Ashby u3a

Newsletter September 2026

Interest Groups Timetable for September

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

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Monthly Meeting	Tue 22nd	2 pm	Congregational Church, Ashby. 'Bradgate and Lady Jane Grey' by Sandy Leong
Activities	Wed 2nd Fri 18th	1-3 pm 2-4 pm	Ashby Leisure Centre
Arts and Crafts	Thu 3rd	9.45 am	Packington Village Hall.
Breakfast	Thu 17th	10 am	Centivo Lounge, Market St, Ashby LE65 1AN
Bridge	Mon 7th Mon 14th Mon 21st Mon 28th	11am 7-9pm 11am 7-9pm	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Calligraphy	Tues 8th	10 am	TBA
Coffee and Chat	Wed 9th	10 am	Toons Cute Wee Coffee Shop, Burton Road, Church Gresley DE11 9HQ
Computer	Wed 2nd Mon 14th	2 pm 2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Croquet	Fri 25th	10 am	Moira Miners' Welfare Club, Moira DE12 6BP
Digital Photography	Thu 3rd	10 am	East Midlands Aeropark, Hill Top, Castle Donington, Derby DE74 2PR
Drawing and painting	Thu 16th	10 am	At John's
Family History	Wed 9th	2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Food from Afar	Thu 3rd	6 pm	Taste of Thai, 84-86 Market St, Ashby
French	Mon 14th Mon 28th	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Gardening	Thu 17th	10am depart Royal Hotel	Coach trip to Barnsdale (formerly Geoff Hamilton's garden). Coach and entry £34
History	Thu 24th	2.15 pm	Packington Village Hall. Yogi Godwin - 'Ashby Heroes - Rawdon Hastings'

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Industrial Heritage	Wed 23rd	Depart Ashby 8.15 am	Ironbridge Gorge museum. Blists Hill Victorian town
Leisurely Walking	Tue 1st	10.15 for 10.30 start	Meet at the hut at Staunton Harold lower car park LE65 1RU
Literature	Tue 8th	1.30 pm	At Sandra's house
Lunch	Thu 10th	12 noon	Bull's Head, Market Steet, Ashby
Medium Walks	Mon 14th	9.45 for 10am start	Meet at The Bradgate pub CP, Newtown Linford LE6 0AE
Music Appreciation	Wed 2nd	10 am	At Mike's
Poetry Reading	Thu 17th	2.30 pm	42 Avenue Rd, Ashby
Recorder	Thu 3rd Thu 17th	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Rummikub	Tue 8th Tue 22nd	11 am	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Science & Technology	Thu 10th	TBA	A Visit to Woolsthorpe Manor
Scrabble	Mon 14th Mon 28th	10.30 am	Ivanhoe Social Club. NOTE new venue.
Short Walks	Fri 18th	10 am	Meet at Ticknall car park for a walk into Calke
Social Events	-	-	No events this month
Supper Club	Thu 24th	7 for 7.30 pm	The Birch Tree, Bardon Rd, Coalville LE67 1TD
The 10 Milers	Mon 21st Mon 28th	8.45 for 9.00 9.25 for 9.30	Meet at 10 Rydal Gardens, Ashby Start at Ticknall Village Hall car park
Trips and Outings	-	-	No outings this month
Walking	Tue 1st Tue 15th	9.30 for 9.45 9.30 for 9.45	Meet at the Crewe & Harpur Pub at Swarkestone TBA
Wine Appreciation	Wed 16th	7 pm	Annie's house

Interest Groups Timetable for early September

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Arts and Crafts	Thu 1st	9.45 am	Packington Village Hall.
Digital photography	Thu 1st	10 am	TBA
Recorder	Thu 1st	10 am	St Matthew's Community Hall, Overseal
Social Events	Thu 1st	6pm	Fish supper. The Beeches, Burton Rd, Ashby
Food from Afar	Thu 1st	6pm	Slice of India, Mansfield Rd, Derby DE21 4AW
Bridge	Mon 5th	TBC	Ivanhoe Social Club.
Walking	Tue 6th	9.30 for 9.45	TBA
Leisurely Walking	Tue 6th	10.15 for 10.30	Meet at Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood, Heather Lane LE67 2TH
Music Appreciation	Wed 7th	10 am	TBA
Activities	Wed 7th	1 – 3 pm	Ashby Leisure Centre
Computer	Wed 7th	2 pm	16 Winchester Way

MONTHLY MEETING

25th August – Our AGM and cream tea

This month was our Annual General Meeting, attended by 72 members, 4 visitors and 2 invited guests, namely the Mayor of Ashby, Cllr Murrae Blair-Park, and Mr John Butler one of the two Third Age Trust Council Representatives for the East Midlands Region.

The chairman welcomed the members to the meeting and welcomed the visitors as well. He then welcomed the 2 invited guests mentioned above and thanked them for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend Ashby's AGM

The minutes of the last AGM were unanimously approved and those committee members standing for re-election John Pilgrim, Val Reed and Estelle Sandles, were duly elected. Amanda Roe was also confirmed as continuing in the role of Finance Reviewer.

A change to a clause in our Constitution was duly approved which clarifies the voting status of all members.

Our Groups Co-ordinator, Michael O'Donoghue, gave a report thanking all those involved in running and attending all our various groups.

The Mayor also gave a very good speech about the way in which our u3a is respected by the Town Council.

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!

A copy of the full Minutes of the AGM will be posted on our website.

Iain Banns has announced that he is stepping down from the committee after more than 8 years, most of that time as membership secretary. His contribution to our u3a will be much missed.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

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

August

Glad to report that we have had much improved attendance at both Activities group meetings in August. Great to have some new members attend and some existing members returning. As is now expected, we had lots of fun and laughter at both sessions.

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

3rd August

The Crafty Ladies met on 6th August. A few of the ladies were missing. Some were on holiday and others were unwell. However, the majority were there.

Our project this month was to make Summer Necklaces to match the earrings we all made in July. Each lady designed and crafted her own necklace.

There was lots of chatter and laughter as usual. we look forward to all meeting once again next month.

The next meeting will be at Packington Village Memorial Hall at 9.45am on 3rd September.

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

The group meets at the Ivanhoe Club every Monday.

Times for each day usually alternate between 11 am to 1.30 and 7 to 9 pm but can vary depending on the number of Mondays in the month. 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.

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

20th August – Lakeside Bistro, Moira

Fifteen of us turned up at the Lakeside Bistro for breakfast. There is always a wide choice of dishes available for breakfast but the majority ordered the Full English in some form or another. The staff were charming, friendly and efficient as usual. Conversations were many and various. With full bellies and cheerful hearts we left around 11.15am to go about our various tasks for the day.

The next breakfast gathering will be at the Centivo Lounge in Market St, Ashby on 17th Sept. If you wish to join us, sign up on the sheet at the back of the Church at the Monthly meeting or send an email to breakfast@ashbyu3a.co.uk .

Sharon and I will not be there this time but everything will be booked and Brenda will keep an eye on you all to make sure you behave and have a great time together.

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

August

No meeting for us this month. Three members are going on another Modern Calligraphy course on Sat Sept 5th and our first meeting is at Jenny's on the 8th.

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

17th August

Six of us gathered today. Joan had a problem sorting out her security apps, so we discussed the various options and benefits.

The topic expanded into dealing with spoofing emails trying to alarm one into sending important details to others, and to stopping autorenewals on apps and other software.

We also noted the work Mike did in helping sort out JD's printer problems: not easy as the issue involved network settings and drivers, and the same solutions did not work for all the devices on the network.

One thing stood out: it seems that when Microsoft put out its last update, it reset the user's network to 'Public', which allows only one device to access the printer. This is solved by resetting to 'Private'. But this is not obvious to the uninitiated.

We meet again on Wednesday 2nd of September

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

6th August

We were due to go to Tropical Birdland at Desford this month but at the last minute Ian noticed that tickets were only available online and for specific time slots due to Birdland being very busy during the school holidays.

Only two members managed to get tickets before they sold out, so they went and the rest of us missed out! Hopefully we shall see the photos taken later in the year.

On Sept 3rd we are going to East Midlands Aeropark at Donington. Hopefully without any problems over tickets.

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

12th August - Ulverscroft Grange Tea Rooms

Six of us wended our way to the Tea Rooms at Ulverscroft Grange. The surroundings are splendid with lovely views of the Leicestershire countryside. It was a beautiful day with bright sunshine. Our table was situated by an open window. This caused an interesting "three bears" situation. For some, the sun made it too hot: for others, the breeze made it too cold. For the rest of us it was just right. Nonetheless, we had a good time with plenty of interesting conversation.

Our next gathering will be at Toon's Cute Wee Coffee Shop, Burton Rd, Castle Gresley DE11 9HQ at 10am on 9 September. The Coffee Shop is inside the Toon's Furniture Store so you might be able to pick up a new dining room suite on your way out! The Coffee Shop does not take bookings so we will have to take pot luck on seating . Nine have signed up to be there so far.

If you would like to join us, please let Colin Woodland know at coffee@ashbyu3a.co.uk or sign upon the sheet at the back of the church at the monthly meeting.

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

19th August

The drawing and painting group had decided to go outdoors in August unfortunately only three of us were able to attend at the water centre in Moira, but we still had a good couple of hours of drawing in the open air by the waterside, however I'm not sure if any of the work will make it onto the art gallery.

Next month we will definitely be back onto the alphabet with the letter L and we will be meeting at Susan's house on the 16th of September.

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

August

The French group continues to meet at 11am every other Monday at the Ivanhoe Club in Ashby. This coming month it is the 14th and 28th Sept.

At present we continue to encourage conversation at the start of each session by each person in turn recounting the things that they have done in the previous fortnight. After that there will be revision of grammar or verbs with translation of interesting articles thrown in for reading and comprehension practice.

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

12th August

Today was almost as hot as last time, but 8 of us gathered at Marlborough Way, with two working from home and one 'from the field'.

JD pursued some of the many hints on his tree, but none so far has yielded anything useful. He also worked with Adrian to help Ana with how to deal with hints and other secondary sources

Jan followed up a query from her mum about her stepmum's first husband's RAF war service.

Elizabeth (from home) is still working up the back story of her parents.

Linda is still trying to sort out the mystery of her 2nd great grandfather's death in Prussia. There might be issues with his birth, too.

Adrian worked on correcting information about his 4th great grandfather's marriage and possible birth. As is, the record shows he married aged 11…

Sue is working on her father's paternal line. Interesting new information from the 1921 census.

Dora worked on the Scotland's People records and death records from the 17th century, without much success.

Ana worked with JD and Adrian on the thorny question of how seriously to take Hints. Carefully, was the conclusion, but they can be useful.

Eileen (from home) worked on 16th Century Parish Records to confirm some information she already has.

Mary (in the field) was visiting her grandfather's home village, and at a reservoir where her 4th great grandfather worked. The reservoir flooded the fields he worked in.

Adrian took a group photo for the new website

We meet again on September 9th.

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

6th August - Wing Wah, Burton upon Trent

Fourteen of us sampled the oriental delights on offer at the Wing Wah Chinese Buffet. The great thing about the buffet is that you can sample all the dishes and go back for more of the ones you really like. You can even choose your own selection of raw ingredients and have them cooked right in front of you. Thank you everyone for remembering to bring £10 in cash. I am sorry about the rather complicated way of paying but that was the house rule and I could not get them to change it.

Our next event will be at the Taste of Thai, Market St, Ashby at 6pm on 3rd September. So Far, eighteen people have signed up. If you would like to join them, please let Colin Woodland know at food_from_afar@ashbtu3a.co.uk or sign up on the sheet provided at the back of the church at the monthly meeting.

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

20th August - Garden Party

Yesterday the garden group had our annual garden party. Despite the weather forecast, 40 of our members gathered at Val and Trevor's house where we were welcomed by Val and Trev and a wonderful array of cakes, scones, and various drinks. The weather was warm, fairly sunny and only rained a little once and there were several places to shelter. Our hosts provided everything we needed and were chatty with anyone who happed to be near. We had a free raffle with home grown garden plants as prizes. We would like to thank them both for a lovely afternoon.

Paul and The gardening committee.
Our next event is a coach trip to Barnsdale Gardens

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

27th August – Colin Ellis and 'The Stockton and Darlington Railway – What it was and what it wasn't'

Colin told us of the many supposed facts about the S&D Railway, each followed with a panto call of 'Oh no it wasn't'. One true fact is that it opened for traffic on 27th Sept 1825 and it's bicentenary was celebrated last year.

Firstly, Colin gave his definition of a railway as being a fixed trackway for guiding wheeled vehicles across the ground from one place to another. So some 'facts' debunked:

- S&DR wasn't the first railway in the world, not by a long way. There was reportedly a stone trackway in Greece for moving ships across the Corinth Isthmus as early as 600 BC.
- In Bohemia in the 14thC there were wooden trackways for moving wagons carrying minerals. An iron pin on the wagons that engaged in the track guided the wagons.
- The first public railway was Lake Lock Rail Road near Wakefield in Yorkshire opened in 1798 to carry coal and passengers using horse drawn carriages.
- The first industrial steam railway was in 1804. Richard Trevithick's steam locomotive ran on a tramway at Penydarren Ironworks in Wales.
- However it is generally accepted that the Stockton and Darlington Railway was 'The first modern steam public railway'. However passenger coaches were hauled by horse until 1833.

It was built in 3½ years with the first piece of track laid on 23rd May 1822. It was 25 miles long on opening. George Stephenson was the engineer in charge and his company also built the steam engines for it.

It connected collieries near Shildon with Darlington and Stockton, although the first part of the journey involved hauling wagons up an incline using ropes and a stationary engine, after which the steam locomotives pulled the wagons to Stockton. The line was later extended to new docks on Teesside, this area developed into what we now know as Middlesborough.

On the opening day, Sept 27th, 12 wagons of coal were drawn up the Brusselton Bank where a steam locomotive, a coach called Experiment and 21 other coal wagons fitted with seats were waiting. 300 tickets had been sold for the first trip but it is believed as many as 700 people climbed on board the wagons! The locomotive is now known as 'Locomotion No1' but it was first named 'Active' and only renamed when it was withdrawn from service and restored in 1857.

The line was slow to make a profit but soon became very successful and was the model for many of the railways that followed. The S&DR eventually became part of the North Eastern Railway in 1863 which later became part of the LNER in 1923.

Colin also gave us a very interesting story of the evolution of coal trains, peaking in 1913 when they carried approx 290 million tons per year, and their subsequent gradual disappearance. The final coal delivery by rail to a power station was to Ratcliffe-on-Soar on June 28th 2024, before it closed that September.

A fascinating history of the 19th century railway expansion and its transformation of Britain's industry.

HISTORY cont.

Yogi also reminded us of a few events which happened on or around Aug 27th amongst which were:

- 1346 The battle of Crecy. An overwhelming victory for the English over the French.
- 1682 Edmund Halley's eponymous comet was first observed by him.
- 1875 Capt. James Webb first swam across the English Channel.
- 1883 The eruption of Krakatoa. The loudest ever recorded sound. Approx 315 decibels.
- 1886 The Anglo-Zanzibar war. The shortest war on record lasted just 38 minutes. Britain won.
- 1959 The debut of the BMC Mini designed by Alex Issigonis. 5.4m cars were produced in total before production stopped in October 2000.

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

August

There was no outing in August as most venues were overrun with holidaymakers and children.

On Sept 23rd we are visiting the Blists Hill Victorian Town at Ironbridge and on Oct 28th we shall revisit the ACME whistles factory in Birmingham. Both venues are fascinating, the first showing industrial life in Victorian times, and the second still operating much as it was 100 years ago making some of the best whistles in the world.

I have decided to stand down from running the Industrial Heritage group after leading it for 12 years and over 100 trips. Fortunately we seem to have two people who are interested in taking over the helm, and ideally we might find one more person to form a small committee to run the group.

I shall stay on until the end of the year to oversee the two trips above and to help plan the trips for next year whilst helping the new team to get to grips with running this group.

Mike

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

August

This month the group were due to be discussing The Woman by Kristin Hannah, a book that explored the chaos and destruction of war and the trauma of coming home to a changed America.

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

13th August - Halfway House, Donisthorpe

Fifteen congregated for lunch at the Halfway House in Donisthorpe. Unfortunately, the place had gone somewhat down hill since our previous visit. The menu was very limited and the service extremely slow. The starters seemed to be of good standard and size but the main courses, when they finally arrived were uninspiring to say the least. The staff were pleasant enough but seemed somewhat distracted and un-attentive to our needs. It will be a while and only after evidence of an improved standard before we make a return visit.

Our September venue will be at the Bull's Head, 67 Market Street Ashby on 10th September at 12 noon. Sharon and I will not be with you on this occasion as we will be embarking upon an adventure to Iceland on a cruise. Never fear, Brenda will skilfully watch over you all and ensure you behave yourselves.

If anyone else wishes to join the group please email luncheon@ashbyu3a.co.uk to book a place or sign up on the sheet placed at the rear of the church at the monthly meeting..

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

5th August

Eight members made it round to Sallie's house for another fine session of music appreciation.

We started with some jazz and blues in the form of Jimmy Witherspoon singing 'St Louis Blues', Errol Garner and 'Misty', Ella Fitzgerald with 'Anything Goes' and, on what would have been Louis Armstrong's 125th birthday, an excellent rendition of 'Mack the Knife' recorded for a BBC TV show.

Sue then offered a very different heavy metal version of 'Sound of Silence' by the band Disturbed. Strangely compelling.

Divine Comedy's poignant 'Lady of a Certain Age' was followed by Neil Diamond and 'Pretty Amazing Grace' and then the Platters 'Twilight Time'. Great tunes.

On to some classical music. Firstly Pachelbel's Canon played wonderfully by Paul Fey on the organ of Rotterdam cathedral and then Itzhak Perlman's phenomenal violin playing of Paganini's Caprice #24.

We returned to some rock and pop with Sam Cooke's powerful commentary 'A Change is Gonna Come', Status Quo and 'When You Walk in the Room', the exquisite voice of Eva Cassidy and 'Autumn Leaves', Paul Simon's gospel version of 'Bridge Over Troubled Waters' with the Jesse Dixon Singers and then bluesman Eric Bibb singing and playing 'Don't Ever Let Nobody Drag Your Spirit Down' from the BBC's Transatlantic Sessions TV series.

We finished with the stirring 'Thunder and Lightning Polka' by Strauss to round out a session where we all learned of some new (to us) interesting music and performers.

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

20th August

The poetry group had a very enjoyable August meeting concluding our look at poetry written specifically by women.

Louise Gluck, an elusive writer, provoked a very interesting discussion as it is possible to read her poem 'Parable' in many ways. We spent some time looking at Gillian Clarke's skilful interweaving of the political, religious and down to earth in 'A Difficult Birth' and we also enjoyed 'Creel' by Scottish poet Kathleen Raine and its very visual description. It linked well with UA Fanthorpe's 'Atlas Revisited' and the burdens and responsibilities a lot of women carry. Wendy Cope's 'Rondeau Redoublé' was a fun, light-hearted contrast. We finished with Maya Angelou's triumphant 'Still I Rise' which resonated strongly with the group.

Our next meeting will be on September 17th when we'll be looking at poems or poets we want to promote. If anyone is interested in joining us, please get in touch.

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. In September we will be meeting on the 8th and 22nd.

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

The Scrabble group have relocated to the Ivanhoe Club in future, partly because the Bull's Head have closed their car park. As the Ivanhoe doesn't open until 11am, that is now our start time on Mondays. There are some other changes taking place and we will post those when all is sorted out.

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

August

The recorder group met as usual on the first and third Thursday mornings in August but we had a visiting conductor for the first session. There seems to be general agreement his input is beneficial. We are able to tackle slightly more difficult pieces of music and play them to a noticeably better standard, which is satisfying. We only need a few pieces, when we have the conductor.

At the second session of the month there were fewer attendees than usual and we sat in our usual circle formation. We had the music from the previous session on the list to be played, but it became apparent that they were not going to go well without the conductor, so we quickly moved onto other pieces, which went much better.

We will meet as usual in September on the first and third Thursdays.

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

27th August – The Unicorn Inn, Orton on the Hill

Despite the rain ten of us made it out to the Unicorn, but it seems that other diners were put off by the weather as the pub was strangely quiet.

As usual, the service was excellent and ordering was handled without fuss. Starters soon arrived which set the tone for being both delicious and generously large. Then came even larger main courses; even the fish salad would have served two! But everything was very tasty and silence descended for several minutes as we all tucked in. Some people even managed a dessert afterwards!

An excellent evening at a great pub, but if you visit, arrive hungry.

Whilst sitting in the pub we could hear torrential rain on the roof and the odd flash of lightning but as we left the sky lit up with a tremendous lightning display with which one could see for miles.

Next month we are heading to the Birch Tree on the A511 at Bardon. Lunch club recently had a good meal there so we have high hopes.

Anyone wishing to join us, please drop a line to supper@ashbyu3a.co.uk

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

August

For August we took a Summer break, so our next meeting will be a visit on THURSDAY 10th September, to Woolsthorpe Manor, birthplace and residence of Sir Isaac Newton.

Please email science@ashbyu3a.co.uk or pmckay189@gmail.com to register your interest and get further details of the visit.

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

After the success of last year's event, we are holding a Fish Supper at **6pm on 1st October** to be held at The Beeches, Burton Rd, Ashby.

There will be fish and chips and all the trimmings, followed by tea and coffee. We will have a short quiz after the meal.

Drinks will be available at the bar.

This is now sold out

TRIPS AND OUTINGS – Leader: Colin Ellis – trips@ashbyu3a.co.uk – phone 01530 272592

The trip to Nottingham Concert Hall on 14th October for a programme of Prokofiev, Rachmaninov and Brahms is now fully booked.

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

28th August

We had a little sunny interlude on Friday, when twelve of us had a very enjoyable morning on the lawns, with several games only finishing on the final hoop. We play doubles and change partners after each match. This adds to the variety of play and gives the players a chance to compare playing styles and strategies.

We have two more sessions this year before the end of British Summer Time - Friday 25th September and Friday 23rd October. Unfortunately we no longer have access to winter lawns.

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

19th August

After last month's cancellation as only 3 members were available, this month we had an almost full house with 9 attending. Ken provided a selection of interesting wines.

First was an Italian white from Tesco's Finest range, a Grillo 2023 12% abv and currently £8.50

The Grillo grape is native to Sicily. It was very light almost as clear as water, but with a distinct fruity lemony, appley flavour. Semi-dry and very easy-drinking. We all agreed it would be ideal for sipping whilst sitting in the garden, or somewhere more exotic, basking in the sunshine which seems to have disappeared lately. A good start to the evening and we rated it 8/10

Second was another white but from the other side of the world, New Zealand. Mud House Sauvignon Blanc 2025, from Marlborough region, 12% abv and bought at £7.50 but currently £10.25

This had a slight fizz to it which showed its young age. Again a lemony but sweeter taste. It didn't taste like a Sauv Blanc to us but we didn't hold that against it. It wasn't as interesting as the Grillo but would be ok with fish or prawns etc. We scored it 7/10

On to the reds. First was a San Pedro 35 South Cabernet Sauvignon from Chile, 2025 12.5% bought in Sainsburys. This was delicious. Very smooth, no trace of tannic bitterness but still with some oaky vanilla, black fruits and spice, not overly sweet. There were complex interesting flavours so different from many cheaper wines. We scored it without knowing the price, giving it 9/10, before finding out it was bought at a discounted £6.50. An absolute bargain.

Lastly came a Californian Zinfandel 2022 and a whopping 14.5%, bought in Aldi. This was again very smooth with no tannin but fruity with a hint of cocoa or chocolate towards the end. Very nice but perhaps not quite as complex as the previous wine. We scored it 8/10 but then found out it normally sells at £8.99 but it had been on offer at £4.99!! Probably the best wine you could buy anywhere for that price.

So, wine of the month? The Grillo was lovely and the Zinfandel was astonishingly cheap for the quality, but our favourite was the Chilean 35 South by a long way, regardless of price.

THE WALKING GROUPS

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

August

We didn't walk in August, but in September there will be two walks, on 21st starting from 10 Rydal Gardens headed for Moira, and on 28th starting from Ticknall headed towards Melbourne. Full details on the website.

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

Monday 10th August. From Money Hill CP around Ashby led by Iain

On a very pleasant sunny morning 19 members turned up at the Money Hill car park in Ashby for a local walk. It was very encouraging to welcome 4 new members to the walking group.

There were no stiles nor hills to combat on the route, which included the Gilwiskaw Brook, Cliftonthorpe, Woodcote Wood, Parks Farms, Old Parks Farm Wood and the National Forest Way, a distance of 5 miles.

Thanks to Danny, who volunteered as back marker to this large group of walkers.

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

18th August. Around Coton in the Elms led by Julie and Lynn

On a fairly cloudy and slightly cooler day, 19 of us gathered at the carpark in Coton in the Elms and started on our walk into Coton Woods and the Best Kept Village Walk. This was relatively well sign posted apart from a few places where we had to consult our map.

A few challenging stiles at the beginning but with a bit of trimming of brambles by Kevin and John they made the stiles more accessible.

The first village we came to was Lullington, we then followed a path to Netherseal where we then picked up the National Forest Way signs passing through Grange Wood, where we stopped for Lunch, then Potters Wood, Top Wood and Penguin Wood before taking a left into a campsite and back to Coton in the Elms. Just over 8 miles.

LEISURELY WALKING – Leader Estelle Sandles – leisurely-walk@ashbyu3a.co.uk – 07919 986456

4th August. Oakthorpe Colliery Picnic Site

8 of us met to enjoy the peace and beauty of this easy to navigate site, and I wondered if we would see much of the lake at this time. Sure enough it was hiding behind an abundance of green stuff….overgrown Bull Rushes and the tall Rosebay Willow Herb.

Some members of the group had never visited this site before, and it is truly a gem not to be missed. Like most areas the view and the inhabitants change with the seasons. It would seem the lack of any sightings of numbers of birds at this time could be the unusual, prolonged heat.

The level well maintained track was easy going and for those less able the many seats offered well-placed relief as the day warmed up.

We ended this section of the walk at the Willesley Wood Memorial Grove. The Royal British Legion (Ashby branch) planted a ring of Oak trees in 2002, and it is a magnificent backdrop to the 2.5 ton stone for the plaque to commemorate the fallen. Called 'Rest and Remember' Grove. A well mowed area and seating make it an ideal place to rest and reflect on the service of others.

Well worth our visit.

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

21st August Around Albert Village Lake led by JD

Six walkers were blessed with a very pleasant day: warm, a slight breeze and no hint of the forecast rain. We welcomed a new friend, Mary, and set off from the car park to the lake. This walk was new to most of us.

The way lead slightly downhill on a good, tarmacked path which wound gently through the new woodlands.

At the lake, we paused for the photograph and started off clockwise around the lake. Passing some forestry workers tidying the lake side, we pressed on, taking note of the calm waters and wildfowl that are abundant here.

About a third of the way round, we took advantage of a splendidly placed bench overlooking the lake and a large upright stone commemorating the gift of the site to the National Forest Foundation in 2003 and were welcomed by one of the resident swans.

From there a short detour along the shore suggested that the better path was to rejoin the main, tarmacked path, and we wended our way on, yielding the way to a determined little girl on her bike. A further stop at about the one-mile mark yielded a view of a magnificent fleet of Canada Geese in full sail, as an Armada come to do battle. This was accompanied by a couple of pairs of beautiful Egyptian Geese, and the usual outriggers of terns and coots.

We completed the 2-mile tour of the lake in an hour and ten minutes and repaired to the excellent café at the Toons furniture shop where we feasted on coffee and cakes, finishing the day at about 12.20.

We were agreed that it was a splendid introduction to a new walking location. We will be back!

YOUR COMMITTEE

If you want to get in touch with any of us for any reason, here are our email addresses

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
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
Committee Member	Estelle Sandles	estelle@ashbyu3a.co.uk