

Newsletter January 2026

Interest Groups Timetable for January 2026

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 27 th	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. Jed Jaggard – “The Real Home Guard”
Activities	Wed 7 th Fri 16 th	1-3 pm 2-4 pm	Ashby Leisure Centre
Arts and Crafts	Thu 8 th	10 am	Packington Village Hall.
Breakfast	Thu 15 th	10 am	Bull's Head, Thringstone LE67 8LR
Bridge	Mon 5 th Mon 12 th Mon 19 th Mon 26 th	11am-1.30pm 7-9 pm 7-9 pm 11am-1.30pm	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Calligraphy	Tue 13 th	TBA	Christmas lunch
Coffee and Chat	Wed 14 th	10 am	Bluebell Tea Room, 2 Belmont St, Swadlincote DE11 8JU
Computer	Wed 7 th Mon 19 th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Croquet	-	-	No meetings now until the start of Spring
Digital Photography	-	-	No meeting this month
Drawing and painting	Wed 21 st	10 am	Venue TBC
Family History	Wed 14 th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Food from Afar	-	-	No meeting this month
French	Mon 5 th Mon 19 th	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Gardening	Thu 15 th	2.10 pm	Packington Village Hall. Talk by Jeff Bates on 'Seasonal Gardening'. Entry £2
History	Thu 22 nd	2.15 pm	Packington Village Hall. Michael Smith - 'A History of Cartoons'
Industrial Heritage	Wed 28 th	TBA	Museum of Making, 1 Silk Mill Ln, Derby DE1 3AF
Literature	Tue 13 th	1.30 pm	At Sandra's house

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Lunch	Thu 8 th	12 noon	Mill Wheel ,31 Ticknall Road, Hartshorne DE11 7AS
Medium Walks	Mon 12 th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at Gelsmoor Restaurant, Rempstone Rd, Griffydam LE67 8HP
Music Appreciation	Wed 7 th	10 am	Mike's at 91 Woodside, LE65 2NU
Poetry Reading	Thu 15 th	2.30 pm	42 Avenue Rd, Ashby
Recorder	Thu 8 th Thu 22 nd	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Rummikub	Tue 13 th Tue 27 th	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Science & Technology	Tue 13 th	2 pm	Packington Village Hall. 'Women in Science' by Catrin Rutland
Scrabble	Mon 12 th Mon 26 th	10.30 am	The Bulls Head, Ashby
Short Walks	Fri 16 th	10 am	Meet at the Hood Park gates
Social Events	Thu 23 rd	7 for 7.30 pm	Willesley Park Golf Club. Burns Supper
Supper Club	-	-	No meeting in January
The 10 Milers	Mon 26 th	9.15 for 9.30am start	Meet at Ticknall Village Hall Car park. DE73 7JX
Walking	Tue 6 th Tue 20 th	- 9.30 for 9.45 Start	No walk today. Meet at Smisby Arms, Nelsons Square, Smisby, LE65 2UA
Wine Appreciation	Wed 21 st	7 pm	Annie's house

Interest Groups Timetable for early February 2026

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Scrabble	Mon 2 nd	10.30 am	The Bulls Head, Ashby
French	Mon 2 nd	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Bridge	Mon 2 nd	TBA	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Walking	Tue 3 rd	TBA	TBA
Music Appreciation	Wed 4 th	10 am	TBA
Activities	Wed 4 th	1 – 3 pm	Ashby Leisure Centre
Computer	Wed 4 th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Arts and Crafts	Thu 5 th	10 am	Packington Village Hall.
Digital photography	Thu 5 th	10 am	16 Winchester Way
Recorder	Thu 5 th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Food from Afar	Thu 5 th	6 pm	TBA

MONTHLY MEETING

16th December – Consensio Choir

We again invited the ever popular Consensio Choir to come and entertain us for our December meeting.

Led by their musical director Karl Harper, and narrated by Tim Cox, they led us through the decades from the 40's to the present day with anecdotes and Christmas carols and songs appropriate to the decade.



They started with the ever popular 'O come all ye faithful' which we were encouraged to sing along to, followed by 'Silent Night', 'The 1st Noel', 'Saviour's Day', 'Mistletoe and Wine' and many more.

Tim reminded us of the many things particular to Christmases over the decades past such as the first Queen's speech, the big freeze of '63, Slade at #1 with 'Merry Christmas Everybody', the various toys that were crazes some years like Cabbage Patch dolls, Barbie dolls and Tamagotchi electronic pets. Also he reminded us of the Covid Christmas, as if we would forget it!

After a great concert we were served teas and coffees with mince pies while we reminisced on Christmases past and pondered the coming Christmas.

CO-OP CAR PARK

You may well be aware that the Co-op in Derby Rd has now closed. It was feared that the car park would also close on the same date but it **remains open for the time being** but no-one seems to know how long for.

Eventually 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.



BURNS SUPPER

23rd January – Willesley Park Golf Club

Bookings are now closed for the Burns Supper.



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

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

If like me, you may have had a little too much to eat and drink over the Xmas and New Year holiday, then the upcoming Activity Group might be an ideal way to help get rid of those extra pounds.

Come and join us on Wednesday January 7th at 1pm at the Ashby Leisure Centre. We will have our usual activities, walking football, Badminton, Boccia, Pickleball and Table Tennis. We also hope to have archery and Cornhole, provided the Leisure centre have acquired the equipment.

Following enquiries from some members, we have also managed to make arrangements for swimming. For those interested, you would be required to pay an annual membership fee of £8.80, payable to Leisure Link. Payment can be made at the Leisure Centre reception. There would also be a charge of £4.20 per session, which would be available between 12pm and 1pm on Wednesday and Fridays.

If anyone is interested in swimming and needs further information, please contact me directly.

I look forward to seeing you next Wednesday. We will of course also be meeting on Friday 16th at 2pm

Michael



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

4th December

The Craft group met on Thursday 4th where we made some Christmas items. We are back to our normal schedule this month, meeting on the 8th.

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 January. 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.

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

Unfortunately we no longer have access to winter lawns (on the bowling green) as the Welfare has a new bowls club. The bowling green is 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.

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

18th December - RedZ Café

In December we met at RedZ Cafe in Coxon's Mews in Ashby. On January 15th we will be meeting at the Bull's Head, Thringstone LE67 8LR.

If you want to join us, send a quick Email to breakfast@ashbyu3a.co.uk and you will be added to the list and made most welcome.

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

10th December - Lakeside Bistro, Moira

In December we met at the Lakeside Bistro in Moira. Our next gathering will be at the Bluebell Tea Rooms, 2 Belmont St, Swadlincote DE11 8JU on 14th January.

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

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

9th December

It was only a small group of us who met this month on a wet and very grey December morning. We had the usual catch up and tried to put the world to rights in these uncertain times. We shared our latest efforts at producing pieces of writing with reference to the month and the season. It is so interesting to see the different ways there are of representing the same theme.

We are out for lunch in January, a month that always seems so dull once Christmas has been put away for another year.

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

15th December

A very pleasant meeting with six members with not very much to discuss today, as befits our last meeting before Christmas.

We did discuss the latest upgrades that some of us have been undergoing, or promised, from Virgin Media. It seems that some people have been offered a new box whilst others have been offered a software upgrade. I think it depends on what box you currently have. Either way you lose all your recordings when you upgrade. You will also have to reset all the programmes which you have chosen to record in future.

So, to those of you with a Virgin TV contract, it is eminently clear that it is not a good idea to upgrade before you have watched all those recordings you made over Christmas.

John H and Margaret supplied some tasty munchies at teatime. Many thanks, John and Margaret, for hosting us over the past year.

We next meet on Wednesday January 7th 2026.

A Happy New Year to all our members.

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

4th December

Today, we were only six with two key members missing.

We did look over some black and white photos, which we had been experimenting with, and discussed the capabilities of a Canon EOS 700 D which had been loaned to a member for evaluation.

We could not find out if it could take black and white photos directly, but as it is quite sophisticated, we could not be absolutely sure. In any event, the general consensus was that it would be better to use the RAW setting and process the shots on a computer using editing software.

As it happens, the same member's old Lumix DMC-TZ6 was found to be quite capable of taking black and white, and various other shades from sepia to 'warm' and 'cool' shots, which was a pleasant surprise.

There followed some interesting general discussions on focussing techniques for different conditions.

Because the next meeting is theoretically on the 1st of January, and there was some doubt about the powers of concentration of members on that day, it was decided to skip that in favour of the 5th Feb, when we will look at any photos, and especially festive season ones.

Merry Christmas, one and all, and a Happy New Year

See you all on the other side.

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

4th December - Wing Wah Chinese, Burton

This Chinese buffet was a first for the group. We should have a report on its success or otherwise next month.

There will be no Food From Afar gathering on January 1st 2026 as most of us will have been saying goodbye to the old year and hello to the new one the night before.

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

December

We didn't meet in December as the Christmas Lunch is traditionally held on that day. See below to learn how that went.

Our first Lunch in 2026 will be at the Mill Wheel in Hartshorne on 8th January at noon. Eighteen have already signed up to be there.

If anyone else wishes to join the group please email luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk to book a place.

Please note that we will have to pre-order our meals. I will circulate the menu as soon as I receive it to all those on the attendance list. Having made your menu choice, if you cancel with less than 48 hours notice I will have to charge you for the meal.

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

December

The group didn't meet for painting this month instead we met at a local café for coffee and cake and a chat. We will be back to painting on the 21st January and the letter is G. That just leaves me to wish everyone seasons greetings.

Lesley

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

10th December

There were six at table today with one contribution from home. The room was decked out in festive mood, with mince pies and chocolate fancies at tea break.

Adrian is working on missing census details and tracing a newly identified member of the tree.

Sue is still working on tracing the descendants of the ten children of her 3 x great grandparents.

Dora is deep into Scottish tax records. One handwritten document on which an ancestor appears was difficult to decipher. JD helped to identify the occupation as 'Fewar' or 'Feuar' a kind of landholder paying tax to a superior.

Linda has a great, great grandpa who became a bricklayer after starting life as a plough boy. She is puzzled as to why he moved away from his home in Berkshire to Shropshire after his apprenticeship. More work to be done tracing his life afterwards.

Ana is working on trying to find information on a colliery accident that befell her grandfather in 1961.

Jan (from home) is on the trail of a couple she has little information about. It seems she found the wife as having died in 1872, but so far, no trace of the husband.

JD showed the group the original of the letter from his great grandfather to his father at Christmas 1905. This needs an acid free pocket to store it in, so he will be ordering a supply for his delicate docs. He also trawled the mid-18th century newspapers for additional information on great grandfather's school, but to no avail.

We meet again in the New Year on January 14th. Thank you for all the work and fellowship this year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

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

December

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

This month we did some role play involving visiting 'Le Bistro Muriel' and ordering food and drink. We took turns in being the proprietor and the client.

The next meeting will be on Monday 5th January when we shall continue to practise our spoken French.

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

18th December – Christmas celebration and Secret Santa

This month was the group's Secret Santa gathering where surprise gifts were exchanged anonymously and as usual there was plenty of food to go round.

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

December

We didn't meet this month as it would have fallen on Christmas Eve when everyone is far too busy with last minute shopping etc.

We have decided on January's venue which will be the Museum of Making at Derby. This is close by, easy to get to and indoors if the weather is inclement. And as a bonus it is free and therefore easier to organise! Other venues will appear on the website as they are finalised.

It promises to be an interesting year.

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

9th December

The group met, as usual, at Sandra's house to discuss the latest book reading, which is 'Homecoming' by Kate Morton, but also to have our Christmas lunch. We also made the final decision on what books to read next year.

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

December

The group didn't meet in December. A full program of events is now sorted for next year starting with Michael Smith's talk - 'A History of Cartoons' on Jan 22nd.

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

2nd December

Seven of us met at Sallie's including new member Sue. Welcome Sue. I started off in Christmas mood with Bing Crosby and David Bowie singing 'Little Drummer Boy' while Nev reminded us it was the 50th anniversary of the one and only 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Queen. Who else. Sue's 1st tune for us was Elton John's excellent 'Rocket Man' while Dorothy turned to a more classical Christmas with John Taverner's 'The Lamb' sung by King's College Choir. Brenda gave us Fats Domino and 'Blueberry Hill' for us all to sing along to and Sallie reminded us that Aled Jones did not sing 'Walking in the Air' on the original film soundtrack but that it was Peter Auty. Unfortunately his voice had broken by the time the single was recorded and so Aled had the hit and subsequent career. Andy also chose a choir, this time the Bach Choir singing 'Jingle Bells'

We then went through a series of popular songs and singers, namely Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris's 'High Sierra', Maddy Prior with 'Poor Little Jesus', Michael Bubl  and 'The Christmas Song'. Dorothy had a CD of the Ibstock Brick Brass Band playing 'In the Bleak Midwinter' and very good they were too.

We then had the Drifters and 'We wish you a Merry Christmas', Gogo Khoi playing 'Oh Holy Night' on piano, and the moving Graham Kendrick's 'Thorns in the Straw'

Mike turned to a humorous song by Christie Moore entitled 'If I get an Encore' complete with a very vocal audience. We returned to the Christmas theme with Eartha Kitt's 'Santa Baby', Bing's 'Good Tidings' and the Lee Roy Anderson Orchestra with 'Sleigh Ride'. Rod Stewart sang 'Dirty Ol Town' and we finished with Andy's choice of Kate Rusby singing 'While Shepherds Watch their Flocks by Night' sung to the tune of 'Ilkley Moor Baht'at'. Very clever and funny. A good end to an entertaining morning.

POETRY READING – Leader: Kath Fisher – poetry@ashbyu3a.co.uk - phone 07857 688822

December

We didn't meet in December meeting but in January we'll look at poems to do with winter as suggested by members of the group.

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. Our first meetings of the year will be on the 13th and 27th of January.

December

On 4th December we moved into the Christmas season, as far as music is concerned. We played several in three parts from a book of collected carols. We continued with another three-part piece: "The Three Kings" by Marg Hall, a well-known (living) recorder composer, player and teacher. We then added a bass part, and played a medley of well-known carols, followed by a selection of more varied carols, some of which are more modern. One which was new to us was "Bethlehem Down" by Peter Warlock. This carol won the Times competition for a new carol in 1927; a journalist friend wrote the words. We also had a go at Corelli's Christmas Concerto, and finished with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

On 22nd December nearly all members were present (15): only one was unable to join us. We had a good session, playing just Christmas music. Some carols were well-known popular tunes, whereas some others were of foreign origin: French, Caribbean, Czech, German and Polish. We finished with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". We all seemed to have a good time, and we wished one another a very Happy New Year, and agreed to meet again on 8th January (followed by 22nd January). I'm not proposing to put any Christmas music on the playlists for January!

Thanks to all members for their support during the year.

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

9th December - 'Have Yourself a Wild Christmas' by Kevin Reynolds

Kevin started by explaining that the celebration of birthdays is a pagan custom for warding off evil spirits, dating back to ancient times. The Christmas celebration was more about welcoming Spring and the end of Winter, after the Solstice. Until Victorian times, when Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol, Christmas Day on 25th December was a very low key event.

Kevin then described the origins of the plants often associated with Christmas, holly, ivy, mistletoe and, more recently, poinsettia, with lavish images and stories. The evergreen nature of these plants were reminiscent of the resurrection of Jesus. The Druids wore a crown of holly on their heads similar to the crown of thorns worn by Jesus at his crucifixion and the red berries symbolise the blood of Jesus. Bacchus, the Roman god of wine and intoxication, was often depicted wearing a wreath of ivy and was used as a cure for a 'hangover'. Kissing under hanging mistletoe has a link to fertility, vitality and love dating back to before 1700. Kevin then brought us up to date with the recent trend in giving a poinsettia plant as a Christmas gift. With red leaves shaped like a star (of Bethlehem) this Mexican 'weed' has been a massive commercial success. Finally, the Christmas tree the most popular festive plant, was first introduced in 1800 by Queen Charlotte, the German wife of King George III. Who would have guessed that these plants would have such a rich historical connection with pagan and Christian culture?

Kevin then revealed that, according to the Bible, no animals were present at the birth of Jesus, despite images of lambs, oxen, donkeys and camels on many Christmas cards. Hence, these were not featured much in Kevin's talk. However, the traditional fare of roast turkey or goose has a sound historical heritage, Henry VIII being the first to enjoy turkey at Christmas. Kevin then described the tradition of herding hundreds of turkeys long distances from farms to town markets. Their poor webbed feet even required protection with a coating of hot pitch and sand, and had to be fatted up to make them fit to sell! Kevin's stories gave us a fascinating insight into the origins of our modern commercial Christmas.

Tanya then hosted a quiz based on the topics of the year's talks whilst we tucked into mince pies, stollen and mulled wine. For our next meeting on 13th January Catrin Rutland will talk about 'Women in Science'.

Finally, the organising committee of Tanya, Lynda, Kurt, Bill and Paul wish all our group members a merry Happy Christmas.

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.

SOCIAL EVENTS – Glenys Morrice – socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk - 07721 635546

Thursday 11th - Christmas Lunch.

As usual we returned to the Willesley Park Golf Club for our Christmas lunch. However, after the problems last year, we had discussions with the caterers and decided to make some changes.

We reduced the number of tickets to 64 from the 85 of last year and reduced the menu to 3 choices per course rather than 4. The caterers also brought in more serving staff. This seemed to take the pressure off of the kitchen and servers and the food was hot, served quickly and was all to a very good standard. So much better than last year.

Because of this, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and I heard no complaints. Well done to all those involved both at the Golf Club and within our u3a, especially Glenys.

This month, on Jan 23rd we shall be back at the Golf Club for our Burns Supper. Here's hoping that goes as well too.

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

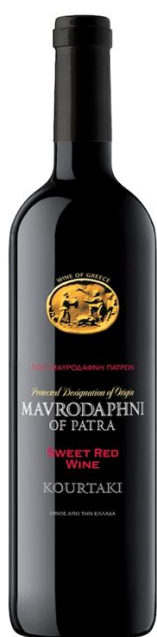
December

We didn't meet in December as it would have clashed with something called Christmas Day! Next month we are replaced by the Burns Supper at the Golf Club so we will next be gathering on Feb 26th at a yet to be decided venue.

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

17th December

This month we had our Christmas party. Everyone brought along a bottle of something we would like to drink at Christmas and some food to go with it.



We didn't score the wines this time, just enjoyed them, along with the food and the company.

There was everything from a cheap but very decent Prosecco, various white wines, a couple of reds, some dessert wines and even Champagne and Port. We enjoyed them all. The food to go with them included sushi, assorted meats, salads and veg, and an amazing selection of cheeses from a cheese Advent calendar that Annie was given!

We all had a great time including Colin who was able to join us for the first time in months and for whom Annie had obtained a bottle of Mavrodaphni of Patra, his favourite sweet red dessert wine.

There is no wine of the month this time but an Alborino Marieta from Tesco (£13 at full price) received many favourable comments. It is back to our usual tasting this month on Jan 21st.



THE WALKING GROUPS

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

8th December. From Foremark Reservoir, led by Alison

For our last walk of 2025 a relatively short, easy walk was chosen. Nobody wanted to get soaking wet again and thankfully the weather held fine and dry.



There were 12 in our group this month. We started along the reservoir boundary path to Scaddows Lane. We re-entered the Foremark woodland and headed to the top of hill above Carvers Rock and finally along the waterside track back to the cars. 4.2 miles.

Thanks to all who joined me on this, and past walks. Thanks to Trev and Val for helping with the leading and hope to see you all and any new members who would like to join us in the New Year.

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

2nd December. Hicks Lodge, led by Kevin

For the last walk of the year, twenty four met at Oakthorpe Colliery car park, the largest number this year, no doubt encouraged by the offer of soup and cake at the end of the walk.

After leaving the car park we quickly entered Hicks Lodge Park and took the uphill route at the side of the lake to the café, where we gathered in front of big letters spelling out 'Christmas' for the photograph.



After crossing the road dividing the two halves of the site, we continued on good quality paths to a massive play area built to look like a cycle. Criss-crossing down the hill we continued on a circular route round the site returning to the café where we split into two groups with some choosing the slightly longer route round the opposite side of the lake and we all returned to the car park. Then we all went back to the Green household for soup and cake.

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

19th December – A walk around Ashby led by John D and John H

A dry day and warm for the time of year, 6 people met at the gates of Hood park but one disappeared so they waited a bit longer which gave John H time to meet them having had to visit the doctors first. We now 7 set off back past the old soap factory and across the road to take the 'jitty' which used to pass the old gas holder which is now the Burton Road school playing field. On reaching the housing estate we walked up Rouen Way and at the top of the hill we went down the footpath to a vehicle track which goes down to the old flour mill site but we turned right and came out on Burton Road opposite Hill Street.

We crossed Burton Road and continued towards Burton but taking Churchill Close down to the footpath into the playing fields. The path we joined was the path to Blackfordby but we turned left into Ashby. This path comes out in Highfields Close. We then walked out onto Moira road which we crossed to get to the path to the allotments. Here we took the group photo. We followed the path out onto Trinity Close and Pithiviers Close and took the footpath through the bungalows to the old station drive which still has a few tram tracks. We crossed what I thought was Tamworth Road but is called Station Road at that point and entered Bath Grounds and took the path to South Street which we crossed and went



into the Co-op car park and to the cafe which was once a 40's style café and is now called Reformii. Total distance 1.8 miles.

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

December

We didn't walk in December. Please note future walks will be on the 4th Monday of alternate months starting with Jan 26th at 9.30am from Ticknall car park.

Your Committee

We wish you all a Happy, Healthy and possibly even Prosperous New Year in 2026.
We can all be contacted at the email addresses below.

Role	Name	Contact email
Chair	Tony Smith	chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Vice Chair	Adrian Hickson	vice-chair@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Business Secretary	John Pilgrim	secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Treasurer	Kevin Green	treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Val Reed	members@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Minutes Secretary	Iain Banns	minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Groups Co-ordinator	Michael O'Donoghue	interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Speaker seeker	Yogi Godwin	speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Social Secretary	Glenys Morrice	socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Communications	Mike Stow	webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk