

## Newsletter September 2024

### Interest Groups Timetable for September 2024

Please note that this timetable could change at short notice. Check the website for the latest news.

| Group                  | Date   | Time                            | Venue  |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Monthly Meeting</b> | Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>   | 2 pm                            | Congregational Church, Ashby.<br>A talk by Andrew Barson on 'A coordinated Ashby and environs'                       |
| Arts and Crafts        | Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 10 am                           | Packington Village Hall  |
| Breakfast              | Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>   | 10 am                           | TBA  |
| Bridge                 | Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Mon 9 <sup>th</sup><br>Mon 16 <sup>th</sup><br>Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 11 am<br>7 pm<br>11 am<br>11 am | Ivanhoe Social Club.   |
| Calligraphy            | Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>   | 10 am                           | At Anne's  |
| Coffee and Chat        | Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>   | 10 am                           | TBA  |
| Computer               | Wed 4 <sup>th</sup><br>Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>  | 2 pm                            | 16 Winchester Way  |
| Croquet                | Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>   | 10 am                           | Moira Miners Welfare   |
| Digital Photography    | Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 10 am                           | 16 Winchester Way  |
| Drawing and painting   | Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>   | 10 am                           | 2 Marlborough Way  |
| Family History         | Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>   | 2 pm                            | 2 Marlborough Way  |
| Food from Afar         | Thu 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 6 for 6.30 pm                   | TBA  |
| French                 | Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>  | 11 am                           | Ivanhoe Social Club.   |
| Gardening              | Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>   | 9.45 am                         | Coach trip to Hidcote Gardens Coach departs 9.45 am from the Royal Hotel. Coach £20. Entry £16.15 Free to NT members |
| History                | Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>   | 2.15 pm                         | Packington Village Hall. Yogi Godwin - 'The 1849 Health Report on Ashby'   |
| Industrial Heritage    | Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>   | TBA                             | Museum of Timekeeping, Upton, nr Newark NG23 5TE   |
| Literature             | Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>   | 1:30 pm                         | Sandra's house   |
| Lunch                  | Thu 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 12 for 12.30                    | TBA  |

| Group                | Date   | Time                           | Venue  |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Medium Walks         | Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>                          | 9.45 for 10am start            | Meet at the village car park in Packington by Vicarage Lane near to the church         |
| Music Appreciation   | Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>                          | 10 am                          | Brenda's, 36 Willesley Gdns  |
| Recorder             | Thu 5 <sup>th</sup><br>Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>  | 10 am                          | St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal  |
| Rummikub             | Tue 10 <sup>th</sup><br>Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> | 11 am                          | Ivanhoe Social Club.   |
| Science & Technology | Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>                         | 2 pm                           | Packington Village Hall. Talk by Jenny Arthur – 'Erasmus Darwin and the Lunar society' |
| Scrabble             | Mon 9 <sup>th</sup><br>Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>  | 10.30 am                       | The Bulls Head, Ashby  |
| Short Walks          | Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>                         | 10 am                          | Meet at the car park of Sence Valley 14 Ravenstone Road, Ibstock, LE67 6NW             |
| Singing for Fun      | -  | -                              | No meeting this month  |
| Social Events        | Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>                          | -                              | <b>Bowls Evening has been CANCELLED *</b>  |
| Supper Club          | Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>                         | 7 for 7.30 pm                  | George & Dragon, Ashby Rd, Thringstone LE67 8UH  |
| Walking              | Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>  | 9.45 for 10am<br>9.45 for 10am | Meet at Staff of Life, Ticknall<br>Meet at Mount St Bernards Abbey CP. LE67 5UL        |
| Wine Appreciation    | Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>                         | 7 pm                           | Annie's house  |

**\* Please note that the Bowls Evening on Friday 6th Sept has had to be cancelled due to a shortage of members available to attend.**

#### Interest Groups Timetable for early October 2024

| Group               | Date                | Time          | Venue                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Walking             | Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> | 9.45 for 10am | TBA                                   |
| Music Appreciation  | Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 10 am         | TBA                                   |
| Computer            | Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 2 pm          | 16 Winchester Way                     |
| Digital Photography | Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 10 am         | 16 Winchester Way                     |
| Arts & Crafts       | Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 10 am         | Packington Village Hall               |
| Recorder            | Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 10 am         | St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal |
| Food from Afar      | Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 6 for 6.30 pm | TBA                                   |
| Scrabble            | Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30 am      | The Bulls Head, Ashby                 |
| Bridge              | Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> | TBA           | Ivanhoe Social Club.                  |

## AGM – 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

We held our AGM on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> at which a number of committee members whose two year term was over were re-elected by the members present, namely John Pilgrim, Iain Banns and Val Reed. Estelle Sandles was co-opted on to the committee during the year and so she was also formally elected. Kevin Green was reappointed as our Auditor.

A couple of the committee have stood down, namely Bill Wilson and Colin Ellis. Avril Wilson has also said that she won't be returning to the committee now that her term as Ashby mayor has ended. We thank them all for the sterling work they have done for our u3a for many years and their experience will be sorely missed. A presentation was made to Bill and Avril to show our appreciation but Colin was unfortunately not available so a presentation will be made to him later.

The AGM was followed by our annual Cream Tea served by the committee. The weather was reasonably kind to us this year with no rain and so many people opted to sit outside in the garden and take advantage of the sunshine.

Here is a list of your committee for 2024-5. If anyone else would like to join us, you don't have to wait until next year, you can be co-opted on to the committee at any time!

| Role                        | Name            | Contact email  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Chairman                    | John Pilgrim    | <a href="mailto:chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk">chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>   |
| Business Secretary          | Tony Smith      | <a href="mailto:secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk">secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a> |
| Treasurer                   | Val Reed        | <a href="mailto:treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk">treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a> |
| Membership Secretary        | Iain Banns      | <a href="mailto:members@ashbyu3a.co.uk">members@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>     |
| Interest Group Co-ordinator | Estelle Sandles | <a href="mailto:interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk">interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a> |
| Welfare                     | Estelle Sandles | <a href="mailto:welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk">welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>     |
| Speaker seeker              | Yogi Godwin     | <a href="mailto:speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk">speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>   |
| Communications              | Mike Stow       | <a href="mailto:webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk">webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a> |
| Social Secretary            | Glenys Morrice  | <a href="mailto:socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk">socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>     |

## WELFARE

Estelle Sandles who looks after Welfare can be contacted at [welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk) or 01530 234309

If you know of any member who is unwell or isolating or has a family member who is unwell, please contact Estelle or any other committee member and we can see if there is anything we can do to help, whether it is collecting some shopping or prescriptions, having a chat or just sending a card.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH DEC 5<sup>TH</sup>

We now have the menu and are negotiating the price for the Christmas lunch. I shall be sending out details to everyone as soon as everything is finalised. Because last year the Golf Club had some difficulty dealing with the large number of members who wanted to attend, we, along with the Golf Club, have decided to limit the numbers to 80 members. There will be 10 tables each of 8 people. If you wish to sit with friends please let us know who they are, remembering that it can be a maximum of 8 people.

We will do our best to get everyone seated with their friends but cannot guarantee that we can please you all.

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Many groups took a break in August for holidays so some reports are a bit shorter than usual so that gives me the chance to include some pictures for a change.

### **ARTS AND CRAFTS – Leader: Sharon Woodland - [artcraft@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:artcraft@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 01530 413867**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> August

The Craft Group met at the Packington Village Hall back room as usual.

### **BREAKFAST – Leader: Colin Woodland - [breakfast@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:breakfast@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 01530 413867**

#### 15<sup>th</sup> August - Swarkestone Nursery

The group met at the Swarkestone Nursery this month.

If anyone would like to have the fun of arranging these breakfasts, please let Colin know and he will be pleased to help you take over the role.

### **BRIDGE – Leader: Neil Roberts - [bridge@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:bridge@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 01530 455957 or 07804 743471**

The group is meeting at the Ivanhoe Club every Monday in September. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am to 1.30pm and on the 9<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9pm.

If you are interested and would like to know more please call Neil Roberts, details above.

### **CALLIGRAPHY – Leader: Sue Cornell - [calligraphy@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:calligraphy@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 01530 413345**

#### August

Due to many of us being on holiday, we didn't meet this month

Our next meeting on September 10th will be at Ann's house.

### **CALLIGRAPHY 2 – Leader: Val Reed - [calligraphy2@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:calligraphy2@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - 01530 564279**

We have taken the decision to suspend this group for a while as only two of us have been attending. If there is further interest it may be revived.

### **COFFEE AND CHAT – Leader: Colin Woodland - [coffee@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:coffee@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 01530 413867**

#### 14<sup>th</sup> August – Sunnyside Garden Centre

The group met at Sunnyside Garden Centre, Ibstock this month.

### **CROQUET – Leader: Rupert Knapton - [croquet@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:croquet@ashbyu3a.co.uk)**

#### 30<sup>th</sup> August

The Croquet Group again had great weather and equalled the best turnout of the year (13) for our August meeting.

The last two sessions this year will be on Friday 27th September and Friday 25th October. The official croquet season ends with the change back to GMT.

### **FOOD FROM AFAR - Leader: Colin Woodland - [food from afar@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:food from afar@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - 01530 413867**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> August – La Torre

The group visited La Torre in Coalville this month.

**COMPUTERS - Leader: John Howlett - computer@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 461774**

19<sup>th</sup> August

We had seven today with one or two problems. Fred was plagued by mystery virus warnings which were not identified by McAfee. He has a multiuser version of MS Office 365, and it maybe that Windows is picking up old files on an old computer. Further investigation needed I feel.

Mike reported that the last session's issue with Windows 11 not recognising a printer has been sorted with a home visit. Deleting the printer from Windows and reinstalling it fixed it.

Another discussion centred on backing up emails and the various methods that can be used.

Offline, JD encountered a problem with Notes on his iPad. It seems that, if you formally Delete a note, it can be recovered, but if you inadvertently delete the contents of a note, it can't.

This is easy to do, as it sometimes happens that a careless finger movement can highlight the entire Note, rather than one word or line. In this event, removing the highlight has to be done on the Note screen, rather than via the keyboard, as any key stroke is assumed to be the delete command.

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY - Leader: John Howlett - digphoto@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 461774**

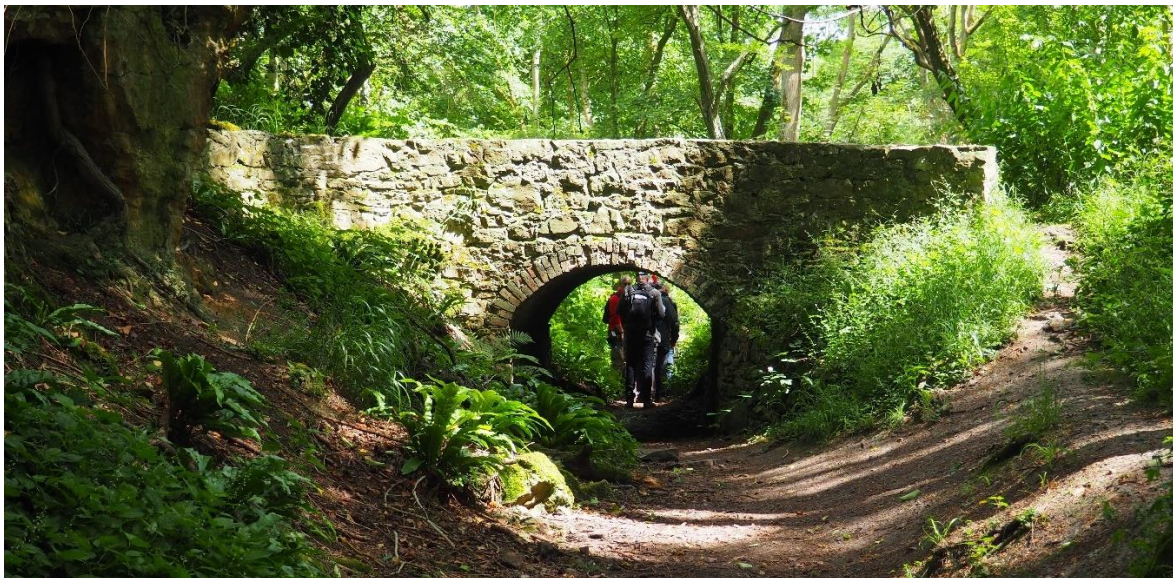
1<sup>st</sup> August

Today's session was held at Colin's house.

There were 6 present, and we critiqued the photos we took at our last session which was a guided tour of Calke lime pits, conducted by Brian who is not only a group member but also a guide at Calke.

Some photos were also shown of the Group's previous visit to the Deer Park at Calke also conducted by Brian at the previous but one session, although there were only three of us 'On Safari' that day.

Our next session will be on Sept 5th at Winchester Way, with a possible expedition subject to the weather.



**FAMILY HISTORY - Leader: John Dogherty - familyhistory@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 411148**

14<sup>th</sup> August

There was no meeting this month because of holidays, although the Leader did have a very interesting meeting in Italy with the Italian relatives of his son in law, at which they reviewed the Italian side of the Tree, and made several amendments.

We next meet on Wednesday 11th Sept at 2 Marlborough Way at 2 pm.



21<sup>st</sup> August

The D&P August session was an 'own choice' of subject. The results varied between portraiture and landscapes, with a couple of DIY 'Banksy' attempts thrown into the mix.

A relaxing, productive morning.

At our next session on Sept 18th at 2 Marlborough Way at 10 am, we will chat about the themes for the rest of the year.



Lesley's Homage to Lowry

**FRENCH – Co-ordinator: Tony Smith - french@ashbyu3a.co.uk - 01530 831822**

5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August

The French group continue to meet fortnightly at 11am on Monday mornings for 2 hours. The venue is The Ivanhoe Club at Wilfred Place, Ashby. Next meeting is Monday 2nd September.

We also often meet on alternate weeks in a members house.

In the last few weeks we have been reading short stories from a text book and using them as a basis for dictation exercises. This improves writing skills as well as comprehension and the author of the book sets short multiple choice questions at the end of each chapter. In addition we usually try in turns to tell the group what we have each been doing since the last meeting to improve conversational skills. If that's not enough we often try and master different but common mistakes particular to spoken French.

**GARDENING - Leader: Paul Dean - gardening@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 07707 862762**

**15<sup>th</sup> August – Garden Party**

After all the beautiful weather of late Sheila and I were looking forward to the gardening group Garden Party, then the forecast changed and we were worried that our hosts Bob and Margaret would be doing lots of work only for it to be a washout! THANKFULLY, the rain held off and around 47 members turned up with their garden chairs and all appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Lots of socialising, discussion about plants and general good fun was to be had.

Margaret had been very busy making scones and lemon drizzle cake, a few other members also donated cakes and scones so there was more than enough to eat. Liquid refreshment was also available. We had a really good plant raffle which was free to members. Margaret asked if she could ask for voluntary donations for a Breast Cancer charity, to which most people donated. In addition she made a fruit cake for a guess the weight of the cake competition and sold shortbread biscuits she made. 100% of the proceeds were added to the breast cancer charity fund. What a wonderful, fun afternoon we had!

I would like to extend my appreciation to Margaret and Bob for hosting the party, all members who helped in any way, and to everyone who attended and made a cloudy (but dry) day a very special one. Ha, I say dry, it started to rain when most members had left but unfortunately many had walked and got soaked on their way home.

Paul, Gardening Group Leader.

**HISTORY – Leader: Yogi Godwin - history@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 467840**

**29<sup>th</sup> August. – A day trip to Bath**

The group made their annual coach outing to Bath this year, which has been organised by Colin. A mammoth task!

The coach left Ashby at 8.30, arriving in Bath at around 11 after a short stop at Gloucester Services.

With the weather co-operating nicely, there was much on offer to visit. There are, of course, the Roman Baths but also the abbey and various museums along with the Royal Crescent, riverside gardens and a multitude of eating and drinking venues including the world-famous Sally Lunn's. Some took advantage of the sunshine to take the open-top bus tour around the city and everyone was free to do their own thing until 6pm when the coach departed.

The journey back was trouble-free and the coach dropped everyone off at the Royal by 9pm.

**LITERATURE – Leader: Sandra Harris - literature@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 416653**

The literature Group gets together once a month to discuss books which they have read in the weeks before. They discuss the plot, the style of writing, the start and finish of the storyline, the meaning (if any) of the story and of course whether they liked it or not. Discussions can be quite lively. A full list of the books we are going to read this year are on our webpage.

**INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE – Leader: Mike Stow - indhist@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 469152**

**August**

We took a summer break this month due to many people including our leader having many other commitments.

We shall be back in Sept on the 25<sup>th</sup> with a guided tour of the Museum of Timekeeping at Upton near Newark. We have visited it before some years ago and it was fascinating. Hopefully many who haven't been before would find it equally interesting and it is well worth a second visit if you have been before. Timings and other details will be sorted soon.

7<sup>th</sup> August

We had a full house at Mike's this month with 9 attending.

In honour of our speaker at the Monthly Meeting, Nev kicked off with Vince Eager and his version of "El Paso" a cowboy ballad made famous in 1959 by Marty Robbins but Vince's version was just as good.

Janet's 1<sup>st</sup> choice was Chris de Burgh and his big hit "Lady in Red"

Very different was Yogi's choice – "The Song of the Flea" a humorous operatic song written by Mussorgsky and sung by the Australian Bass-Baritone Peter Dawson.

Neil had watched a program on TV about the jazz bands of the 50s and 60s and so played us Count Basie and "All of Me"

Heather switched us to country music with John Denver "Leaving on a Jet Plane", a somewhat ironic tune as he died when his own plane crashed over the Pacific.

Sallie stayed with Country with country music pioneer Hank Williams and "Lovesick Blues"

Brenda changed the style yet again and showed the video of Susan Boyle's first appearance on BGT where everyone was shocked to hear her voice as she sang "I Have a Dream"

Dorothy brought us back to the classics with the Adagietto from Mahler's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony played by the Berlin Philharmoniker conducted by Simon Rattle. A beautiful piece of music.

Mike took us to early Blues music with England's own Albert Lee, the guitarists guitarist, playing and singing Elvis's debut song "It's All Right Mama" accompanied by Peter Asher, late of Peter and Gordon and onetime Senior VP of Sony Music.

For the second round, Nev started with a video of "Good Morning" from Singing in the Rain with Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor. Great singing as well as wonderful dancing.

Janet chose something a little more modern, Tina Turner and Rod Stewart singing "It Takes Two". Both of them in great voice.

Yogi returned to his bass singers, this time Paul Robeson and the "Peat Bog Soldiers" which strangely is a song from the Nazi labour camps from before WWII.

Neil lightened the mood with Olivia Newton John and John Travolta, two of the oldest schoolkids ever!, singing "You're the One that I Want"

Heather's next song was "Ave Maria" sung by Il Divo, the classical boy band.

Sallie had chosen a singer who we think has never featured at one of our sessions, Cliff Richard, and his third ever song "Living Doll".

Brenda also chose a singer who for some reason rarely features in our sessions, Old Blue Eyes himself, Frank Sinatra, this time singing 'There's No Business Like Show Business', not a song usually associated with him.

Dorothy had chosen a French singer of whom most of us didn't know his name but knew the tune which he wrote – Charles Trenet and 'La Mer'

Mike finished the session with a rarely seen video of Dusty Springfield singing 'Windmills of Your Mind', a lovely song spoiled somewhat by the German TV producer swirling the camera around at the end almost enough to make one feel giddy!

Next time we shall meet at Brenda's on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sept.



**LUNCH – Leaders: Colin and Sharon Woodland - luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 413867**

**8<sup>th</sup> August – Nag's Head**

The group visited the Nag's Head at Castle Donington this month.

**READING – Leader: Annie Scotney - reading@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

The group is suspended until the autumn due to low attendance.

**RECORDER - Leader: Joan Gibson - recorder@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

**August**

With August being a holiday month and our leader, Joan, away, there was discussion about which dates would suit most members. In the end we settled for the first and third Thursday mornings as usual.

At the first session there were nine members present at the start, but one had to leave early.

Without any bass players we played mainly trios with the sopranos, trebles and tenors being pretty evenly divided. Some pieces are written for two soprano parts and either treble or tenor. We tend to get inventive and divide the instruments up in different ways, which isn't good from a pure music perspective, but works for us. We played almost all older music that morning and since a lot of the pieces were new to some members, we played a lot of them twice.

The second session there were seven of us. We played more trios as we were still without a bass player, but some lighter music was included, with Nellie the Elephant Tiptoeing Through the Tulips to avoid the Puppet on a String. Then we moved on to the more classical styles. Some pieces proved more tricky to count than others and needed a conductor to keep things on track.

Both mornings were very enjoyable and with one member bringing in spare vegetables, some of the group went home with runner or French beans or courgettes!

We decided that there were just enough of us available to make it worthwhile meeting on the fifth Thursday (29th) in August.

The extra recorder session was attended by six players; still no bass player, so more trios of various combinations of instruments. Some pieces which the group used to play in the early days have come out for an airing and it is interesting to find which people have all, some or none of it. We are good at sharing, fortunately. We all tackled one new piece. It is in two parts with the first part going quite well and the second part, possibly a work in progress. Overall, a most enjoyable morning.

We meet as usual in September on the first and third Thursday mornings..

**RUMMIKUB – Leader: Betty Vos – rummikub@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

**13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> August**

The Rummikub group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays, 11am at the Ivanhoe club. We are a friendly group of keen players. We welcome new members so if you are interested please come along.

**SCRABBLE - Leader: Usha Sood**

**Group contact: Estelle Sandles - scrabble@ashbyu3a.co.uk - 01530 234309**

We are continuing to meet fortnightly at the Bull's Head, Market St, 10.30 on a Monday for fun sessions of Scrabble. Send an email to the address above if you'd like to try us out. It's fun and sociable..

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY - Tanya Dempster, Paul McKay, Bill Devitt, Kurt and Lynda Kovach - science@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

6<sup>th</sup> August

The weather couldn't have been better for the Science and Technology group follow up visit to Farmer Barnes Dairy farm at Somerby near Melton Mowbray on Tuesday 6 August. Jane Barnes had come along to our April meeting to explain the science behind dairy farming and milk production and this was our chance to see it all in action. All their milk production goes to the Long Clawson Dairy to make Stilton cheese and a couple of other varieties.

We learnt more about the ways science was used on the farm, with apps on everyone's phones showing CCTV coverage of the calving sheds and other areas of the farm and further apps which showed the history of each cow, its health and milk production, just by entering its ear tag number. We then enjoyed a tour of the farm in a trailer, watched the cows being brought in across the fields to the milking parlour, watched them being milked, fed the new-born calves and finished with a cream tea and delicious cheese made from the milk produced on the farm.

A great day out, even if several of us had to take strange roads and tracks to get there due to local road closures.



**SOCIAL EVENTS - Contact: Glenys Morrice - socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

As you may know, the annual Bowls Evening at Ashby Bowls Club had to be postponed in April at the last minute due to the greens being unplayable after heavy rain and it was rescheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> June.

This summer's weather defeated us yet again in June after another downpour that afternoon and so it was re-arranged for Sept 6<sup>th</sup>.

Unfortunately not enough members put their names down for the new date and so reluctantly we have now had to **CANCEL** the event. Hopefully we can organise something for next year, weather permitting.

**SINGING FOR FUN – Leader: TBA – singing@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

Now that Sarah has decided to step down from leading the group. Estelle, our Groups Co-ordinator is actively trying to find someone or some group of people to lead the group so that it can keep running. If you are able to help in any way please email [singing@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:singing@ashbyu3a.co.uk) and Estelle will receive your email.

## **SUPPER CLUB – Co-ordinators: Colin Ellis and Mike Stow - supper@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

22<sup>nd</sup> – Queens Head, Belton

Yet another new pub for many of us, for the third month in a row, and another great venue.

The pub has recently been taken over by the reasonably new owners of the George at Coleorton and they are slowly building up custom, hence they are currently only open for food on Thursday to Sunday. Things seem to be going well for them as the pub was pretty full when we got there on Thursday night. As is becoming normal nowadays, we had pre-ordered our food. Once we had all settled and drinks served the first courses came up quite quickly and very nicely presented they were. Everyone was impressed, and they tasted pretty good too!

There was a little bit of a wait for the mains, and those who hadn't ordered a starter were getting a little hungry, but it was well worth waiting for. Again everyone was impressed. Both the starters and mains were just that little bit different to the usual pub fare, well cooked and well presented. The service was excellent and very well organised.

Desserts were a slight disappointment. Not bad by any means but not as interesting as the previous courses. It certainly wouldn't put us off from going again.

All in all, a great evening out.

## **WINE APPRECIATION - Leader: Annie Scotney - wine@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

21<sup>st</sup> August

This month there were seven of us gathered to celebrate Colin's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, (does that make him Ashby u3a's oldest member?), and Ken had chosen 4 wines which he thought would suit Colin's taste for less acidic or tannic red wines.

All four wines were from California and three were pure Zinfandel or Zinfandel blends. All were bought in Tesco as other local supermarkets don't seem to have many Californian wines in stock.

Interestingly we started with the dearest wine and worked our way down in price rather than the other way. The first, Carnivor, was rich and thick with a taste of Morello cherries and was rather nice but had a slightly bitter aftertaste which Colin was quick to point out. Otherwise pretty good.

Second was a blend of Zin, Merlot and Syrah just called 'Cali'. This was darker and richer, tasting of berries and raisins. Most people including Colin liked this more than the first.

Third came Tesco Finest Old Vines, a straight Zinfandel. This was very smooth and we all thought it to be dangerously drinkable considering it is 14% alcohol! Very nice.

Last up was 'Dark Horse' cabernet sauvignon, described as being bold, complex and smooth, which it certainly was. Everyone really enjoyed this and it scored highest of the night.

We finished the evening with a ginger and pineapple birthday cake baked by Annie, and whilst tucking in to it Ken admitted that he had doctored 3 of the wines (the fourth had a cork, so couldn't be tampered with) by adding a little sugar syrup to them to disguise any bitterness! We all agreed that we wouldn't have guessed and they tasted fine, particularly to Colin, so all was well. But it does mean that these tasting notes don't apply to wines in the shop which are not doctored. An interesting evening and experiment. Happy Birthday Colin.

Remember that we shall be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month for at least the next few months starting with the next meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**SHORT WALKS - Leader: John Howlett - ShortWalk@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 461774**

**16th August. A walk around Burton Washlands**

The weather was fine and 9 walkers assembled in the car park despite all the roadworks happening that day. We set off just after 10 and walked up and over the road to the new bridge. We came down to the park where they were setting up some stalls promoting East Staffordshire. We also noted a second beer barrel sculpture amongst the stalls. We followed the path down to the ferry bridge. We crossed the Trent noting a beautiful vista upstream but climbed down the steps and took the path parallel to the river arriving at the bridge over the tributary which was fenced off so we went to the main bridge over the water leading into town. The main group waited here while two investigated the library cafe which now seems to be the only part of the library open (but not as a café) as the rest appears to be refurbished. We asked a local about cafes nearby and they suggested to try the market. The cafe in the market welcomed us and set up some tables so we could all sit together. After the break two of the party went into the shopping centre the rest returned across the ferry bridge and across in front of the flower beds that are so impressive and along beside the river back to our cars. Total length of the walk 2.8 miles.

**MEDIUM WALKS - Alison Thompson - mediumwalk@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 07930 557432**

**12th August. From Ravenstone, led by Alison**

There were 11 hardy souls that set off from Ravenstone Church on a blistering hot day. Firstly, a big thank you for turning out, walking is not everyone's 1st choice of pastime when the temperature is hitting the high 20's.

This was called an Urban Wilderness walk - little used paths, in some cases, and touching on local industries, past and present.

We left Ravenstone over paths and field towards the A511 which we crossed - followed old drovers trails, under the Swannington and Leicester Junction railway line until we reached Swannington on Station Hill. Then along Big Lane, pass the fishing lakes to the A511 (again!). After crossing, we entered Coalville Urban Forest Park, over the railway bridge and onto Snibston Colliery and Country Park. A small section of the Bosworth Trail and back to Ravenstone entering on Standard Hill.

5.3 miles completed and back to our cars in a little over 2 hours.

**LONGER WALKS - Leader: Kevin Green - walks@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 07470 227536**

**6<sup>th</sup> August. Walk from high peak junction, led by Tony**

9 members of the walking group met at High Peak junction near Cromford in the Peak District for this walk. Despite the weather forecast suggesting that rain would beset us we managed to stay dry for the whole day and all 7 and a half miles.

Starting from the junction we took the detour beyond the pumping station as the bridge over the railway line has been closed for repairs for some weeks. We crossed the canal further down and walked back along the tow path until we reached the railway tunnel taking us up onto the A6. Crossing the road we climbed through a forested area and up onto Intake Lane where we stopped for coffee break.

Then we took the path to Wigwellnook Farm and onto the edge of Bolehill. We stopped for our sandwiches on the climb up to Black Rock and had a great view over the valley.

After lunch we reached the triangulation pillar at the top of Black Rock and enjoyed the descent back to High Peak Junction where some members of the group decided to stop at the kiosk for ice cream. A very pleasant trip was had by all.