



## Newsletter November 2025

### Interest Groups Timetable for November 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 25 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. Megan McMenamin – A talk about ‘Bright Hope’
Activities	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	1-3 pm 2-4 pm	Ashby Leisure Centre
Arts and Crafts	Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Packington Village Hall.
Breakfast	Thu 20 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Cattows Farm Cafe, Sweptstone Road, Heather LE67 2RF
Bridge	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	7-9 pm 7-9 pm 11am-1.30pm 11am-1.30pm	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Calligraphy	Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	At Sue's
Coffee and Chat	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Courtside Cafe, Grangewood Tennis Centre, Lullington Rd DE12 8BE
Computer	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Croquet	-	-	No meetings now until the start of Spring
Digital Photography	Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Drawing and painting	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	At Susan's.
Family History	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Food from Afar	Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	6 pm	OMOMO Korean Street Food, 16 The Strand, Derby DE1 1BE
French	Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Gardening	Thu 20 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	Packington Village Hall. Talk by Camilla Anderson on gardens of the Arts and Crafts movement and Edwardian Gardens. Entry £4
History	Thu 27 <sup>th</sup>	2.15 pm	Christmas Memories and Social
Industrial Heritage	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Planning meeting at the Bluebell in The Callis

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Literature	Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 pm	At Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 13 <sup>th</sup>	12 for 12.30 pm	Halfway House, 65 Church Street, Donisthorpe DE12 7PX
Medium Walks	Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at Staunton Harold Estate CP
Music Appreciation	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Dorothy's at 6 Willesley Gardens
Poetry Reading	Thu 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	42, Avenue Road
Recorder	Thu 6 <sup>th</sup> Thu 20 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Rummikub	Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Science & Technology	Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	Packington Village Hall. Kurt Kovach - 'Ancient Pyramids: Who Built Them and How?'
Scrabble	Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	The Bulls Head, Ashby
Short Walks	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	10 am	Meet at the car park near St Peters church, Stapenhill Rd, Burton DE15 9AF
Social Events	-	-	No event this month
Supper Club	Thu 27 <sup>th</sup>	7 for 7.30 pm	Millwheel at Hartshorne DE11 7AS
The 10 Milers	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15 for 9.30am start	Meet at Ticknall Village Hall Carpark. DE73 7JX
Walking	Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.45 for 10am 9.45 for 10am	Meet at CP by coffee kiosk at Foremark Reservoir DE65 6EG. Meet at The Punchbowl, Lapworth B94 6HR
Wine Appreciation	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	7 pm	Annie's house

### Interest Groups Timetable for early December 2025

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Bridge	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	7-9 pm	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Walking	Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.45 for 10am	TBA
Music Appreciation	Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10 am	At Sallie's
Activity	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 – 3 pm	Ashby Leisure Centre
Computer	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Arts and Crafts	Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Packington Village Hall.
Recorder	Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Food from Afar	Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>	6 pm	TBA

## CO-OP CLOSING

You may well be aware that the Co-op in Derby Rd is closing down. That means that its car park will also **close on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>**. This is going to make parking more difficult for the whole town but particularly for those coming to the Tuesday Monthly Meetings. We hope it doesn't put you off from coming along.

Hopefully we will be able to find parking places on the nearby streets or in the other car parks in Ashby.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

**11<sup>th</sup> December – Willesley Park Golf Club**



You should all have received your invite to the Christmas lunch by now, and we have had many replies. There are still a very few places available. If you want to join in but haven't replied to Glenys yet, either email her at the address above or phone her on 07721 635546 as soon as possible.

## 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](mailto:Janer.4a@gmail.com), or Lorraine at [wilsonjennings@btinternet.com](mailto:wilsonjennings@btinternet.com)

## MONTHLY MEETING

**28<sup>th</sup> October - Bishop Peter Fox – 'The History of Magic'**

Bishop Peter Fox is the only Bishop ever to be elected to the Magic Circle. As he says, he is the only magician legally entitled to wear a pointy hat and carry a crooked stick on special occasions!

Peter's tale took us from the earliest times of humanity, pointing out that magic and magicians have probably been around for as long as there have been humans, however the first recorded evidence dates back to the time of the Great Pyramid of Giza. A tomb carving appears to show a man showing the 'Cup and Balls' trick to another person but the first written example is also from Egypt and describes a magician seemingly cutting off the head of a duck and then putting it back on again and the duck is alive. David Blaine is still performing this trick (albeit with a pigeon) some 4500 years later!

In the Bible, Exodus 7:10 it says that 'Aaron throws down his staff, and it turns into a snake at Pharaoh's command. Pharaoh's magicians then duplicate this miracle with their own secret arts'. So magicians were obviously well known at this time.

It is thought though that the 'Cup and Balls' is the oldest trick and variations of it are still being done today, and to prove it Bishop Peter demonstrated his own version of it before our very eyes. In between telling the stories of the numerous magicians of the past he also baffled us with the Chinese Magic Rings and the Rope Cutting trick with the 'help' from members of the audience. Excellent stuff.

Amongst many others, he told us the amazing tale of Chung Ling Soo, who travelled Europe with a huge troop of artists at the turn of the last century, who on his death was found not to be Chinese but American; one William Robinson. He died when attempting the 'Catching the Bullet' trick went tragically wrong. But was it an accident, murder or suicide? Some think it the latter.

It transpired that Peter was mentored by a chap, who in turn was taught by Wu Ling (otherwise Dick Ritson of Sheffield) who had been taught and mentored by Soo when Ritson was a lad, so Peter had a direct connection to this strange story.

This was a fascinating, entertaining and wonderful tale of the History of Magic with added tricks.

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### **ACTIVITIES – Co-ordinator: Michael O'Donoghue - [activities@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:activities@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 07485 159487**

We had 19 people attending last time, with slightly few the time before. People self-selected which sports to start on and rotated around the various sports to give everyone a go on the different activities and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.



We would love to see some more members join us , so this is a reminder of the November schedule.

Venue : Ashby Leisure Centre.

Dates and time:

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, 13.00 to 15.00

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, 14.00 to 16.00

Please join us for an afternoon of fun,

Michael

### **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 November. Times for each day are either 11 to 1.30 or 7 to 9 pm but vary from month to month due to other events taking place at the Ivanhoe Club. Timings for this month are in the timetable above.

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

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

2<sup>nd</sup> October

The intention was to make something in one session this month.

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

16<sup>th</sup> September - Redz Cafe in Coxon's Mews

Next meeting on Nov 20<sup>th</sup> at Cattows Farm Cafe, Slepstone Road, Heather LE67 2RF

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

8<sup>th</sup> October - Centivo Lounge, Ashby

Next gathering on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov at Courtside Cafe, Grangewood Tennis Centre, Lullington Rd DE12 8BE

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

2<sup>nd</sup> October - Taste of Thai, Ashby

Next tasting experience on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov at OMOMO Korean Street Food, 16 The Strand, Derby DE1 1BE

**LUNCH – Leaders: Colin and Sharon Woodland - [luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 01530 413867**

9<sup>th</sup> October - The Bull's Head in Market Street

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the group will be eating at the Halfway House in Donisthorpe.

**Colin and Sharon** were away this month, so Brenda was looking after all the above food groups, very successfully we hear, however Colin and Sharon will be back in control once they return from holidays.

If you wish to join any of the above food groups, please let Colin Woodland know ASAP at the email addresses above.

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

24<sup>th</sup> October

We beat the weather and nine members turned up for an enjoyable morning of croquet in the sunshine.

Unfortunately we no longer have access to winter lawns (on the bowling green) as the Welfare has a new bowls club. The bowling green being rested and prepared for next season.

The next meeting for the Group is most likely to be at the end of March. More news in the new year.

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY - Leader: John Howlett - [digphoto@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:digphoto@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 01530 461774**

2<sup>nd</sup> October

There were six of us today ready to show photos from the last few months. Some were from the visit to Elford Hall, some from the visit to Donnington Park racetrack and some from holidays.

John D tried to show a short video but for some reason it was displayed sideways in landscape rather than portrait. He later discovered that an extra app was needed to get it the right way round.

We also had a discussion on the merits of various Olympus cameras as one of the group's sons is considering buying one.

Next month we shall hope to show and discuss our attempts at 'Autumn Colours'

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

20<sup>th</sup> October

We had five today, but with no computer problems to sort. So we discussed many things computer related.



Mike showed us three generations of computer storage devices, ranging from a 3.5-inch hard drive down to a modern solid-state chip. Despite the differences in size, they can all hold the same amount of information but the small chip stores it and reads it back many times faster than the older hard drives. Incidentally hard disk drives (HDDs) are so called because the earlier disks that you put in to the PC were called floppy disks and the new solid state drives (SSDs) don't actually drive anything or anywhere!

We also talked about:

Browsers and how they are different from search engines. (browsers such as MS Edge or Chrome are used to access other websites such as [www.ashbyu3a.co.uk](http://www.ashbyu3a.co.uk), and search engines such as Bing or Google are how you search for those websites and any other info you are looking for);

The terminology used by professionals and how it differs from that familiar to most non-professionals 'Rip' and 'burn' as opposed to 'copy from' and 'copy to', and so forth;

How computers have changed from specialist room-sized machines to things you can put in your pocket and make phone calls on;

and different ways of paying by computer or phone. The latter raised the question of what those who are not really tech-savvy will do when/if cash, cards or coins are no longer accepted.

We meet again on November 5th

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

14<sup>th</sup> October

Three members of the Calligraphy Group met at Gill's house and continued to experiment with Zentangle Patterns. We find these exciting to do and also very relaxing!

This is a Zentangle!



**DRAWING & PAINTING - Leader: Lesley Thomas- [painting@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:painting@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 07895 971090**

15<sup>th</sup> October

Drawing and painting was held at John's house this month and there were four members at the table; we were pleased to see Susan back with us. The letter this month was F and there was a wide range of topics so take a look on the art gallery and see what was painted.



Four Candles by Christine

Next month, the 19th November, we will leave the alphabet so we can paint a Christmas theme and we will meet at Susan's as long as she is well enough, if not it will be with me in Measham.

**FAMILY HISTORY - Leader: John Dogherty - [familyhistory@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:familyhistory@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 01530 411148**

10<sup>th</sup> October

Today we had 8 in attendance and one working from home. The atmosphere was most studious!

Adrian: Still working on his Story; access to old newspapers has given him much to ponder.

Sue: Adding much useful information about her mother's maternal line, especially her 3x great grandparents with 10 children. Lots to follow up!

Jan: Adrian and Sue once again proved invaluable in helping her onto the right path with confirming her lineage and locating suitable censuses.

Eileen: Unable to attend, she worked from home, chasing hints and ordering certificates.

Mary: Searching for her husband's great grandmother on the 1891 Census. So far without success, but persistence pays off!

Dora: Following up hints and engaged in searching Scottish tax records for ancestors who were servants. An unusual and interesting line we will all follow with interest.

Elizabeth: Managed to locate her 3x great grandparents in the Scottish 1851 census, which put her on track to trace her 3x great grandparent through 'til his death aged 81.

Ana: Has managed to identify where and when her great-great grandparents met: on a farm! It's not always given to us to pin down such an important event.

JD: Having found old Newspapers and the FMP Collections facility, has been assembling as much as he can find on the Great Fire and Explosion in Gateshead in 1854; possibly the greatest civilian disaster since the Great Fire of London, but mostly forgotten today.

Offline: we have had a contact from the leader of Syston FH group, interested in seeing if there is mileage in a Leicestershire- and Rutland-wide co-operative exercise using Zoom. To be discussed.

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

October

The French group continues to meet on alternate Mondays at the Ivanhoe Club, Wilfred Gardens, Ashby at 11am. The next meetings will in November on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and then Monday 24<sup>th</sup>.

We start most sessions with each member in turn giving us a résumé in French of their news and the events of the last week in which they may have participated. Afterwards we will continue to read the letters of Hugo Cotton who emails regularly (he is French and teaches English in schools but has a 'Learn French' podcast and follows up his sessions with emails) and we try and incorporate some revision/learning - recently we have concentrated on revising verb declension.

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

16<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Celebration

Today we had our Harvest event, a lot of people arrived early and everyone helped setting up the tables, arranging table settings and setting out the food. After eating we had our plant raffle, with 12 lucky winners.



Next month we have our first speaker of the winter season, Camilla Anderson speaking on gardens of the Arts and Crafts movement and Edwardian Gardens.

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

30<sup>th</sup> October – Danny Wells - 'WWI Shattered Illusions'

As this meeting was on the last day of the month and your editor is away on holiday the next day, the report on this fascinating talk will be held over to next month's newsletter

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

For November the group will, as usual, be meeting at Sandra's house to discuss their latest book reading.

## **INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE – Leader: Mike Stow - [indhist@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:indhist@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 01530 469152**

### October

We didn't venture out this month. On Nov 26<sup>th</sup> we shall have our annual planning meeting to try and sort out some interesting places to visit next year.

Any ideas as to where we can visit next year will be very welcome , and if anyone would like to volunteer to give me a hand in arranging the schedule for the year, I would be most grateful.

We shall meet at the Bluebell pub in The Callis, Ashby at 10.30 am. The landlord has offered to put on refreshments and some lunch afterwards. Details to follow.

## **SCRABBLE - Leader: Usha Sood. Group contact: [scrabble@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:scrabble@ashbyu3a.co.uk)**

We meet twice a month at the Bull's Head, Market St, 10.30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **MUSIC APPRECIATION - Leader: Mike Stow - [musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:musicapp@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - 01530 469152**

### 1<sup>st</sup> October

There were five of us this month at Mike's house including new member Andy; welcome Andy.

We had the usual variety of good music. Mike kicked off with Nat King Cole with the first ever recording of 'Route 66' from 1946 and copied 18 years later by the Rolling Stones.

Andy's first choice was Jools Holland and the lovely Rumer singing 'Accentuate the Positive'. A great start. Neil followed with Roxy Music and their first hit 'Virginia Plain'.

Brenda took us back to 1961 with Connie Francis's 'Everybody is somebody's fool'. A track we all thought came from the 50s. Nev closed the first round with Keith Jarrett's very intense piano rendition of 'Over the rainbow'. A bit different to Judy Garland's version but great nonetheless.

Mike followed that with a rare live performance of John Williams conducting the Vienna Philharmonic with one of his iconic compositions 'Imperial March' from Star Wars V – The Empire Strikes Back.

Andy brought us to some folk with the incomparable Sandy Denny with the rest of Fairport Convention singing 'Fotheringhay'

Neil returned to Roxy Music to play us their last hit 'Avalon'. Brenda had found an ELO album but wasn't sure what to play, Neil suggested the excellent but lesser played 'Wild West Hero'.

Nev showed the video of Billy Joel's 'We didn't start the fire' which had pictures of all the events listed in the song. It makes the song much more understandable.

Last month Rick Davies, lead singer of Supertramp, died aged 81 so Mike chose to play 'Dreamer', one of their big hits.

Andy offered us a video of the Ukulele Orchestra's Proms performance singing but not actual playing the Who's 'Pinball Wizard'. A great and humorous version with several nods to other pop tunes.

Neil had also planned to honour Rick Davies so he played one of their other big hits 'The Logical Song'

Brenda had chosen a famous waltz as her last piece and so we played 'The Blue Danube' performed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic right through as it is such a lovely piece

We closed with Nev last choice which was a video of two street performers in Trafalgar Square called Atticus Blue singing and playing Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah'. An excellent version.

We meet next at Dorothy's on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, Firework Night. That could provide some interesting choices.

## **POETRY READING – Leader: Kath Fisher – [poetry@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:poetry@ashbyu3a.co.uk) - phone 07857 688822**

### **16<sup>th</sup> October**

The group met for the first time in October and we discussed several of the poems of ex-Laureate Carol Ann Duffy which was an enjoyable experience. A particular favourite seemed to be 'Before You Were Mine' as were 'Head of English' and 'Valentine'. 'Adultery', a quite complex poem, caused a lot of discussion as did 'Stuffed' which is one of the darker and more challenging poems.

The next meeting will focus on Philip Larkin and will be on November 20th at 2.30. The venue is 42 Avenue Road, Ashby.

## **RECORDER - Leader: Joan Gibson - [recorder@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:recorder@ashbyu3a.co.uk)**

### **October**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October, we had thirteen players, with good balance in parts. We continued to play some of the music from last month, plus a few new pieces. It is good to be able to play music we are familiar with, and also to try new music, which keeps us on our toes, with sight-reading practice, or making sure we have a quick practice beforehand.

We are getting to know Alyson Lewin's piece "the Lincolnshire Poacher", which sounds good, and isn't too hard. It is enough of a challenge to be interesting.

We had two fewer people in the second meeting, where we continued with some of the same music as last time, with the addition of a few more pieces. We are playing some renaissance pieces, some traditional music, and a couple of popular tunes: "Bare Necessities" and "The Goroum".

We plan to play some different music next month, to vary our repertoire. Requests were made by a few members for particular favourites of theirs, and we will dust them off on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

## **RUMMIKUB – Leader: Betty Vos – [rummikub@ashbyu3a.co.uk](mailto:rummikub@ashbyu3a.co.uk)**

The Rummikub group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

### **23<sup>rd</sup> October – The Black Horse, Sheepy Magna**

Another new venue for us this month, The Black Horse. We had pre-ordered our choices and so didn't have to spend time choosing or waiting too long for the first course to arrive. Half of us had opted for starters which all looked and tasted good, likewise the mains were all excellent. Fish and chips, steak, pies, lasagne and others were all scoffed down without a single complaint. Some even managed a pudding!

The service was excellent too, prompt and friendly. And the prices were reasonable especially considering the way prices are rising in most places. Certainly one to put on the list for future visits.

Next month we shall return to the Millwheel at Hartshorne on Nov 27<sup>th</sup>. We haven't been there for over 2 years and it has changed hands since, and apparently has gained a good reputation. Fingers crossed.

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

**14<sup>th</sup> October- 'Keeping the lights on' by Adrian Hickson.**

We all rely on the National Grid to provide electricity to our homes, as much as we need and when we want it. Adrian Hickson gave a brilliant talk us about it, how it has changed and needs to change more to make the switch to more renewables sources. And these developments are very technical involving lots of higher mathematics and huge computing power to keep everything synchronised.

The first coal powered station was fired up in 1882 and at first these operated to supply local houses and factories. By 1928 it was agreed to join 7 regional networks together by pylons and cables to form a national system which was established in 1938. Nuclear stations were added from 1956. The voltage was originally 240 volts but in 2009 we were connected to European supplies and it is now 230 volts.

Electricity is distributed across the country as AC, alternating current, 50Hz its value varying in a sine wave. As demand changes it is necessary to keep making adjustments to keep it at 50Hz. Power needs are plotted in advance in line with mass events, football matches etc.

Coal and nuclear power stations were designed to supply steady power but as solar and wind were added in this became more challenging as solar and wind are constantly changing in output so requiring many more adjustments to keep these sine waves exactly matching up. This requires brilliant mathematicians and huge warehouses stacked full of computers. These of course heat up, as we know from our own laptops and require lots of water to stop them from overheating.

Solar energy comes as DC, direct current and must be changed to AC, then stepped up in voltage, and matched exactly in phase before it can be connected to the grid. Power from wind turbines ditto. In order to have available sufficient electricity to meet demands surplus energy is stored in huge batteries, sufficient to keep the country supplied for a whole day for short term stabilisation. In the future it is likely that mini nuclear reactors will also be added in to help provide the base load.

Planning for the future involves high voltage DC connections, some to Europe but also to Africa as the Sahara desert has a lot of sun! This DC transmission is more efficient as there is less power loss in the cables and it does not need the complication of matching phase.

We heard about the effort required to supply the electricity for the Olympics in Brazil, an astonishing effort, so much was required the lines kept burning out when it was being constructed. Think costs of over 1MILLION a day! Many thanks to Adrian for making this very technical topic accessible to everyone.

So next time you swich the TV on at home thank those brilliant engineers and mathematicians.

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

**October**

Unfortunately this month only four of us were able to make the allotted date and so, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> month in a row, the meeting was postponed and John will get a chance to present his selection of Rieslings on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **THE WALKING GROUPS**

### **The 10 MILERS – Leader Christine Green – 10milers@ashbyu3a.co.uk – phone 07784 738597**

Our next walk will be on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9.15 for a 9.30 am start from Ticknall Village Hall car park.

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

#### **20<sup>th</sup> October. Crich, led by Tony**

This month the walking group met at The Old Black Swan pub in Crich Derbyshire to do a circular walk around the area. We all set off from the village on a track that brought us out at the entrance to the National Tramway Museum and from there we went up to the Sherwood Foresters Memorial Tower. This 63 foot tower is an impressive landmark overlooking the Derwent Valley and the views were magnificent. We then took a path which passed the terminus of the tramway Museum line and took us down through pleasant forests to join the Cromford Canal at Whatstandwell. We walked along the canal and saw a variety of wildlife including mallards, coots, moorhens and swans.

We left the canal just short of Ambergate and walked up through Crich Chase and Bilberry Wood and arrived at the top of the ridge at Chadwick Nick. We then took the well known path called 'The Tors' back into Crich village. The walk was 7.3 miles long and was well received on account of it's diversity and the varied terrain. Lunch was taken at the pub.

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

#### **13<sup>th</sup> October. Bosworth, led by Val**



Ready for the off

On a foggy morning 11 walkers started out from Sutton Cheney for a 5 mile walk. Beginning on the road and then into the fields towards Bosworth Battlefield, where we walked down the entrance road and then on into fields coming out on the lane leading to Market Bosworth. From there we made our way to the park, walked around the pond and out to fields beyond, then back to Sutton Cheney.

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

17<sup>th</sup> October. Cloud Trail, Worthington, led by Brian

The group is becoming more popular as 15 members turned out to walk from Cloud Trail car park along the Trail and back round to Worthington.

On arrival we found that workmen were digging up the car park and much of the start of the Trail in order to re-surface it. We were able to park in the lane just outside the car park and, with permission, walk through the barrier erected to keep us out. A short way down the trail we turned off to walk up to the quarry viewing point where one can see down into the huge 100m deep hole in the ground that is still being used to provide up to 1.5 million tonnes of stone each year.



Moving on from there we walked back along the track before diverting into a field and coming out in Worthington. A walk through the village, past its old lock-up prison, brought us back to the car park.

From there we drove to the Wellie Deli for well deserved refreshments.

Just round the corner from the quarry are these two strange creatures, seemingly vultures, but no-one seems to know anything more about them. Not even Google, although Brian thought that they date from around 1900.



### **This is your Committee**

They can all be contacted at the email addresses below.

Role	Name	Contact email
Chair	Tony Smith	<a href="mailto:chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk">chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>
Vice Chair	Adrian Hickson	<a href="mailto:vice-chair@ashbyu3a.co.uk">vice-chair@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>
Business Secretary	John Pilgrim	<a href="mailto:secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk">secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>
Treasurer	Kevin Green	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk">treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>
Membership Secretary	Val Reed	<a href="mailto:members@ashbyu3a.co.uk">members@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>
Minutes Secretary	Iain Banns	<a href="mailto:minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk">minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>
Groups Co-ordinator	Michael O'Donoghue	<a href="mailto:interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk">interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>
Speaker seeker	Yogi Godwin	<a href="mailto:speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk">speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk</a>
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