



## Newsletter January 2025

### Interest Groups Timetable for January 2025

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 28 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. Christine Varney 'Experiences at Crufts'
Arts and Crafts	Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10 am	Packington Village Hall.
Breakfast	Thu 16 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	RedZ Café 7 Coxon Mews, Ashby LE65 1LF
Bridge	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	7-9 pm 11am-1.30pm 7-9 pm 11am-1.30pm	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Calligraphy	Tue 14 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	Christmas meal at the Gelsmoor
Coffee and Chat	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Planters Bretby Garden Centre, Bretby Lane DE15 0QS
Computer	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Croquet	Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	11 am	Ashby Croquet Club, Moira Miners' Welfare Club, Bath Lane, Moira DE12 6BP
Digital Photography			No meeting in January
Drawing and painting	Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Venue and topic TBA
Family History	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Food from Afar	Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6 pm	The Flying Horse Indian Restaurant, 4 London Road, Coalville LE67 3JA
French	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Gardening	Thu 16 <sup>th</sup>	2.10 pm	Packington Village Hall. A talk by Karen Gimson of Radio Leicester and Garden Answers on 'Gardening for Wildlife'. Entry £4.
History	Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.15 pm	Packington Village Hall. Bring a Memorable Relic from Home
Industrial Heritage	Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	TBA	Taylor's Bell Foundry, Loughborough
Literature	Tue 14 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 pm	Sandra's house

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Lunch	Thu 9 <sup>th</sup>	12 for 12.30 pm	The Sump, Newton Road, Burton upon Trent DE15 0TT
Medium Walks	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at the CP on Manchester Lane, Hartshorne DE11 7BE
Music Appreciation			No meeting in January
Recorder	Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Rummikub	Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Science & Technology	Tue 14 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	Packington Village Hall. 'Discovering the Night Sky' by Martin Bradley of Chesterfield u3a
Scrabble	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	The Bulls Head, Ashby
Short Walks	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Meet at the Hood Park gates
Social Events	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	7 for 7.30 pm	Burns Supper at Willesley Park Golf Club
Supper Club			No meeting in January
Walking	Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> Tue 21 <sup>st</sup>	- 9.45 for 10am	No Walk TBA
Wine Appreciation	Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	7 pm	Annie's house

### **Interest Groups Timetable for early February 2025**

Group	Date	Time	Venue
French	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Bridge	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	TBA	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Walking	Tue 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 for 10am	Meet at the Parson and Clerk Toby Inn, Chester Rd North, Streetley B73 6SP
Music Appreciation	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	At Sallie's
Computer	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	16 Winchester Way 'Topical photos'
Arts and Crafts	Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Packington Village Hall.
Recorder	Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Food from Afar	Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	6 pm	TBA

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Despite the holiday season taking up much of December, most of our groups met throughout the month even if many of them appear to have been an excuse to eat mince pies or other festive fare! But at least it shows that we are all a busy and sociable bunch.

Can I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year for 2025.

Mike Stow

## BURNS SUPPER FRIDAY JAN 24<sup>th</sup>



Tickets for the burns Supper are now all sold out.

The piper is booked, the haggis ordered and doubtless some other entertainment is being planned.

The bar opens on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7 for 7.30 pm sit down at the Golf Club.

## WELFARE

If you know of any member who is unwell or isolating or has a family member who is unwell, please contact [welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto: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.

## MONTHLY MEETING – 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

This month we were well entertained, as in recent years, by Consensio (a small selection of singers all of whom are members of the Gresley Male Voice Choir). They were led by their musical director Karl Harper and their accompanist Clive Miller. The Gresley Male Voice Choir was formed back in 1904 and it's members come from Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire.

They sang for us many well-known Christmas carols including Once in Royal David's City, O Come All Ye faithful, Silent Night and many more. The audience stood up and joined in with singing some of the popular melodies although some of us struggled to keep up with the 12 days of Christmas.

Tim Cox, the Compere treated us to a résumé of how Christmas festivities have developed and changed over time and reminded us that in the middle ages there were spells when making merry over the Christmas period was very much frowned upon.

Consensio gave us a great start to the festive season and we all partook of tea/coffee and mince pies afterwards. A good time was had by all.

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

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

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Due to the U3A Christmas Lunch being planned for our usual day, we managed to change our meeting to the first Monday this month. We began by making a crystal Christmas tree necklace. Once the necklaces were complete, we went on to make matching earrings. The ladies decided to wear these to the U3A Christmas Lunch.

With the crafts put away, we proceeded to have a Christmas party with our cup of tea or coffee. Each member of the group had brought some sort of nibbles. It was a lovely way to round off 2024!

A few of the ladies had been unable to attend the Monday session yet wanted to have the jewellery, so we met after coffee at the monthly meeting, and those ladies completed their items in time to enjoy them at Christmas.

Our next gathering will be on Thursday 2nd January 2025, when we will resume and, hopefully, complete our Kumihimo necklaces in January and, maybe, February.

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

#### 19<sup>th</sup> December - Cattows Tea Room, Heather

Ten of us made the trip to Cattows Tea Room. There was a wide choice of breakfast dishes. The food was well cooked, well presented and convivially served by the friendly staff. Everyone joined in the conversations and enjoyed the opportunity to chitchat.

If you would like to join us at the Bretby Garden Centre Tea Room on 16 January 2025 at 10am, please contact Colin Woodland at [breakfast@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:breakfast@ashbyu3a.co.uk) and he will add you to the list of attendees. There are 6 on the list already!

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 January. On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> it will be from 7pm to 9pm, on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> it will be in the morning 11am to 1.30pm.

If you are interested in joining us 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**

#### 10<sup>th</sup> December

5 of us met at Gill's to finish off our work on using the Gothic font. After all our initial difficulties, it seems that we actually enjoyed the challenge and managed to produce something fairly decent. We did agree, though, that it's not always about the finished product, but more about the process of becoming confident with the particular font.

Our next meeting is our Xmas meal on January 14th at the Gelsmoor and after that we shall plan our future projects.

It's been a good and enjoyable year!!

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

The pioneering Christmas croquet session was unfortunately a victim of dreadful weather. However the remaining sessions on 31st January, 28th February and 28th March are booked and hopefully the weather will be on our side.

New Members are always welcome - do come and meet us at Moira Miners Welfare at 11.00 am.

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

11<sup>th</sup> December - Centivo Lounge, Ashby

Eight of us gathered at the Centivo Lounge for Coffee and Chat. For such a large establishment, part of a large chain, the choice of cakes and pastries was a little limited. Nevertheless, each was able to find something to satisfy them along with their coffee or tea.

Our next gathering will be in the Tea Room at Planters Bretby Garden centre at 10am on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025. If you would like to join us, please let Colin Woodland know at [coffee@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:coffee@ashbyu3a.co.uk). There are seven on the list so far and there is room for more.

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

16<sup>th</sup> December

4 people came to the meeting and as nobody had any (computer) problems we chatted mainly about mobile phones and discussed the difference between memory and storage. We drank mostly tea and ate chocolate biscuits supplied by Richard.

A merry Christmas to everyone and all the best for the new year.

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

5<sup>th</sup> December

Clashing with the Christmas lunch, the group was reduced to 4 members meeting at Brian's house.

Our theme for the month was "table top/ still life". Most of us found it quite daunting, so we were treated to a "master-class" by Steven who produced a wide range of images demonstrating some intriguing possibilities. Although some of us had produced a small group of images none matched up to the scope, imagination and technique of Steven's set. It was truly inspirational. [We hope the missing members of the group will be bringing their offerings to the next group!].

We then spent some time discussing settings and techniques that we each used or wanted more information on.

There will be no meeting in January (being a bit too close to the festivities & recovery therefrom.)

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

18<sup>th</sup> December

In December, the group enjoyed a seasonal celebration at Lil Bo's in Ashby. No Painting, no Drawing. Just Coffee and Cake!

The January meeting will be on Wednesday 15th, topic and venue TBA

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

11<sup>th</sup> December

With Christmas and holidays upon us we had just five around the table.

Eileen has been successful in correcting some incorrectly transcribed names in Family Search, which has opened up some good options for pushing her research further.

Elizabeth is working on the life story of her father: always a process of mixed emotions Carolyn was assembling folders of paper copies in family ranks: a sometimes tedious, but very necessary discipline.

Dora is coming to the end of straightforward research topics and looking for options to move on. We discussed developing the background to the lives of each of our ancestors using various means. Newspaper accounts of contemporary events, photos and/or drawings of scenes and clothing from the time, books or articles that bear on the work they did and so on. In particular it seems an ancestor was a teacher, so the leader was able to suggest ways of accessing information about his school(s) and career, such as school logs, and where these records might be found. She has also taken a DNA test and awaits results.

Mince pies were enjoyed instead of biccies at coffee time. We all signed a Christmas card for Keith, and the leader later took it round with mince pies and the good wishes of all the group, including absent friends.

We meet again on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2025. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Happy family hunting!

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

December

There was no food from afar expedition in December as the date coincided with the Ashby u3a Christmas Lunch.

In January we will be dining at the award winning Flying Horse Indian Restaurant in Coalville on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at 6pm. Seventeen 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](mailto:food_from_afar@ashbyu3a.co.uk).

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

9<sup>th</sup> December

At the last meeting of the year for the French group we amused ourselves with a list of French Xmas jokes which we found on the Internet and took turns in reading and translating some pages of text about how the French spend Xmas- ie what food stuffs they prefer to eat , when they plan their main Xmas meal etc. Next time we are going to discuss the Fête des Rois ou Épiphanie

The first meetings of the New Year will be Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January keeping to our usual programme of meeting fortnightly.

**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 next year will be on our webpage.

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

**19<sup>th</sup> December – ‘Christmas Get-together’**

The Gardening group held a get together on 19th December, all who attended brought food to share and a small gift to add to our Santa sack, the food was lovely. Following eating and a good chat we drew our gifts from the sack and all of us decided to take them home to unwrap.

We had a very nice surprise because a student from Leicester College for Performing Arts volunteered to come and sing a few songs for us which was a lovely end to very pleasant afternoon. We were expecting 34 members to attend but unfortunately due mainly to illness only 25 actually came.

Hopefully those who were ill will make a quick recovery. We would like to thank all who came for their help and support , you are all superstars!

**SCRABBLE - Leader: Usha Sood. Group contact: scrabble@ashbyu3a.co.uk**

We are continuing to meet fortnightly at the Bull's Head, Market St, 10.30 on a Monday for fun sessions of Scrabble. This month we meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Send an email to the address above if you'd like to try us out. It's fun and sociable.

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

The group didn't meet in December as it would have fallen on Boxing Day.

A reminder that, as something for discussion at our next meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> , we should all try to bring a memorable relic from home.

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

The group didn't meet on the planned date of December 25<sup>th</sup> as another more important event happens that day!

Our next planned outings for Jan and February to local companies have fallen through as they have both decided not to do factory tours. However we will hopefully be able to visit Taylors Bell Foundry on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>. Details to follow shortly.

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

**December**

Instead of the usual Luncheon Club meeting in December, those who wished to joined the rest of the u3a at their Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club. Glenys Morrice did a great job of organising this festive lunch. It was a shame that some had to wait so long to be served and that some of the food was rather tepid by the time it was received. However, this was beyond the control of Glenys and the luncheon club members who attended the occasion wish to thank Glenys for her stalwart efforts.

The luncheon gathering in January will be at the Sump on Newton Road, Burton DE15 0YY on 9<sup>th</sup> January at noon. Twenty three 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**

The Rummikub group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 11 am at the Ivanhoe social club. We are a friendly mixed group of new and experienced players so if you are looking for gentle mental activity Rummikub might suit. We welcome new players.

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

### **4<sup>th</sup> December**

Our leader was not available this month and so Nev hosted and led the group. Disappointingly only two members were available to attend the meeting, so in order to provide some additional music, Nev invited his neighbour, Adrian, to join the proceedings.

Dorothy started proceedings with the York Waits playing 'Intruda Decima' and 'Pavana La Bataglia'.

Adrian's first choice was Kate Rusby singing 'Jolly Plough Boys'.

Nev's first choice was a YouTube recording of Paul McCartney and Cilla Black working on a song that he had written for her. Paul plays guitar and offers advice to Cilla who sings 'Step Inside Love'.

Dorothy kept the Christmas theme going with Andy Williams singing 'The Christmas Song'.

Nev continued with Sandy Denny singing 'Who Knows Where the Time Goes'. This is a song she had written when with the Strawbs and they recorded as a 'B' side. In 1968 she joined Fairport Convention and in 1969 they recorded a version of the song with Sandy singing accompanied by Richard Thompson on guitar.

Dorothy then gave us another and quite different version of 'The Christmas Song', this time by the Ibstock Brass Band.

This prompted Adrian to pick another brass band, The Grimethorpe Colliery Band, accompanying Peter Skellern singing 'Top Hat, White Tie and Tails'.

Continuing the Christmas theme Nev chose Maddy Prior and the Carnival Band singing 'Poor Little Jesus'.

Dorothy then chose a track by Oasis, not the Gallagher brothers from Manchester, but a group formed in 1984 consisting of: Peter Skellern; Mary Hopkin; Julian Lloyd Webber; Mitch Dalton and Bill Lovelady. The song was a Peter Skellern composition called 'Weavers of Moonbeams'.

Adrian finished with Shirley Collins and the Albion Band singing 'Just As the Tide Was A 'Flowing'.

Nev's final choice was the Christmas Carol 'Away In a Manger' by Maddy Prior and the Carnival Band.

The January meeting would have been on New Years Day so we have decided not to meet. The next meeting will be at Sallie's house on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Christmas lunch 5<sup>th</sup> Dec**

85 members made it to the Christmas lunch at Willesley Park Golf Club. It mostly went very well and people enjoyed the company and the food and the carol singing afterwards, however there were one or two hitches. One table reported that they were served much later than all the other tables and a few people, particularly those who had ordered the vegetarian Wellington pie complained that their food was cold or undercooked.

Our apologies to those members but we are of course at the mercy of the caterers. I understand that we will be taking matters up with the caterers after our Burns Supper, which we very much hope will go better, to see how things can be improved in future.

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

All tickets for this are now sold.



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

On 5th December, 10 of us, including a visitor, played a mixture of Christmas and non-Christmas music. We played a 4-part medley of traditional carols, followed by Alyson Lewin's arrangement of "Il est né" and "Noel Nouvelet". We also played 3-part arrangements of different carols: Rocking, Tomorrow Shall be my Wedding Day, A Virgin Most Pure, Quem Pastores Laudavere, and Stille Nacht. We played the Cantique de Jean Racine and we finished with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "The Goroum".

On 19th December, there were 8 of us, and we played nearly all Christmas music; the exceptions were the Cantique de Jean Racine, and the Goroum. We played two Christmas medleys, a selection of 3-part carols, two French carols ("Il est né" and "Noel Nouvelet"), the Calypso carol, Gaudete, a few other well-known 4-part carols, Corelli's Christmas Concerto (not very well!) and finished with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas. The comment was again made that we could do with a conductor. Some pieces work quite well without, but some are very difficult to play decently without one. The Corelli is hard work for the bass players, but at least, most unusually, there were two of us.

Our next meeting will be on the second Thursday in January, as the first Thursday is 2nd, and I suspect that quite a few of us will still be involved in activities with friends and family. In February, we will return to the usual pattern. Unless there is a revolt, we won't be playing any Christmas music in January. There is some music in the "cupboard" which we haven't tried yet, or not much, anyway, and I think the New Year would be a good time to get some of it out.

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

10<sup>th</sup> December – '50 years of clangers on railways' by Bill Devitt'.

Bill recounted some unexpected clangers encountered in his 50 years of railway project management. He recounted several incidents where carefully planned events gave unexpected results. Some of these were...

Sir William McAlpine getting covered from waist to toe in green pea soup.

When Richard Branson on a runaway reindeer careered into a ton of fake snow.

Witnessing thefts of a loco in Derby; of coaches in Germany; of silver in Leicestershire; and money in South Africa.

Bits unexpectedly dropping off trains and locomotives failing due to the "wrong type of snow".

Contracts resolved using a tin of tomato soup.

Being in Taiwan during an earthquake; being trapped underground in South Africa in a power cut, whilst snakes had taken up residence at ground level.

Coming across a pack of lions kept in a private house.

Driving a steam bus to Brighton, starting first and arriving last.

Encounters with the Mafia whilst negotiating a deal with the Italian railways

And having to get home from the centre of London walking backwards, due to injury.

After the talk, the group tackled a nature-themed quiz devised by Committee member Kurt Kovach. Much head scratching finished an enjoyable Christmas occasion.

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

The Supper Club didn't meet in December nor will we be meeting in January as it would be the same day as the Burns Supper. Our next gathering will be on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. Venue to be decided.

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

18<sup>th</sup> December

This was our Christmas tasting session. Unfortunately due to illness, holidays or other commitments only 6 of us were able to attend but it didn't stop us enjoying ourselves.

Rather than one person choosing the wines each brought some nibbles and a wine that we would like to drink at Christmas. We don't take the tasting too seriously at this session but nonetheless do try to make some sensible comments!

We started with an Argentine Torrontes, an unusual white wine at £8.50 from Tesco, with tempura prawns, also from Tesco. We all liked the floral aroma and the slightly off-dry taste which went well with seafood. Annie had supplied a Val de Loire Chardonnay which she bought at an Oxford wine festival which was delicious but unobtainable in the supermarkets so not easy to recommend.

We then moved on to red wines along with cold meats and cheeses including some salami and chorizo which Annie had made herself. Very nice Annie, well done. The first red was a Pierre Jaurant Pinot Noir, Aldi's wine of the week at £4.85, which although perfectly drinkable we all felt was lacking in something. It wasn't particularly exciting. On the other hand the Belle France AOC Bordeaux red 2022 was what you'd hope a decent claret would be. Dark, fruity and slightly oaked. We liked it a lot, but again it is not readily available.

We finished the evening by tasting some rather lovely Taylor's LBV Port also from Tesco at £20. A good start to the Christmas season.

Our recommendation of the month would have to be the Tesco Finest Torrontes, especially if you can pick it up when there's a 25% off offer.

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

13<sup>th</sup> December. Oakthorpe colliery picnic site to Hick's lodge

Seven people met at the car park and set off back up the drive to the road which we crossed and started on the long walk to Hick's Lodge. At the end of the long straight we took the left turn and walked around the lake admiring the geese on the lake. We stopped at the cafe for coffee, teas and cakes. We then continued around the lake and took the path back to the picnic site 2.5 miles.

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

9<sup>th</sup> December. From Shepshed into Garendon Park, led by Val and Trev

The weather couldn't decide to either stay dry or rain, but 8 of us decided to come out for a walk anyway.

We started in the car park in Shepshed, having learnt that Shepshed is the now shortened version of 'Sheepshead' and whilst walking to look out for sheep heads on the buildings. We walked past the church and on down a lane to the footbridge over the M1 and into Garendon Park, where our route took us past an Obelisk, a Triumphal Arch and the Temple of Venus.

At our coffee stop we met one of the walkers from our long walking group out walking his dog. From there we continued onwards to go under the M1 and return back to the car Park in Shepshed.

We were lucky that the rain decided not to come down until just as we arrived back at the car park. The walk was on mainly hard surfaces and tracks so there was very little mud! 4.5 miles

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> December. Around Packington led by Kevin**

This was the now traditional short walk around Packington of about 4 miles with the option of a meal or drinks at the Bull and Lion afterwards.

**17<sup>th</sup> December**

We didn't walk on this our usual date as it clashed with the December Monthly Meeting which in turn had been moved to avoid Christmas.

**Your Committee**

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

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact email</b>
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	vacant	<a href="mailto:interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk">interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>
Welfare	vacant	<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>