



Newsletter September 2025

Interest Groups Timetable for September 2025

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

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	Tue 23 rd	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. Chris Lewis talks about 'Ashby Street Pastors'
Activities	Wed 3 rd Fri 19 th	1-3 pm 2-4 pm	Ashby Leisure Centre
Arts and Crafts	Thu 4 th	10 am	Packington Village Hall.
Breakfast	Thu 18 th	10 am	Swarkestone Nursery Garden Cafe, Lowes Lane DE73 7GD
Bridge	Mon 1 st Mon 8 th Mon 15 th Mon 22 nd	Times TBA	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Calligraphy	Tue 9 th	10 am	At Jenny's
Coffee and Chat	Wed 10 th	10 am	Newlands Farm Shop and Café, Hilton DE65 5GQ
Computer	Wed 3 rd Mon 15 th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way TBA
Croquet	Fri 26 th	10 am	Ashby Croquet Club, Moira Miners' Welfare Club, Bath Lane, Moira DE12 6BP
Digital Photography	Thu 4 th	10 am	East Midlands Aeropark, Hill Top, Castle Donnington, DE74 2PR
Drawing and painting	Wed 17 th	10 am	At Lesley's.
Family History	Wed 10 th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Food from Afar	Thu 4 th	6 pm	La Torre Restaurant, 48 High Street, Coalville
French	Mon 1 st Mon 15 th	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Gardening	Thu 18 th	Depart Royal Hotel at 10am	Coach Trip to Bourton House. Coach and entry £30
History	Thu 25 th	2.15 pm	Yogi Godwin - 'Feedback and Planning for 2026'
Industrial Heritage	-	-	The trip to Beamish has been cancelled
Literature	Tue 9 th	1.30 pm	At Sandra's house

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Lunch	Thu 11 th	12 for 12.30 pm	The Sump, Newton Road, Burton DE15 0TT
Medium Walks	Mon 8 th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet on the upper car park at Moira Furnace
Music Appreciation	-	-	Not meeting this month
Recorder	Thu 4 th Thu 18 th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Rummikub	Tue 9 th Tue 23 rd	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Science & Technology	Tue 9 th	2 pm	Packington Village Hall. Catrin Rutland - 'Mending a Broken Heart'
Scrabble	Mon 8 th Mon 22 nd	10.30 am	The Bulls Head, Ashby
Short Walks	Fri 19 th	10 am	Meet at the Swadlincote Woodlands car park off Derby Road, DE11 8LP
Social Events	-	-	No event this month
Supper Club	Thu 25 th	7 for 7.30 pm	The George & Dragon, A512, Thringstone
Walking	Tue 2 nd Tue 16 th	9.45 for 10am 9.45 for 10am	Meet at Staff of Life, Ticknall DE73 7JHTBA Meet at Foremark Reservoir car park DE65 6EG
Wine Appreciation	Wed 17 th	7 pm	Annie's house

Interest Groups Timetable for early October 2025

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Music Appreciation	Wed 1 st	10 am	At Mike's, 91 Woodside
Activity	Wed 1 st	1 – 3 pm	Ashby Leisure Centre
Computer	Wed 1 st	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	Thu 2 nd	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Arts and Crafts	Thu 2 nd	10 am	Packington Village Hall.
Recorder	Thu 2 nd	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Food from Afar	Thu 2 nd	6 pm	TBA
Bridge	Mon 6 th	TBA	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Walking	Tue 7 th	9.45 for 10am	Details TBA

AGM

We held our AGM this Tuesday, 26th August. 78 members attended and they approved the minutes of the last AGM, elected or re-elected those members standing to join the committee and approved the appointment of Amanda Roe as Finance Reviewer. Also on the agenda was a proposal to make a change to our Constitution to allow us to formally move the date of future AGMs to August instead of July. We have been using a clause which allows the AGM to be up to 15 months later than the previous if necessary. This change was unanimously approved.

As his two year term of office as Chair has ended, John Pilgrim has stepped down but is remaining on the committee. A new Chair will be announced after the next committee meeting. Thank you John, on behalf of the committee and members, for all that you have done for Ashby u3a especially to enhance the awareness and reputation of our u3a within the Ashby area and for helping to move us forward with new technology to ease the running of the organisation.

Once the AGM was closed, we all retired to the back room for our annual cream tea. The weather was kind and so many people were able to sit out in the garden and enjoy their scones. Whether they put the cream on before or after the jam was entirely up to them!

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 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.

NEW GROUPS

NEW LONGER WALKING GROUP

This new group plans to do walks that are a bit longer than the other walking groups. Typically around 10 miles.

The inaugural walk will be on Monday 1st September, a 10 mile walk starting from Paddington's bench at the top of Market Street in Ashby. Meet for 9 15 for a 9 30 start. Bring a snack and drink but there will be a short break and toilets at Hicks Lodge.

The following walk will be Monday 3rd November starting from Ticknall Village Hall car park.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Christine Green at christinegreen0203@gmail.com

PROPOSED PLAY-READING GROUP

Jane Reynolds and Lorraine Wilson-Jennings are hoping to start a play-reading group and are looking for expressions of interest from anyone who thinks they might like to take part. They haven't yet considered dates, times or venues or what plays the group might read as that will depend on what the group decide. If you are interested please email Jane at Janer.4a@gmail.com, or Lorraine at wilsonjennings@btinternet.com

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ACTIVITIES – Co-ordinator: Michael O'Donoghue - activities@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 07485 159487

We are delighted to have the Activities Group schedule now finalised to the end of this year. As previously advised in the last Newsletter, the Activities Group will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 13.00 to 15.00 and the third Friday of each month at 14.00 to 16.00 commencing on Wednesday September 3rd. All five activities, Badminton, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Boccia and Walking Football will be available for all sessions.

To cover the cost of the facilities and equipment, we are asking that each member pays a subscription of £3.00 per session, payable at time of registration on entry to the Leisure Centre.

To offset this cost, you can avail of free car parking at the Leisure Centre, provided you register your car at the reception.

We have provided a short list of the rules for each activity and these are available on our website and at each meeting at the Leisure Centre.

We are excited to see as many members as possible joining us for a fun filled afternoon.

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

7th August

The "Crafty Ladies" met at the beginning of August. This was a special day.

We continued to work on our oven pads. With the patchwork front complete, we added wadding and a backing.

The reason the meeting was special?? Well, one of our ladies was celebrating her 90th birthday, so the second half of our morning was spent partying! As the birthday girl had some food allergies, we didn't have a conventional cake. Instead, we had a sausage roll cake.

Next month we will be learning how to quilt our patchwork oven pads.

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 September. Times for each day are either 11 to 1.30 or 7 to 9 pm, however timings for this month have yet to be confirmed.

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

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

In September, we plan to return to an old favourite, the Swarkestone Nursery Garden Cafe, Lowes Lane DE73 7GD. If you would like to join us on 18th September at 10am, please contact Colin Woodland at breakfast@ashbyu3a.co.uk and he will add you to the list of attendees.

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.

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

29th August

Although many members were on holiday, six intrepid players were present to enjoy an interesting morning's play in fine weather. (despite a somewhat pessimistic weather forecast)

Hopefully our numbers will be boosted next month when we meet on September 26th.

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

Our next gathering will be at Newlands Farm Shop and Café, Hilton DE65 5GQ at 10am on 10th September.

If you would like to join us, please let Colin Woodland Know at coffee@ashbyu3a.co.uk.

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

7th August

Five people met at the cafe in Donington Park race track. We had come to take photos on a practice day. After coffee we made our way to the tunnel that takes you under the race track into the central area. We found an area with a clear view near a corner where we could photograph the cars speeding by and the odd car leaving the track in a cloud of dust. There were three sessions; the first was a mix of vintage and more recent sports racing cars. The second was for single seaters and these were similar to formula one cars. The final session was for racing trucks, only the cabs were on the track - I don't know where they had left their trailers! After a while we made our way to the pits and then up into the grandstand for the finish of the third session.



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

18th August

We had five attending but there was only one person with a problem for the Brains Trust today, possibly because the resurfacing work to Burton Road has made a mess of traffic routing in the area.

Joan had previously flagged a problem with emails on her phone being blocked as 'Suspicious Activity'. This is very likely because of a recent update to the AVG Anti-virus software, which JD had also had problems with. Mike helped sort her out and showed her how to identify emails from scammers and phishers.

She now needs her laptop upgrading to Windows 11. The first step was to see if the device was compatible. Mike took her through the routine of using Microsoft's own free checking system, rather than use any of the offers from the internet which would only do the same thing, but with the added 'bonus' of attaching their adverts! The process to upgrade will take time, so this is to be deferred to a later meeting.

The next meeting will be at 2 Marlborough Way, on Wednesday the 3rd of September. The location for the next meeting on the 15th is TBA but will not be at Winchester Way

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

August

There was no meeting in August so we come together again on Sept 9th at Jenny's.

DRAWING & PAINTING - Leader: Lesley Thomas- painting@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 07895 971090

20th August

Drawing and painting group of four met at Christine's house this month and the subject letter was D.

We produced a sweet dog, a wonderful dresser, a dinosaur and incredibly 'The Dog and Duck'.

Next month we meet on the 17th September at my house in Measham and of course the letter will be E, see you then.

Lesley



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

August

The French group continue to meet fortnightly at the Ivanhoe Club on Mondays at 11am. Recently we have been working in pairs and recounting in French some memorable family event with the listener then relating the story. We are going to continue this theme for the next few sessions. In addition we will integrate some learning into the sessions. Next time we will look at the conditional tense, its formation and use in every day speech in particular whilst using the third person singular.

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

13th August

On a very pleasant warm day 6 of us met at table.

Adrian is busy confirming that the information on his 6th great grandmother, in the early 18th century, is correct.

Sue is similarly involved with her 4th great aunt and 2nd great grandfather, trying to solve a mystery.

Eileen is working through many hints, checking and accepting or declining as appropriate. From her work she already has a shopping list of certificates to order to confirm some facts.

Mary has a conundrum with her husband's great grandmother, whose date of birth seems to vary all over the shop. More work needed to establish some sort of pattern

JD is working on clarifying the involvement of his great grandfather, a teacher, with the finance and building industries in 19th century Newcastle. It seems people he was closely related to were involved in multiple organisations within the new Building Societies, the burgeoning construction industry and the Freemasons. This is part of the story he is writing of his great grandfather's life

We meet again on Wednesday the 10th September at Marlborough Way

FOOD FROM AFAR - Leader: Colin Woodland - food_from_afar@ashbyu3a.co.uk - 01530 413867

Our next outing is to the La Torre Restaurant Coalville LE67 3FE on 4th September at 6pm. If you wish to attend, please let Colin Woodland know at food_from_afar@ashbyu3a.co.uk

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

21st August - Garden Party

Today we held our garden party at Anita and Dennis' house in Ashby. What a great day was had by all, the hosts did a great job hosting and serving (with help from some of our members) a selection of home made scones and cakes, and a supply of drinks.

The garden had ample space and seating for our 38 members in attendance, and it was in full flower with colourful borders. The sun came out just in time after the last couple of dull days, we held our free plant raffle of about 20 plants and Margaret held a guess the weight of the cake, with proceeds going towards cancer help centre.



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

For August we are returning to The Sump, Newton Road, Burton upon Trent DE15 0TT
If you wish to join us, please let Colin Woodland know ASAP at luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk.

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

For August the group met to discuss 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus

SOCIAL EVENTS – Organiser: Glenys Morrice – socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk

19th August - Fish Supper and Quiz

After several years of not having a summertime get-together, we had a Fish Supper followed by a quiz on Tuesday 19th in The Beeches. This was a most successful event.

60 members met in the function room at the back of the pub. Once we were all settled and sat down with our drinks, the tasty fish and chips was served with ample bowls of mushy peas and tartare sauce on the side. Service was very good, friendly and prompt. Coffees and teas followed before Tony started the quiz.

We had time to look at photos/paintings of 15 various US Presidents to try to identify them, followed by a couple of rounds of general knowledge and film/tv questions. The scoring rate was pretty high on most tables but the table with least people (just 4) was declared the winner.

It was generally thought to be great fun and we are now looking to see if we can do something similar, or different, in a few months time, most likely after the Christmas lunch and Burns supper.

28th August – Bill Devitt ‘What gave rise to the Industrial Revolution’

25 members braved the rain to come and listen to Bill’s talk today. He started out by saying that the Industrial Revolution should really be called the Industrial Evolution as it wasn’t a sudden change but a more gradual move from an agrarian society to an industrial one and that many factors influenced that change.

During the Napoleonic Wars of 1792 to 1815 a huge number of sequestered horse were killed and so the price of horses and fodder reached an all time high forcing people to look for other means of providing ‘horse power’ on farms and for transport. The Newcomen engine had been invented in 1712 to pump water out of Cornish tin mines but it wasn’t until James Watt’s refinements and then Richard Trevithick’s high-pressure steam engine of 1804 that a moving engine ran on rails in Merthyr Tydfil. This was a bit of a false start as the price of horses started to fall and the need for an alternative was less urgent. However stationary engines on a cart hauled, ironically, by horses were starting to be transported to farms and other sites to provide horse power all day long without rest.

Mine owners in Northumberland started to realise that engines on rails could provide a quick and relatively easy way to move coal to the docks and so formed the Stockton and Darlington Railway which was the first public railway in the world using steam locomotives when it opened in 1825. Many other railways quickly followed, both in Britain and abroad. Russia was one of the first to buy rails and engines from Britain. Stephenson’s Rocket appeared at the Rainhill Trials in 1829 and it introduced many improvements and innovations to steam engines, and trains generally, many of which are basically in use today.

Meanwhile large stationary steam engines started pumping water into, and sewage out of, the emerging industrial towns and cities, whilst others were providing power to the mills and other factories in those towns to drive the machines doing all the milling, weaving, metal stamping and other industries that were springing up.

Transport for all those new products was now a bottle-neck. Roads were unsurfaced, rutted and often impassable in winter for the horse-drawn wagons and stagecoaches of the time. Hard-surfaced turnpikes, i.e. private roads, started to appear but they were little better. It was said that highwaymen could walk alongside the coaches to rob them as they were so slow. Canals were better but still slow. Railways started to get longer and to connect towns and cities together. Transport became faster and the need for communication needed to get faster too. Early ideas included the Pony Express in the USA which could get a letter coast to coast in 10 days by horse, but it only lasted 18 months before going bankrupt when the telegraph superseded it making communication nearly instantaneous.

An interesting look at how the Industrial Revolution came about.

Prior to Bill’s talk, Yogi reminded us of the many interesting things that have happened in August over the years, most notably 2 battles (Crecy in 1346 and Bosworth Field in 1485) and the ending of WWII on Aug 15th 1945 with the Japanese surrender.

On September 25th Yogi will be interested in your views on the direction of our History group for 2026. We have tried a ‘themed approach this year, tying up Liverpool with Slavery and Revolution, both agricultural and industrial. Has it worked? If so what themes would you like? Where can we go for our day out? Can we link it a theme? Should we have themes lasting longer than one year? When should we place the planning session in the year? Too early and little evidence to judge or too late giving little planning time.

Note also that the October 23rd talk on WWI Shattered illusions by Danny Wells has been postponed. Due to Hall maintenance work being carried out during that week our session cannot take place. So this session will run one week later on the 30th October. Please alter your programme and personal diaries accordingly.

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

August

The group took a summer break in August as many members had holiday and child-minding duties.

Unfortunately the September trip to Beamish Outdoor Museum near Durham has had to be cancelled. We are looking at what else might be arranged to replace it.

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

6th August

This month five of us met at Neil's house. It had been a sad month for music with three important but very different musical artists dying in July. Cleo Laine, Ozzy Osbourne and Tom Lehrer. Most of you will have heard of the first two but Lehrer is less well known, but he was very well known in the 50s and 60s, particularly in the US, for his satirical songs that mocked the government, church, social mores etc.

We didn't play anything from Ozzy and Black Sabbath! but we did play a song by Cleo Laine and one of Lehrer's least controversial songs, the very funny 'The elements' in which he sings the names of all the elements in the periodic table to the tune of 'A modern Major General'.

The remainder of our play list this month was just as varied and interesting as usual, comprising:

Cleo Laine 'Somebody loves me'

Dusty Springfield 'In the land of make believe' from her 'Dusty in Memphis' album

Tom Jones 'You can keep your hat on' made famous in the film 'Full Monty' when sung by Joe Cocker

Tom and Leanne Rymes 'Momma told me not to come'

Connie Francis 'Who's sorry now' and 'Goldfinger'

Allison Young 'I'll be here in the morning'

Carol Kidd 'Nice work if you can get it'. Carol is a fine Scottish jazz singer.

Oscar Peterson 'Wheatland' from his Canadiana suite

Johnny Kidd and the Pirates 'Shaking all over'. Classic early British Rock and Roll

Gordon McKrae 'Oh what a lovely morning' from the film 'Oklahoma'

Randy Newman 'I think it's going to rain today' followed by -

UB40 also singing 'I think it's going to rain today'. This is a very different version with a reggae beat.

The French Foreign Legion 'Connaissez-vous ces hommes' This is one of their marching songs

Barbra Streisand 'As time goes by' from the film 'What's up Doc'

Barbra Streisand and Paul McCartney 'My Valentine' from her latest CD showing she still has an amazing voice at age 83.

As you can see, a pretty varied selection.

It seems that almost all of us have some other commitment next month, so we shall skip September and meet on October 1st at Mike's

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

August

The recorder group met as usual on the first Thursday morning of August. In spite of it being holiday season, there was a good turnout of twelve members.

We started with a selection of pieces from the Red Recorder book, followed by four pieces from the Fourteen Elizabethan Dances. We moved on to Recorder quartets, playing Kalinka, Cherry Tree Rag and Rondeau. Then we tried Maria from West Side story which did not go well. It has complicated rhythm and we soon abandoned it, concluding that it probably needs a conductor to keep things on track. We then tried Beckett Blues and Cameron's Ragtime, neither of which we have really tackled before, but both went well, so we played them twice to make sure it wasn't a fluke the first time.

We then looked at Two Pavanes, both of which were new to the group. Perhaps not the most inspiring pieces we have. We also tried a Chaconne: Ouverture, also new. We played Now is the Month of Maying, which went well, followed by How Merrily We Live to finish, which also went well and is a good arrangement.

Our second session in August, on the third Thursday, was attended by a small but select group of just six. We started by playing the final two pieces from the Elizabethan Dances, then the first two. After an initial problem where we all seemed to be playing at different speeds, it all gradually came together.

We revisited the Chaconne Ouverture, but there weren't quite enough of us to play it convincingly this time, but it has potential.

We did several pieces new to the group, which mostly went well and were enjoyable music. We finished with a few tunes from our Recorder Quartet book and rounded the session off with The Goroom – an all time favourite – which we just had time to play through twice.

The next session will be on 4th September.

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. If you have not played it and would like to try a diverting and slightly challenging game, we would be delighted to see you.

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

We meet twice a month at the Bull's Head, Market St, 10.30 on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month for fun sessions of Scrabble. If you'd like to try us out email the address above. It's fun and sociable.

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

August

The group took a summer break in August. We will be back on Sept 9th with a talk by Catrin Rutland on how the human heart works, the diagnosis of heart disease and the future for diagnostics and treatments.

20th August

This month we almost had a full house with 8 of us sitting round Annie's kitchen table. To give them something to get their tastebuds around, Mike presented '6 summer wines'. Unfortunately the weather had turned cooler that week so the hope of tasting them on a hot summer evening had passed.

Nonetheless we persevered! Starting with a well-chilled white wine new to all from a district in NW Spain that none of us had heard of. Baron Amarillo Godello 2024 Bierzo. Spain 13.5% from Aldi at £7.99. Godello is the grape. Bierzo is the region near Leon in NW Spain. This proved to be a rather nice dry, slightly lemony wine being youthful and fresh whilst having complex flavours. That's unusual. Would be nice as an aperitif or with seafood. Despite it being the 1st wine of the night when people are reluctant to score too highly, not knowing what comes next, it averaged 7.8/10 including one 9.



Next up was a rosé highly recommended by Helen McGinn on BBC's Saturday Morning Kitchen, Arc du Soleil 2024 Sable de Camargue Famille Perrin. France 12.5% Tesco £9.50. Unfortunately we weren't impressed. It wasn't overly dry or overly sweet, but it didn't really have much flavour at all. Most disappointed. It only scored 6.2/10.

And so on to the reds starting with a lightly chilled Beaujolais La Burgondie 2023 France. 12.5% alcohol from Tesco at £9.00. This was a very typical Beaujolais with flavours of raspberries, strawberries and redcurrants. Quite light but an intense flavour. Chilling it was good but it would have been better still on a hot day. Never mind, we all liked it and it scored 7.4

Fourth came a Pinot Noir. Errazuriz Estate Reserva 2024 Chile 13% from Tesco £9.50.

This was a much beefier wine which is unexpected for Pinot Noir, which is normally a bit lighter. Quite well oaked despite the label saying it was lightly-oaked. Still plenty of fruit flavour and well-rounded finish. It would be better with food than drunk by itself. Rather nice, it scored 7.9

Fifth was a Tesco Finest Primitivo IGT Terre d'Abruzzo IGT 2023 Italy 13.5% costing £8.50. This is not what some would call a summer wine but it comes from Abruzzo in southern Italy which is a pretty warm part of the world in summer so it should cope with our climate. Despite being inky-black this was actually lighter tasting than the Chilean Pinot Noir as it had less tannin but it still had the flavours of plums and black berries. We reckoned it would go very well with pizzas and tomato-based stews as you might expect but also with burgers and almost anything from the BBQ. It scored exactly the same as the Pinot at 7.9

Lastly came another odd-ball wine. Like the very first, it was Spanish and bought from Aldi.

Tempranillo-Bobal Toro Loco, Utiel-Requena Superior 2023 Spain 12.5% at £5.29. This had won a Gold Medal at the Berlin Wine Trophy 2024 and was quite heavily discounted from about £8. It comes from Requena which is about 40 miles inland from Valencia and is supposed to be ideal for tapas and grilled meats, however it split the room, 2 liked it, 2 very much didn't. It had a slightly odd aftertaste and certainly wasn't as pleasant as the previous reds and it only averaged 7.2. A little disappointing.

Our wine of the night was the white Baron Amarillo Godello from NW Spain. Mainly because it was very pleasant but it was also so unexpected coming from a wine area we'd never heard of. A good find.

We were a little unlucky with the wine-buying as on the very day of our tasting Tesco dropped their prices by 25% for 6 or more wines. Mike bought the wines the day before!

Next month John will be serving up a selection of Rieslings. That should be interesting.

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

28th August – Royal Oak, Long Whatton

Lat time we visited the Royal Oak was 3 years ago and we had a very good meal, so we were hoping for the same this time and we weren't disappointed. The building has had a refit inside since last time and is looking very nice.

We had pre-ordered our food and the waiting staff were on the ball and bought all the food out promptly, saying 'salmon for Mike' or 'pie for Colin' etc., and by the second course seemed to have remembered everyone's names. The food was delicious and well-presented. Service was excellent. It is a little dearer than other pubs around here but you certainly get your money's worth.

Next month on the 25th we shall be returning to the George and Dragon on the A512 at Thringstone. Anyone wishing to join us, please contact Mike or Colin at supper@ashbyu3a.co.uk

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

15th August. Snibston park



7 walkers met in the car park at Snibston. The weather was kind as it was cooler than we have had of late, and cloudy, reducing the need for sun tan lotion. We stopped at the wheel at the top of the steps for the photo. We turned left and went in the opposite direction to the route we took in June. The walking was pleasant and we kept going until we reached the ponds. Here we noticed the map still showed the museum that was sadly knocked down. The path took as by the pond for a small way and then we followed the path to the edge of the park where we saw the new

housing estate taking shape. We followed the path back to the cafe where we stopped for a drink and cake and a long chat. Distance walked just under 1.5 miles

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

11th August. From Bretby led by Alison

There were 9 of us that met up at St Wystans Church, off Watery Lane, in Bretby and we picked up a 10th outside Planters Garden Centre. This was a new route for the group and for many of the people taking part. We welcomed a new walker to our group, Tim, and hope to see him again in the future.

Over fields off Bretby Lane to the outskirts of Winshill, a uphill section took us back to Bretby Lane, albeit not at the same point, which we crossed and took Oldicote Lane to Bretby Golf Course. There were quite a few golfers about.

We walked down the access road to Bretby Hall, passing a couple of the 5 fishing lakes there. Along the unadopted back entrance to the Hall and meeting back up to Watery Lane. This was an 'old stomping ground' for one of our walkers and I think a trip down 'memory lane' added to the enjoyment of the walk.

Just under 5.5 miles completed.

5th August 2025. Dovedale, led by David

10 members of the group arrived safely at the National Trust Car Park at the end of the country lane which leads to Dovedale having successfully found their way via the villages of Blore and Ilam because the A515 through the centre of Ashbourne was closed owing to roadworks.

Unlike the walk held some 3 years ago the weather was kind to us and mainly rain free throughout the walk.

Dovedale itself comprises a series of exciting rock formations and ancient woodland now regrettably subject to ash die-back and resultant cutting down of affected trees. The limestone rock is the remains of an ancient reef system.

We walked the whole of Dovedale, sometimes beside the Dove, and at other times viewed from a high path looking down at the river through woodland.



After approximately 3 miles we reached Milldale and viewed the river from a different aspect.

After a short break we walked through the hamlet of Milldale and then ascended out of Milldale up a rocky path to reach the field level above Dovedale and walked through fields eventually passing close to Ilam village and at the rear of the Izaak Walton Hotel and returned to Dovedale car park.

After the walk we drove to the Izaak Walton Hotel for a well deserved drink.

19th August. Monsal Head, led by Val

13 of us met in the car park just north of Ashford in the Water. Leaving there we climbed up a steep hillside, which was in some places rocky and other times a narrow gravelly track, contouring around the steep slope, from there we descended steadily to the River Wye and onwards to the river bridge in Ashford, where we stopped for a drink.

Then onwards and upwards out of Ashford and through the stone walled field paths to the rim of Monsal Head where we stopped here for our picnic with views of the valley below.

We continued on by walking down the steep path to the Monsal railway viaduct. Once across it we turned to walk along the river valley back to the car park.

Your Committee

As you will have seen above, we held our AGM on Aug 26th and the 3 members who were co-opted on to the committee in April were formally elected and those whose 2 year tenure on the committee had expired were duly re-elected. So your committee members for 2025/6 are:

John Pilgrim, Adrian Hickson, Tony Smith, Kevin Green, Val Reed, Michael O'Donoghue, Yogi Godwin, Mike Stow, Glenys Morrice and Iain Banns.

In accordance with our constitution, when the committee next meet, they will decide amongst themselves who will take on which roles for the coming year.

This will be announced at the next Monthly meeting and in the next newsletter

Role	Name	Contact email
Chair		chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Vice Chair		vice-chair@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Business Secretary		secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Treasurer		treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Membership Secretary		members@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Groups Co-ordinator		interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Welfare		welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Speaker seeker		speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Communications		webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Social Secretary		socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Without portfolio		