappoint.

Rasputin is one of those figures you expect to find in a Restoration play or one by Marivaux. Or possibly in one of Edgar Alan Poe's drug fuelled stories. But in fact he lived from 1869 to 1916, during a period of great turbulence in Russia. His legacy is beset with alternative interpretations and lurid accounts which Yogi outlined for us in excellent style.

His short history is peppered with several odd, lengthy gaps, lasting around ten years each, for which there is no explanation.

The conventional story is that he was born in a remote part of Siberia as the only survivor of eight children to a poor tenant farmer. His early life would have been very hard as Siberia is even now a very harsh environment with temperatures rarely above 0 Celsius in winter and often down to minus 40. Life would have been very constrained in small villages, with no near neighbours.

Nothing much is known about his life until he was around 18, when he seems to be married with three children. Even then, though, he had a reputation of being a heavy drinker and womanising and fathering many children and disappearing for weeks at a time. Reputedly uneducated he seems to have been largely self-taught and earned a living by holding seances.

He next appears at age 28 seemingly attending a monastery, and becoming a pilgrim, subsisting on charity. It was then his reputation as a healer seems to have been earned. Several instances of his 'healing powers' are recorded, and women seemed attracted to him. He was able to increase the size of his pupils, which is known to make people attractive to others (possibly because it signals interest in the other). This is a technique also used by hypnotists. After seances followed by dancing, women are found unclothed but with no knowledge of what happened. The museum at St Petersburg has an object described as part of his anatomy and measuring 12 inches. It is not his foot...

There is another gap until he is aged 37. In 1905 he managed an introduction to the Tsar's family and became the Royal Lamplighter in the Tsar's palace. By apparently healing the Tsarevich, heir to the throne, of haemophilia, he wormed his way into their confidence. Surviving at the Palace until War broke out in 1914, he became very close to the Tsarina when Tsar Nicholas had to leave St Petersburg to take charge of the Army.

He was very influential, persuading her to make political changes, advising her on religious matters and generally supplanting her other most senior advisors, which made him many powerful enemies.

A determined attempt was made on his life, in which a bizarre sequence of events took place. He was apparently poisoned, without effect, shot, but not killed, kicked and beaten by the assassins, and shot again, then thrown in the river. This seemed to have done the trick, as he was found two days later, and buried after a post-mortem. He was then exhumed and cremated for good measure in 1917.

By now the Bolsheviks were in power, and set out to discredit the Royals and all their entourage, including Rasputin, and this seems to be the story we have just heard.

Another version of the story has emerged however.

It seems he was, in fact, born into a wealthy family. The healing of the Tsarevich, Alexander, was down to Rasputin stopping the use of aspirin by his doctors, which is now known to be totally contra-indicated for haemophiliacs. His 'healing' powers are now attributed to his powerful hypnotic technique and calming influence. His poisoning failed because the chemist asked to supply the Strychnine panicked and supplied ground-up aspirin instead. It might be supposed that the shooting would have finished the job. However, when his body was recovered he had water in his lungs, which suggests that he was still alive when he went into the river.

Finally, the post-mortem found his body intact. Which raises questions about the exhibit in St Petersburg!

The story does not quite end here. Three days before his death he wrote to the Tsar, saying that if he was to be killed by royalty, the Tsar and all his family will be killed by the Russian people.

Which, of course turned out to be only too true. Maybe he did have special powers!

Another classic offering by Yogi. Many thanks!

## **Recorder**

### **19th January**

We had six members at our meeting this morning. We played some new music, and some which was familiar. We tried an arrangement of "Bare Necessities" and some renaissance dance tunes; we're keeping up the variation in styles.

We've agreed to move the dates of our meetings in February and March back a week, to 9th and 23rd.

## **Reading**

The Reading Group is getting started with an inaugural meeting on Wednesday 15th Feb. The group will normally meet at 2pm on the third Wednesday in the month at Annie's house.

## **Wine Appreciation**

### **18th January**

This month Annie supplied a selection of four Pinot Noir wines from France, Argentina, New Zealand and California with prices ranging from £4.69 to £18.99! It was up to the six of us present to determine whether the price difference was worth it.

Pinot Noir is the grape used to make Burgundy wines, often regarded as being the best wines in the world but at prices far in excess of even our dearest wine. For instance a single bottle of Romanée-Conti 2018 sold for \$20,000 at Christies in December!!

So starting with a lowly £4.69 French wine from Aldi we found this to be very pleasant to drink having classical scents of soft fruits like strawberry but tasting more of black fruits like cherry. We thought it was extremely good value and would buy it again.

Annie had read that Pinot Noir is supposed to taste very different depending on the size and shape of the glass it is served in. We were keen to test this theory and so poured some into standard narrow wine-tasting glasses and some into much larger wide-rimmed glasses. We all agreed that the effect was astounding. The wine tasted entirely different, and much better, in the larger glasses. The scientists among us concluded that it must be something to do with the evaporation of lighter, more pungent alcohols in the wider glass. Who knows, the difference was certainly dramatic enough for all of us to taste and smell the difference.

The second wine, a rather thin and slightly bitter one from Argentina, was nonetheless also improved by the wider glass, so we abandoned the narrow glasses for the rest of the evening!

The third wine, at £9 from NZ via Tesco was, by contrast, very dark and quite tannic and whilst very nice it really needed food to complement it. Roast lamb would have been ideal.

And so to the £19 bottle from California. Well we all agreed that it was head and shoulders above the rest and it scored 9 or 9.5/10 from everyone. It seems that with Pinot Noir you really do get what you pay for. A very interesting tasting session.

Next month Chris and Tanya are providing a selection of Riojas from Spain.

## **Scrabble**

### **16th January**

This was the first meeting of the newly formed Scrabble group at the Bull's Head in Market Street, Ashby. Five people met, and after a little bit of admin we began our game.

As several of us had not played for a long time, there was some discussion of the rules, ably assisted by Colin Woodland who came along with Sharon. Colin, it seems, is an expert, so we were glad of his input. We have decided to meet fortnightly at the Bull's Head at 10.30. All are welcome, and there will not be a charge so long as everyone patronises the pub by buying tea, coffee or something stronger.

The next meeting was due be on 30th Jan, with the following one on Feb 13th, and would everyone please remember to bring their membership number.

## **Family History**

### **11th January**

For our first meeting in 2023 we had 8 at table, including one new friend: Henry Sharples, and two working from home.

John D later reported that he will be going to Wakefield at the end of January and might well have some news to report next time.

Heather is still working through her tree.

Ana has the task of sorting out which of two ancestors, one born in 1908 and one in 1911, is the correct one for her line. This requires careful tracing of their descendants to separate them.

Jane has some DNA contacts from her mum's cousins to evaluate and follow up: this could be interesting! In addition, she talked with Mary about the Chilvers Family.

They are not closely related it seems, but it is possible their lines converge further up the Tree.

Mary had little new to report, bar her conversations with Jane.

Derry is still building her tree.

Dora (from home) reported that she has made good progress with the Parish Records for the mid-1700s, chasing the children of her 4th x great grandfather. Also she is following up information from 1670s about other relatives.

Henry already has significant information about his father's line, although not in tree form. We looked at first steps in creating a tree, and completed the first stages back to his grandfather.

Next time we will concentrate on his mother's line of which he knows very little.

## **Industrial Heritage**

We had our planning meeting this month at the White Hart in town to try to work out the year's programme and 22 people turned up! We are obviously all keen to get out to visit places.

It didn't take too long to come up with a provisional programme although there has already been a little shuffling of venue dates when the Mini factory couldn't provide the hoped for February date.

Our first outing will be to the Rolls Royce aero engines Heritage Trust Museum in Derby. This was advertised two days ago and is already fully booked with 30 places taken!

Other trips will appear on the website as they get finalised. There looks to be a good and varied programme ahead.

## **Music Appreciation**

### **4th January**

For our first meeting of the year we had two new members join us, Heather and Margaret, and so there were 10 of us at Neil's house.

Lesley started us off with Whitney Houston and "I will always love you" written by Dolly Parton, but it is the Whitney version that is most well known.

Heather it seems is a country and western fan and so her first choice was Don Williams' "Where do I go from here". Excellent.

Yogi brought us another lovely choral piece, this time "Assumpta est Maria" by Palestrina and Janet followed that with "Chanson du matin" by Elgar, a fine piece that was new to most of us.

Nev brought us round to early rock n roll with "Blue Suede Shoes", not by Elvis but by its composer Carl Perkins. Mike offered some blues in the form of Seasick Steve singing "Walking Man"

Brenda had chosen Billie Holiday singing "Love me or leave me". Such a wonderful and distinctive voice.

For Margaret's first track she chose "The pearl fishers" by Jossi Björling and Robert Merrill. A rightly legendary performance. Sallie followed it with "Die Fledermaus Overture" by Johann Strauss, whilst Neil's choice was the theme tune from "Manon des Sources"

For the second round, Lesley again played us Whitney and "One moment in time". She had such a beautiful voice. Then Heather gave us the incomparable Ella Fitzgerald and "Begin the Beguine"

Next were two more Elgar pieces, Yogi chose "Nimrod" and Janet chose "Chanson de Nuit". Classic in all senses of the word.

Nev's second song was some early British skiffle by the once well-known Nancy Whiskey with the Chas McDevitt band singing "Greenback Dollar" whilst Mike came more up to date with some Electro-swing and Tape Five with "Cool Cat in Town". Very upbeat.

One of Brenda's favourites is the jazz singer is Carol Kidd, this time singing the classic "The folks who live on the hill". Another classic piece of piano music is "Ballad for Adeline" and Margaret chose Richard Clayderman's excellent version.

Sallie changed the mood with a humorous piece, Henry Hall and his orchestra playing "Teddy Bear's Picnic" recorded in 1932. We all knew all the words and sang along!

Neil closed the morning with Bryan Ferry singing "The Price of Love" originally by the Everley Brothers.

## **Longer Walks**

### **17th January. Around Thringstone, led by Tony**

16 members of the walking group met at the George and Dragon pub Thringstone on a bright but cold wintry morning. We set off up Lilly Bank to avoid walking along the busy A512 and took a path alongside the primary school to a suitable crossing point where we crossed the A512 and followed the path into Osgathorpe.

We then traversed a number of frozen fields crossing over the Ashby to Rempstone Rd and emerging into Belton. We stopped for coffee and then walked down Long St to it's junction with the B5324 . The return route to Osgathorpe took us round Osgathorpe Hall and to complete the figure of 8 walk we strolled down Meadow Lane and Stordon Lane and back to the George and Dragon for lunch.

## **Medium walks**

### **9th January. Ferrers Arms to Heath End, led by Alison**

Our group of 11 walkers met at The Ferrers Arms, Lount and, fortuitously, our day proved to be a dry one - quite a rarity lately. We were joined by some new walkers to our group and we hope to see them again in the future.

The walk started across fields, skirting Lount Wood onto the Staunton Harold access road and on to the CP there. From there we walked across fields to Heath End where we picked up The Ivanhoe Way. This we followed until reaching Alistair's Wood, after which we picked up the permissive path which is on the track bed of the former Derby to Ashby railway, which closed in 1955.

We came out on the Lount road just a few hundred meters from our starting point.

Yes there was mud - for 1 walker a little more than others! - but we kept dry and did see some sunshine. Just under 5 miles and a belated Christmas lunch at the pub afterwards.

## **Short Walks**

### **20th January. Around Ashby starting from the park gates.**

The weather was good if somewhat cold. When all the problems of non-working parking meters were solved, the 5 of us set off along the path through the park stopping only for a group photo. After leaving the path we took an alleyway by the old Smisby Road Newsagents and crossed into the housing estate opposite. We turned left along Canterbury drive and Rouen Way. Where the road turned right, we turned left onto the track behind Burton Road following it around to the right coming out on Burton Road opposite Hill Street.

We took the road towards Burton as far as Churchill Close at the end of which is a path to the playing field. We turned left along this path to Highfield Close and hence onto the Moira Road. We crossed the Road and took the path leading to the allotments. We kept to the path through the allotments to Wilfred Place. We walked as far as the Ivanhoe Club and took the path opposite, Churchside walk, down to Kilwardby Street. We then looked for a café. The first two we tried were closed and we ended up in the Dolce cafe next to the greengrocers. Total distance just over 2 miles.

## **IF YOU WANT TO GET IN TOUCH, OUR COMMITTEE ARE:**

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