



Newsletter November 2024



Interest Groups Timetable for November 2024

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

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	Tue 26 th	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. A talk by Dr Ann Featherstone on 'Rose Buckner, a post-war look at household management'
Arts and Crafts	Thu 7 th	10 am	Packington Village Hall
Breakfast	Thu 21 st	10 am	Garden Café, Swarkestone Garden Centre DE73 7GQ
Bridge	Mon 4 th Mon 11 th Mon 18 th Mon 25 th	7 pm 11 am 7 pm 11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Calligraphy	Tue 12 th	10 am	At Lynda. Topic - Autumn
Coffee and Chat	Wed 13 th	10 am	Lil Bo's, the Mews, Ashby LE65 1HP
Computer	Wed 6 th Mon 18 th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Croquet			The group will meet again in the spring after the clocks go forward.
Digital Photography	Thu 7 th	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	Wed 20 th	10 am	At Susan's House Topic 'Getting Ready for Christmas'
Family History	Wed 13 th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Food from Afar	Thu 7 th	6 for 6.30 pm	OMOMO Korean Street Food, 16 The Strand, Derby DE1 1BE
French	Mon 11 th Mon 25 th	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Gardening	Thu 21 st	2 pm	Packington Village Hall Garden talk by the Potty Plotters (not to be missed).
History	Thu 28 th	2.15 pm	Packington Village Hall. Sandy Leong - 'From the fury of Norsemen deliver us.'

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Industrial Heritage	Wed 27 th	10.30 am	Planning meeting - Blue Bell Inn, The Callis, Ashby
Literature	Tue 12 th	1:30 pm	Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 14 th	12 for 12.30	Wolferstan Arms, Main Road, Shuttington B79 0DP
Medium Walks	Mon 11 th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet in Melbourne on Church Sq. outside the entrance to the Hall Tea Rooms, DE73 8EN
Music Appreciation	Wed 6 th	10 am	Dorothy's at 6 Willesley Gardens
Recorder	Thu 7 th Thu 21 st	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Rummikub	Tue 12 th Tue 26 th	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Science & Technology	Tue 12 th	2 pm	Packington Village Hall. Joe Davis 'The Discovery of the Rutland Water Sea Dragon'
Scrabble	Mon 4 th Mon 18 th	10.30 am	The Bulls Head, Ashby
Short Walks	Fri 15 th	10 am	Swadlincote Woodlands CP off Derby Rd DE11 8LP
Social Events	-	-	No meeting this month
Supper Club	Thu 28 th	7 for 7.30 pm	The Ferrers Arms, Lount LE65 1SD
Walking	Tue 5 th	9.45 for 10am	Meet at the Trent Lock pub/restaurant, Lock Lane, Long Eaton NG102FY
	Tue 19 th	9.45 for 10am	Meet at The Parson and Clerk Toby Inn, Chester Road North, Streetly B73 6SP
Wine Appreciation	Tue 19 th	7 pm	Annie's house

Interest Groups Timetable for early December 2024

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Scrabble	Mon 2 nd	10.30 am	The Bulls Head, Ashby
Bridge	Mon 2 nd	TBC	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Walking	Tue 3 rd	9.45 for 10am	Meet at Packington Memorial Recreation Ground car park on Measham Road
Music Appreciation	Wed 4 th	10 am	TBA
Computer	Wed 4 th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Recorder	Thu 5 th	10 am	TBC
Christmas lunch	Thu 5 th	12 for 12.30	Willessley Park Golf Club. SOLD OUT

MONTHLY MEETING – 22ND OCTOBER

Steve Evans – “The Great Central Railway Re-unification”

Steve, who is a member of the Friends of GCR took us through both the history of the Great Central from its inception to its closing in 1963 and then the formation of the heritage railway we now know as the GCR and on to the ongoing re-unification of the two halves of the railway, North and South of Loughborough.

The GCR was formed when the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (MS&LR) changed its name in 1897 before the opening of its London extension two years later. The new extension ran from Annesley to London Marylebone via Nottingham, Leicester and Rugby. The line was originally for coal traffic and a year later for passenger traffic. The line was successful but the creation of the Big Four railway companies saw the GCR incorporated into the LNER in 1923. The nationalising of the railways in 1948 saw the Great Central become part of the Eastern Region and in 1958 it was re-allocated to the Midland Region where it went into decline. In 1963 much of the line was closed before Beeching's Axe and it closed completely in 1969.

Various preservation groups were determined to keep parts of the line open for steam running and eventually the new GCR was formed in 1976. This company has gradually reinstated tracks that were torn up by BR with the help of many volunteers and staff. However the bridge over the Midland Main Line was demolished in the 80s cutting the GCR in half. The northern half was connected to the main line to allow trains to reach the MOD depot at Ruddington and the gypsum works at East Leake. Great Central Railway (Nottingham) took over the single track line as a heritage railway based at Ruddington.

15 years ago plans were made to rejoin the two halves. This would involve new bridges over the Midland Main Line, the A60 and the Grand union Canal and the reconstruction of a 500m stretch of track between the two sections.

Steve showed us photos and told the problems of building the three bridges which are all now complete and showed us the various versions of the plans to get over factory car park and Railway Terrace road and all the difficult engineering problems to be solved. A planning application has been made to Charnwood Borough Council for the new section and is awaiting approval.

Once complete, the combined GCR will have an 18 mile track from Leicester North to Ruddington and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the two GCR companies to decide how they will work together to run trains along its whole length.

This work has not/will not be cheap. Many millions of pounds will be needed to complete the link. The final stage is expected to cost £2m and so Steve finished his talk with an impassioned plea for donations!

BURNS SUPPER FRIDAY JAN 24TH



Tickets for the Burns Supper are now on sale at £35pp and are selling fast. Contact Glenys on socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk or 01530 560521 to book yours. The piper is booked, the haggis ordered and doubtless some other entertainment is being planned. Friday 24th Jan, 7 for 7.30pm at the Golf Club.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH DEC 5TH



Members have now all been sent details of this years Christmas lunch, and we have sold all the tickets. In fact we had to add an extra table due to the demand.

We still have some people on the waiting list, so if anyone finds that they are unable to attend for any reason, get in touch with Glenys at socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk and she may be able to sell your ticket to someone else.

WELFARE

Estelle Sandles who looks after Welfare (and Groups Coordinator) has regretfully had to step down from the committee due to family bereavement commitments. We wish her well and thank her for all her hard work on the committee.

We are actively looking for someone to replace her. If you are interested in taking on the Welfare post please contact John Pilgrim at chair@ashbyu3a.co.uk.

Meanwhile, if you know of any member who is unwell or isolating or has a family member who is unwell, you can still contact welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk or any 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.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ARTS AND CRAFTS – Leader: Sharon Woodland - artcraft@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 413867

3rd October

In October the ladies met at Packington Village hall for yet another attempt at making our Kumihimo necklaces. These do seem to be taking a long time to complete, but we are getting there. In November, we will be taking a break from the necklaces to make Christmas cards. The November meeting will be at the Packington Village Hall on 7th November at 10 am to 12 noon.

BREAKFAST – Leader: Colin Woodland - breakfast@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 413867

17th October - Lakeside Bistro, Moira

Ten members of the group went to Lakeside Bistro. The Bistro offers a wide choice and, between the ten of us, we sampled most of the selection. Conversation flowed freely throughout the meal and well beyond. The group finally broke up in order to make way for others coming in for lunch.

If you would like to join us at the Garden Café, Swarkestone Garden Centre on 21 November at 10am, please contact Colin Woodland at breakfast@ashbyu3a.co.uk and he will add you to the list of attendees. There are 11 on the list already!

BRIDGE – Leader: Neil Roberts - bridge@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 455957 or 07804 743471

The group is meeting at the Ivanhoe Club every Monday in November. On the 4th and 18th from 7pm to 9pm and on the 11th and 25th from 11am to 1.30pm.

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

CALLIGRAPHY – Leader: Sue Cornell - calligraphy@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 413345

8th October

5 of us met today to continue the struggle with the black Gothic font. We have found it difficult to keep our letters straight/ parallel and also to find a text that we can use this font with. We're also trying to start with an illuminated letter!!!

We decided to scrap the idea of Autumn as a topic and are looking for other ideas.

One of our members is writing out the words to Silent Night in German. Perfect for Gothic! For the rest of us we continue to practise and to search for an appropriate subject.

The next meeting is at Lynda's on Nov 12th.

COFFEE AND CHAT – Leader: Colin Woodland - coffee@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 413867

9th October - Moment in Thyme, Ashby

Eleven of us filled the conservatory at Moment in Thyme for coffee and a chat. The cake selection was limited but good. Conversation flowed freely and a good time was had by all. Unfortunately, we were informed that the café would be closing around Christmas time. We were saddened by the news because the venue had become one of the best attended by the group.

Our next gathering will be in the Mews at Lil Bo's at 10am on 13 November 2024. If you would like to join us, please let Colin Woodland Know at coffee@ashbyu3a.co.uk. There are ten on the list so far and there is room for more.

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

21st October

There were nine today, but not a lot of problems to sort out. We welcomed one new member: Trevor.

We did discuss various back-up systems as this is a perennial problem with evolving solutions.

Peter was assisted by Richard to try and open Peter's deceased father-in-law's laptop. Without the password this was fruitless, so they decided to reset it. This involves pressing F12 during boot up. This wipes the machine and reinstalls Windows. But the process was taking so long that they decided to close it down. JD and Richard discussed calling a registered charity to dispose safely of the machine. These will clean the machine and give you a certificate to say so. They have experts on hand to recycle machines like this which are then used to help those in need.

We next meet on Wednesday 6th November at Winchester Way.

CROQUET – Leader: Rupert Knapton - croquet@ashbyu3a.co.uk

25th October

We have just completed the last croquet session on the main lawns on Friday morning, followed by fish and chips at The Welfare. A few of our regulars were on holiday this month, but we still had six players who showed off their developing skills.

The group does not normally play after the clocks go back to GMT, but there is a possibility that we can persuade the croquet club to let us use the 'winter lawns' from November. Watch this space!

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

3rd October

6 attended to see the photos of Ashby Statutes which we had tasked ourselves with taking last month. There were quite a few of the varied sideshows and scenes around the Fair, with reminiscences of our own days enjoying these as children.

JD tried to show his photos but none appeared on his pendrive. He later tried at home several times to load them from his files and, despite them appearing on the Drive, later attempts to read them showed them to be absent. He will run a scan to see if the drive is faulty.

A new member wanted advice on dealing with photos which were skewed and needed straightening out, and how to select one subject from a group photo. It seems that modern mobiles can also add in a selfie to a group photo, which is getting spooky!

JD Reported that his second grandson has taken to JD's old 120 format camera and is exploring the joys of film and manual settings. A new recruit to the world of Photography!

We next meet on Thursday 7th November when we will show photos on the topic of Autumn Colours.

DRAWING & PAINTING - Leader: Christine Dogherty- painting@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 01530 411148

16th October

Following on from September's 'A Hint of Autumn' this month we went direct to 'Autumn Colours'. A really good session.

Next Month: November 20th at Susan's. Theme 'Getting Ready for Christmas'

FOOD FROM AFAR - Leader: Colin Woodland - food from afar@ashbyu3a.co.uk - 01530 413867

3rd October - A Taste of Thai, Ashby

A bumper crop of twelve of us gathered at the Taste of Thai Restaurant in Market Street, Ashby, to be treated to a wide selection of Thai dishes of excellent quality. The meal was served efficiently by the very obliging and friendly staff.

We are venturing into uncharted waters for our next adventure. We will be sampling Korean Street Food at the OMOMO Restaurant in the Strand, Derby DE1 1BE. Ten have already signed up for the adventure but there is room for more. If you wish to attend, please let Colin Woodland know at food_from_afar@ashbyu3a.co.uk.

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

9th October

Today, despite several empty chairs due to sickness and other calls, we had 8 at the table.

Elizabeth was busy cross checking her references and tidying up files: always a good plan!

Adrian is progressing nicely with his account of the life of his paternal grandfather.

John D is doing likewise, but currently with his own life story.

Sue is working on wills and teasing out of them all sorts of useful stuff.

Ana has come across a remarkable thread to research regarding yet another Ana Atkinson who travelled to Argentina and back between 1936 and 1955. There seem to be other Anas travelling to South America, as well!

Eileen is hot on the trail of her Kenfield branch.

Carolyn has penetrated to the deep past and working with the specific difficulties of Parish Records, written in shaky handwriting, using Latinisms and abbreviated Latinisms! She is tracing her great x5 grandfather.

Mary has a very interesting line of research involving the property regulation in the Ashby area for her Cheatle and Chilvers ancestors. The language looks mediaeval, and does in fact refer to legal matters rooted in ancient land rights.

At our next meeting on November 13th after coffee we will look at member's reflections on Remembrance, with photos, memorabilia, personal accounts and any pieces the members wish to present to the Group.

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.

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

14th and 28th October

The French group continue to meet fortnightly on Monday morning at 11am at the Ivanhoe Club in Ashby.

More recently we have been starting the sessions with each member giving a résumé in French of their activities during the past week or so. Usually there will then be a topic to talk about.

Last time we all had a go at describing our favourite hobby or hobbies and before that we paired up to have role play scenarios - eg a tourist asking a passer by for directions or a tourist trying to hire a car at a French airport or a tourist booking into a hotel room. These sessions usually involve some pre meeting preparation from all members in the group.

New members are always welcome but please contact Tony Smith, group leader, on french@ashbyu3a.co.uk in advance please.

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

17th October – Harvest Celebration

Today we held our Harvest celebration at Packington village hall. All members who attended brought an item of food to share. They also helped to get tables and chairs ready to the best of their ability. Autumn decorations were previously made or bought by some members.

Lots of chattering and discussion took place which made for a very sociable afternoon. Paul provided his usual free plant raffle before we cleared away. A lovely session much enjoyed by all.

MUSIC APPRECIATION - Leader: Mike Stow - musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk - 01530 469152

1st October

This month we were at Neil's and so Leslie joined us. with some on holiday and Sallie having to leave early we were soon down to just 6 but we still managed a full programme of music. Sallie started us off in light-hearted mood with Flanders and Swann's "A song of the weather" Very suitable for this year. Nev also gave us a comic tune, but a very much more risqué one, in the form of 86 year old Alberta Hunter's version of "My Handyman".

We had a few classical pieces today, Sallie offered the 2nd movement of Beethoven's 7th Symphony, Dorothy chose Schubert's Opus 90 Impromptu #4 and we managed to find the Andre Rieu video that Brenda wanted to play last month of 400 brass players entering the square at Maastricht for one of his concerts.

Otherwise this month we mostly played rock, pop and a little jazz and blues. From very early BB King and Johnny Tillotson's "Poetry in Motion" from 1960, through Jonny Kidd and the Pirates "Shakin' All Over", The Animals, The Carpenters, Cass Elliott, Carly Simon and Kirsty MacColl to Diana Krall, Lady Gaga's "I'll Never Love Again" from "A Star is Born" and Mika singing "Grace Kelly".

Some more unusual tracks were from French Trad Jazz band Les Haricots Rouge singing "Just a Gigolo, Loren Allred who was the uncredited voice of Jenny Lind singing "Never Enough" in "The Greatest Showman" and Stevie Williams, who is a relative of our Dorothy, in a video singing his own excellent blues composition "Live and Die"

An interesting selection of tracks.

24th October. Tales from the Court'

October's meeting was led by two very experienced magistrates who greatly entertained us with tales and pertinent reflections of how our courts work.

But first Yogi regaled us with anniversaries for this day.: Vesuvius blew its stack immolating and burying the population of Pompeii and Herculaneum along with two other towns; In 1492 there was a Jewish pogrom in Spain; in 1857 Sheffield FC became the first Football Association Club; In 1901 the first brave(!) soul, Annie Taylor, went over Niagara Falls in a barrel; In 1922 the Irish Parliament convened for the first time; and today marks the 609th St Crispin's Day (For all those abed, it is time to stiffen the sinews and summon up the blood!)

Our magistrates, Steven and Susie, established their court at the foot of the stage, after we all rose to welcome them. Each then gave a potted history of how they came to be magistrates:

Susie, a Psychiatric Profiler by profession, was encouraged to join 25 years ago. She now sits in the Family Court dealing with child welfare, maintenance orders, and helping to prevent domestic abuse.

Steven, nudged into it at a young age by a member of RoSPA, has been a magistrate for 38 years. He sits in a criminal court and therefore, with the other members of the bench, can hand out fines and prison sentences.

Magistrates require no legal qualifications and in fact have no previous connection to the legal profession but receive considerable training and are supported in court by a legal adviser. They usually work as a team of three magistrates on a bench. Magistrates must be between 18 and 75 years of age.

By the dint of venturing remarks about their lives on the bench, and sparking questions from the audience, the session proceeded in a very informative way.

Almost all criminal cases start in a magistrate's court and around 97% of them are completed there, but there are certain types of serious case that have to be referred to higher courts. Murder, serious assault, large scale thefts and so on. Some are referred at the request of the accused who can request a trial by jury. Whilst most cases take only a short time in court, there is no limit to how long a more complex case can last. Sometimes for several days.

All cases are decided on the basis of being beyond reasonable doubt. They are not allowed to know about previous charges or criminal history of the defendant as that might well prejudice their judgement, but when sentencing is due such history is made available for them to decide the sentence or other penalty. This can only be up to 6 months but the current government is looking at extending that to 12 months. If the penalty is likely to be longer, cases are sent to the High Courts for sentencing.

Other forms of sentencing, like fines, or tagging and restrictions, have to be considered in conjunction with the accused's circumstances. Confining someone indoors who is a known abuser of their family is not a good idea, and if they live alone, how do they shop? There is a wide range of problems involved in this so the magistrate needs to be aware of unintended consequences. Fines for certain offences are sometimes based on the person's ability to pay. As Steven said, they don't want to set someone up to fail to pay, as that could bring even greater penalties which could affect their family.

The magistrates must be available 24 hours a day 7 days a week and 365 days a year (extra on Leap Years!) If the police need a warrant, they may need it immediately, even in the middle of the night, and a magistrate has to listen to their reason for wanting it before deciding to grant one.

By the way, magistrates do not get paid. They can claim a subsistence allowance - £7.45 for 4 to 8 hrs duty! If they are employed, their employer may pay them during their absence but it isn't compulsory.

The causes of crime and the types of crime do change over time and require adaptability by the magistrates. During Covid, for instance, there was almost no burglary as everyone was at home.

There were several amusing anecdotes involving interactions with the accused and other members of the public, but one stands out: upon meeting Susie in the street, one past 'client' said "Oh, you're real!" as if the person they saw in court was some sort of simulacrum!

Thank you, Susie and Steven, for a very interesting afternoon. Now we know what we face if ever our turn comes up!

Our last meeting of the year is on November 26th. We hope that the occasion will be both social and festive. The topic is a follow-up to last year's coach trip to York with its Viking origins. The title is 'From the fury of Norsemen deliver us' and is delivered by Sandy Leong

We also hope to distribute the programme for 2025 and our first January session involves you bringing your very own 'physical piece' of historical importance to you.

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

23rd October – The Black Country Living Museum

This month we ventured into the wilds of Dudley to visit the Black Country Living Museum.

14 members car-shared around the M6 and M5 with fortunately few hold-ups to arrive around 10.30.

The place has changed a lot since we last visited in 2016. A vast car park and new entrance building have been built complete with café and shop and the museum itself has several new streets based upon the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

We were met at the café by a lady looking out for groups who helped us to buy our group discounted tickets despite being slightly below the required number to qualify for a discount, then provided with maps and wristbands. Very impressive service.

We split up into groups to go our separate ways but most seemed to head straight for the drift mine. Here we were equipped with hard hats and very dim lanterns as we followed our guide around the mine. Just how much is real and how much has been recreated is difficult to tell as it is so well done (and you can't see much in the dark!) The roof is low, very low in places, and even the shortest of us had to stoop in parts. The storytelling is very good and gives a glimpse of what life was like as a mimer in the 1850s.

After that we visited various factories, foundries, shops and houses all staffed with costumed guides to tell us the history of the particular building and its era.

From the butchers to the ironmonger, from the co-op of 1949 to the 60s record shop with its listening booths, from the Infant Welfare Centre to the old-style barbers, there was plenty to see and in many cases remember from our childhood.

There are houses from all eras. One set up as in wartime with taped up windows and grow your own vegetable plot in the garden, another staged as in 1968 complete with Dansette record player and a period TV actually showing 60s programmes.

There are also lots of period eateries and pubs. Unfortunately the Workers Institute that we went to had run out of hot food and the fish and chip shop had a long queue all day, but I think everyone got fed and watered somewhere. Some may even have ventured into a pub!

As it was half term there were quite a few school parties going around and it was interesting to see the expressions on the youngest faces at the tales told to them by the guides.

There are so many things to see and do, that it is almost impossible to do it all in one day, so we may be back again in the future.

Everyone seemed to have a great time and it was a very worthwhile visit. Even the weather was kind.

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

10th October – The Bull's Head, Thringstone

Once again, thirteen proved not to be unlucky when we popped in for lunch at the Bull's Head, Thringstone. On this occasion, some of the meat was a little overcooked and the roast potatoes were very hard on the outside but light and fluffy in the middle. Nevertheless, there was plenty of lively conversation and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The staff were very friendly and helpful. The pub has now closed for at least 1 month to undergo a complete refit. It will be interesting to visit again when it reopens to see and experience the difference.

The next lunch will be on 14th November 2024 at The Wolferstan Arms , Main Street, Shuttington B79 0DP at 12pm for 12.30. Seventeen people have already indicated they will be there but there is still room for more.

If you wish to join us, please let Colin Woodland know ASAP at luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk.

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

10th & 24th 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.

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

3rd October

There were 9 players in the hall today. We started with some bass-free music: Scarborough Fair from “Off to the Fair”, for 2 descant parts, treble and tenor, then a small suite by Handel: Largo and Alla Breve. This one caused more difficulties with timing, but we are improving.

We moved on to “Pié Jésus” by Gabriel Fauré, with the bass and Great Bass parts, which add a bit of depth. That went well; the rhythm isn't difficult. We then tackled “The Planets’ Feet” for the first time for a couple of months, and were pleasantly surprised how well it went. It's becoming more enjoyable as we get into it.

Back to more conventional music with the “Cantique de Jean Racine”, which is a favourite.

We realised that we were running out of time, so quickly moved to the end of the play list, and finished with a SATB arrangement of “Moon River”.

17th October

There were 7 of us, covering all parts. We started with a selection of pieces from Handel's Water Music. We are definitely improving! We followed that with Tiptoe through the Tulips. Then we started to read through Jolly Joan's Fugue by Nicholas Wynne, which posed a challenge to all players, with quaver runs and accidentals liberally sprinkled throughout. We made it halfway through before deciding to practise a bit in our own time before our next attempt.

We then played “Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring”. We decided to add this to next month's playlist, when Nick Epton is returning to give us a bit of a hand, and to practise his conducting. We then played through “Planets’ Feet”; we are starting to really enjoy this one, as we get better at it. It is a bit of a challenge.

We then played the "Cantique de Jean Racine", which we are more comfortable with. We had another try at Nicholas Wynne's 3 Dances for Recorder Quartet. We are getting better at the Frog Dance, and finding it great fun.

As we had a few minutes left at the end, we played “The Goroum”, repeated prestissimo. It's a good way to finish.

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

Christmas lunch 5th Dec, 12 noon for 12.30 at Willesley Park Golf Club

As you will have read above, the Christmas lunch has sold out and we have a waiting list in case anyone has to cancel for any reason.

Burns Supper Friday 24th Jan, 7 for 7.30 pm at Willesley Park Golf Club

See above for details of our Burns Supper. Tickets are on sale now at £35 and selling fast.

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

October

The October meeting had to be cancelled due to members of the organising group either having covid or being on holiday. The speaker for this meeting, Catrin Rutland, has now been booked for the February 2025 meeting.

We expect the November meeting to go ahead as planned on the 12th. Joe Davis will tell of 'The Discovery of the Rutland Water Sea Dragon'

The organising group are planning events for the 2025 programme. If anyone in the group would like to hear a particular talk, have a discussion or wants to visit a site of scientific or technological importance, please contact Tanya, Lynda, Kurt, Bill or Paul by email on: science@ashbyu3a.co.uk.

We welcome new ideas and contributions from our members.

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

24th October – The Unicorn at Orton on the Hill

To some members the pub proved as elusive to find as its namesake and had to be guided in by phone, but we all arrived on time. The pub lived up to its reputation of serving large portions as evinced by the size of the starters which looked more like main courses and the mains that looked like sharing platters.

Most of us were well pleased with the quality too, although one person's main was rather dry and lacking a sauce. Most people managed to clear their plates and some even managed to eat a pudding!

The service was efficient and very welcoming as usual, and of course the company was great.

Next month we will be staying local and visiting the Ferrers Arms at Lount.

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

October

Unfortunately almost everyone in the group was away on holiday or otherwise occupied and so the meeting was cancelled. Hopefully we can get together on Tuesday 19th November.

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

18th October - Staunton Harold

The weather was unexpectedly dry when seven stalwarts and one dog assembled in the bottom car park at Staunton Harold Nurseries. We were joined by a very new member: Denise. Our walk took us out of the corner of the car park and initially back down the access road south easterly for about half a mile. Where the road took a sharp left turn, we carried on through a gate onto a solid track between trees and fields. The ground underfoot was very good except for a couple of very short patches which gave no problems. This track went straight along to meet the other end of the access road near the Lount road. We rejoined the access road, this time following it back north westerly towards the main house. The weather stayed fine and mild, and the trees were beginning to show their autumn colours. The walking was good and so was the talking, although we had to step aside several times for cars enroute to the car park. When we got to the main house we paused for the obligatory team photo, then walked up the drive back to the Centre for coffee. The cafe now has an outside awning which made it possible for us all to sit together outside. Afterwards some split off to go to the Garden Centre, whilst the rest went back to the cars. Overall, we covered 2.3 miles in one and a half hours, in very good company.

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

1st October. Overseal, led by Kevin

The weather forecast wasn't good as fourteen of us gathered in the Overseal Village Hall car park in light rain. After dressing in full wet weather gear, we set off passing an unusual wall of clay pipes and following what is known as the Coffin Walk. Prior to an Overseal Church being built the Coffins were carried along this route to Netherseal. Arriving in Netherseal the rain was now heavier, and we were very wet. As we sheltered in the bus stop shelter for our morning refreshments a bus stopped which would have returned us to Overseal, but we decided as a walking group we should carry on. After leaving the dry bus shelter we turned down a track past some very wet and excitable alpacas and came across a very flooded and unpassable path. After consulting the map, we retraced our steps and managed to bypass the problem to rejoin our original route. The rain was now very heavy, and we were all very wet.

It was decided at this point, after another look at the map, to abandon the walk and follow the National Forest Way which conveniently was a few hundred yards from our then current position and took us in a shorter route straight back to the car park. After arriving back at the car park several of us changed into dry clothes and we set off for the short drive to The Cricketts Inn to enjoy a very enjoyable lunch. It was decided to put the walk back in the calendar for 2025.

15th October. Stanton Under Bardon, led by Kevin & Trevor

Fifteen of us gathered in Stanton Under Bardon for the second walk in October in a lot drier conditions than the first. After our traditional start with a photo in front of the thatched pub unsurprisingly named Old Thatched Inn. We set off though a neighbouring property front garden to join a foot path at rear and continued onto Thornton passing the end of Thornton Reservoir. On joining the National Forest Way we passed round the Old Bagworth Park Estate and followed the old railway line to Bagworth Wood and stopped for coffee. After refreshments we began a gentle climb up and round The Stanton Under Bardon Quarry with views down into a very large hole. As we began our descent, we could see our starting point in the distance, so we were very quickly back at the pub for lunch.

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

14th October. From Carlton led by Alison

It was a miserable morning, heavy rain the night before and constant drizzle during the first half of the walk. This may have been the reason only 6 of us turned out for this October walk.

Our first landmark, after walking over fields out of Carlton Village was Shackerstone Railway Station. Unfortunately the Victoria Tea Rooms were not open so we had to make do with having our refreshment break under one of the Ashby Canal bridges. We know how to live it up!! We saw few people out and about but a lone heron was spotted on the tow path. We left the canal at bridge 44 and walked along Congerstone Lane back to our cars 2 hours later.

Just over 5 miles completed.

Your Committee

Here is a list of your committee members and how to contact them:

Role	Name	Contact email
Chairman	John Pilgrim	chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Business Secretary	Tony Smith	secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Treasurer	Val Reed	treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Iain Banns	members@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Interest Group Co-ordinator	vacant	interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Welfare	vacant	welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Speaker seeker	Yogi Godwin	speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Communications	Mike Stow	webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Social Secretary	Glenys Morrice	socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk