



Ashby de la Zouch



Newsletter August 2016

General Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month from 2:00p.m to 4:00p.m. at the Congregational Church, Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch

Last General Meeting: 30th August

This was our annual Cream Tea Event served by the committee which, unlike last year, was held in sunshine so everyone was able to sit outside in the sunshine. I understand that a good time was had by all who attended.

Next General Meeting:

Date: 26th Sept
Speaker: Colin Ellis
Subject: TBA

2016	Tea and Coffee Rota	Meeters and Greeters
September	Phil & Sue Bloor, Christine Dogherty, Sonia Spence	
October		
November		
December	The Committee	
January '17		
February		

	Reporting Group	
September	Trips & Outings Quiz	John Howlett Malcolm Bird
October	Music Appreciation Walking	David Oakley Bob Baxendale
November	Bird Watching Bridge	James Bloor Neil Roberts
December	none	
January '17	Calligraphy Family History	Jenny Slawson John Dogherty
February		

INTEREST GROUP TIMETABLE: September

Interest group	Meeting date and time	Venue
Bird Watching	2nd Sept 10.30 – 15.00	Cossington Meadows, Leicester
Bridge	5th & 19th Sept at 2-4 pm 12th & 26th Sept at 7-9 pm	Royal Hotel, Ashby.
Calligraphy	13th Sept	Margaret Baxendale's house
Computer	7th Sept at 2 pm 19th Sept at 2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	1st Sept at 10 am	16 Winchester Way.
Drawing and painting	21st Sept at 10 am	2 Woodcote Avenue, Ashby
Family History	14th Sept at 2 pm	2 Marlborough Way
Gardening	15th Sept	Arley Arboretum and Gardens. Coach trip details to follow
History	22nd Sept	Self-drive visit to the Richard III Visitor Centre in Leicester
Industrial Heritage	28th Sept, depart Ashby at 8.45am	Canal Museum, Stoke Bruerne, Towcester
Italian	TBA	Venue TBA
Literature	13th Sept at 1.30pm	28 Willesley Gardens
Lunch	8th Sept at 12 noon	The Black Horse, Market Bosworth
Medium Walks	12th Sept at 9.45 for 10.00am	Newton Regis village hall
Music Appreciation	7th Sept at 10 am	41 Glamorgan Way, Church Gresley, DE11 9JT
Quiz	21st Sept at 2.30pm	Bull and Lion Packington
Recorder	1st Sept at 10 am 15th Sept at 10 am	65 Gresley Wood Road, Church Gresley, Swadlincote, DE11 9QP
Short Walks	16th Sept at 10.00	Meet at Sharps Pottery, Swad for a walk around Swadlincote
Trips and Outings	23rd November at 2.00pm	Theatre Royal, Nottingham
Walking	6th Sept at 9.45 for 10 am start 20th Sept at 9.45 for 10 am start	Meet at Bricklayer's Arms, Main St, Thornton, LE67 1AH TBA

Early October

Interest group	Meeting date and time	Venue
Bird Watching	7th Oct at 10 am to 2 pm	Carvers Rocks, Harthorne
Bridge	3rd Oct at 2-4 pm	Royal Hotel, Ashby.
Computer	5th Oct at 2 pm	16 Winchester Way
Digital Photography	6th Oct at 10 am	16 Winchester Way
Music Appreciation	5th Aug at 10 am	At Neil Roberts house
Walking	4th Oct at 9.45 for 10am	TBA

*For trips, outings, walks and other events which meet away from the usual venues, see further details in the relevant Group Reports below, or on our website www.ashbyu3a.co.uk

GROUP REPORTS

Bird Watching – Leader James Bloor birdwatch@ashbyu3a.co.uk

The Group did not meet in August

Bridge – Leader Neil Roberts 01530 455957

This is Bridge for players of all levels playing friendly Contract Bridge with some chatter. Several of our number are "beginners" or "returners" and we have experienced players who are happy to help others improve their game. We now have about 20 active players.

We meet weekly on Mondays at the Royal Hotel, Ashby and at present we alternate afternoons and evenings.

The agreement with the Royal is that we pay for refreshments. Currently when we play we pay £2.50 per week. The Royal provide Car Parking Permits free to our group when playing Bridge. If you would like to know more contact Neil on 01530 455957 or Pat Ford on 01827 830672

Calligraphy – Leader Jenny Slawson 01283 229718

The Group did not meet in August

Computers – Leader John Howlett 01530 461774

We meet twice monthly to try to solve anyone's computer problems and to better learn how to use them whether they are PCs, Macs, iPads or Android Tablets. All are welcome. No experience necessary.

15th August 2016 A small group of five gathered at 2 Marlborough Way in the Leader's absence. David needed to transfer photos from his phone to his laptop. By using a USB cable between the two, then calling up the 'Phone' folder on his laptop, he could then 'Drag and Drop' a copy of the folder directly to his 'Pictures' folder on the laptop.

Rhona Passey is a new member: welcome Rhona! She is looking for advice on several subjects: email shortcuts. 'casting' images and videos by Wifi to a TV, managing photos, using iPlayer, learning about apps. She also wanted to know how to present Excel & PowerPoint on a TV. This can't yet be done by WiFi, but is easy with a cable connection. We successfully demonstrated printing to a WiFi printer from tablet or phone.

Colin Woodland is also a new member: welcome Colin!. He was primarily interested in getting his laptop WiFi working. A confusing message told him he both did and did not have connection! Mike S helped straighten that one out.

Digital Photography – Leader John Howlett 01530 461774

We meet to try understand how to get the best out of our digital cameras whether they are simple compact cameras or full-blooded DSLRs and how to edit or modify the pictures afterwards. We try to get out and practice every other month. We do not as yet enter competitions.

4th August As we were only 5, we decided not to venture out, but to stay in and discuss software. We looked at the use of Paint to help capture and separate multiple images from a single photo. Paint is also very useful for capturing and editing screen prints.

Mike showed how 'Photoscape' can be used to make scrolling photos as used on the website.

Drawing and Painting – Contact Chris Dogherty 01530 411148

The Group did not meet in August

Family History – Leader John Dogherty 01530 411148

10th August Four of us met today for a lively session.

Lesley is working on refining her information, and we decided a good method would be to take one branch of the Tree at a time and focus on sharpening up the detail in that branch. That makes validating links to other branches that much easier.

John H is making good progress with identifying his Irish ancestors. Tricky people, these Irish!

Audrey is working on her Jewish ancestors and links she has received from distant relatives.

John D helped out where he could and will be submitting Ancestry DNA tests for himself and Chris.

Results for his son show a curiously heavy weighting in favour of Irish ancestry. We looked at the way Ancestry displays the DNA results and discussed what is meant by, say, 'Irish' ancestry. The DNA is common to many Celtic groupings.

A tentative running order for November's presentation to the History Group was discussed:

John D will show the wealth of information that can be extracted from a simple document.

John H will talk about his mother's experiences under fire in Waterford in 1922.

Lesley will reveal how she became interested in Family History, and how she has progressed since then. Audrey will update us on her researches into her Jewish backgrounds.

Others have yet to indicate what they could do, but I am sure we will make a good showing!

Gardening - Leader Paul Dean 01283 295987

The Gardening Group has been successfully running ever since the U3A started in Ashby and remains one of the largest interest groups. The gardening committee try really hard to provide a good selection of activities suitable for all, including talks on various topics, trips out to well-known gardens and social events where plants are swapped and garden problems are solved! There is always food to be eaten and drinks to be drunk at the end of each meeting and occasionally prizes to be won! Please come along and meet us and give the gardening club a try.

18th August. We had a a plant swap followed by Cream Tea at Phil and Sue Bloor's
All in all a very enjoyable afternoon.

History – Leader Dorothy Chapman 01530 413042

25th August History of Puppets by Malcolm Trott with assistant Val.

We had 27 members present for a very interesting run through on puppets and their history.

Malcolm was born in Scarborough and was fascinated by his early visits to puppet shows. When his father became involved and made him his first puppet (Pinocchio, which he showed us) he naturally became involved himself. This grew into a career after he retired from teaching 34 years ago. He gave us a thumbnail sketch of the history of puppetry, with especial reference to the British forms.

He took his puppets round schools and supermarkets and built up a considerable collection from all over the world. After he injured his arm he turned to giving talks.

His puppet collection was laid out on tables for us to see, and he demonstrated many of them for us. There were many different types, from the simplest toy derived ones to the most complicated string operated ones. There were shadow show puppets from the Far East, household items turned into amusing puppets, Punch and Judy with the Crocodile, Indian and other exotic dolls used as

puppets and many more. Quite the smallest was a jumping flea puppet, which leapt at least ten feet through the air! It was so small, most of us had trouble even seeing it....

Malcolm and Val then encouraged us to come up and try our hand with his precious collection. This was lots of fun!

Thank you Malcolm and Val for a nostalgic and entertaining afternoon!

Industrial Heritage – Leader Mike Stow 01530 469152

24th August Science Museum at Millenium Point and Staffordshire Hoard, Birmingham

The group enjoyed a visit to Birmingham this time, to view memories of the Midlands industrial past and then, from a thousand years earlier, the Staffordshire Hoard of coins, jewellery and religious artefacts.

A busy day started with a train journey to New Street, where we managed to navigate our way out of the impressively modernised but complicated station, avoiding shops, past the Bull Ring, Moor St. station to Millenium Point which is where the Science Museum is now located. Our leader then managed to agree a very inexpensive group entry fee, the savings from which were then spent on coffee to recover from our travels. A couple of hours or so were then spent viewing and sharing memories of the past from the local area, such as aircraft, steam engines, cars and manufacturing machinery as well as learning how they worked from the excellent information available. The museum also has many interactive and informative exhibits for the younger generation, and certainly perhaps worth a revisit with grandchildren!

Lunch then beckoned, and this required a longish, uphill stroll back into the City Centre, navigating many traffic lights and road junctions. Eventually we found the Old Joint Stock Pub, converted from an old but impressive bank building, mostly still intact, just the bars replacing the tills! An enjoyable meal was then followed, slightly reluctantly, with a shorter walk to the Museum and Art Gallery.

The principal attraction for us was the Staffordshire Hoard, a huge collection of artefacts from Anglo Saxon times recently discovered in a field near Lichfield. It has been housed in a new gallery which makes it easy to see and read about the many hundreds of pieces on show. Some of the workmanship on display was breathtaking and again worth another visit, particularly as the Gallery has many magnificent pictures on display, and all just on our doorstep!

We then found our thankfully short way back to the station, and 13 tired folk alighted our train which sped us home without delay. A memorable day!

Italian Group – Leader Lynda Hall 01530 415922

The Group did not meet in August

Literature Group - Leader Sandra Harris 01530 416653

The Group did not meet in August

Luncheon Group – Leader Ray Bentley 01530 412505

We are a group of men and ladies who enjoy a meal together, we take it in turn to choose a venue and organise it. Everyone is welcome, all we ask is that you sign the board in the coffee room at the monthly meeting prior to the lunch, so we can book the relevant number of seats. If you cannot make the monthly meeting please use the contact email or phone number.

Music Appreciation – Leader David Oakley 01530 563409

The Group did not meet in August

Quiz group - Leader Malcolm Bird 01530 563872

The group meet at the Bull and Lion, Packington. The Start time is 2.30 and involves tables of four. You do not need to arrange a team of four before the meeting as teams can be organised on the day. This enables single individuals to take part - and to make new friends by joining an ad hoc team. Tea and coffee are served. Total cost £1.20 of which 20p goes to a kitty for prizes.

Despite absences due to holidays enough players checked in to make three teams to battle it out on 17th August.

There was more than the usual hilarity which may have some vague connection to a remarkable knowledge of cocktails and other forms of alcohol.

Recorder group - Leader Joan Gibson - recorder@ashbyu3a.co.uk

The recorder group, meet twice a month, to make music in a relaxed, fun way. I would hope that we would be able to cater for a wide range of experience and skill.

We are now settling in to meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings each month.

Trips and Outings Group - Contact Margaret Howlett 01530 461774

The Group's next visit will be to the matinee performance of "A Tale of Two Cities" at Nottingham Theatre Royal on November 23rd at 2 pm. The reserved Dress Circle seats are £27.50 each and a coach has been arranged to take everyone there. The coach fare will be £14.75 maximum but this will reduce as more people join. Deposit of £10 pp is required asap with the balance by Sept 30th. Cheques payable to Ashby de la Zouch U3A to:

Margaret Howlett, 16 Winchester Way, Ashby, LE65 2NR

Walking Group - Leader Bob Baxendale 01530 481435

The walking group usually does walks of between 7-8 miles, twice a month, and normally there is a lunch stop at a pub near to, or at the end of, the walk.

The leader will be at the meeting place whatever the weather and will only cancel the walk in consultation with those who turn up on the day. All dogs must be kept under control at all times. Walking boots or strong shoes are recommended. Be prepared for bad weather by taking warm waterproof clothing. Leaders act in a voluntary capacity. All ramblers walk at their own risk.

16th August - Kinder Scout Nine stalwarts assembled at Edale car park on a lovely sunny morning. We set off through the village and turned west onto the Pennine Way along the side of the valley. The way was easy to start with, rising slowly across the field, much of it paved. After dropping down to Upper Booth Farm, the path turned north into a side valley, towards the main massif, and started to climb. Gradually at first, but then, at Jacob's Ladder, much more steeply. Some of us decided we needed fortification before the climb, but others pressed on towards the top. As we climbed out of the declivity the landscape opened up around us. Fortunately, there was a slight breeze to cool our fevered brows. This lasted almost throughout which was most welcome.

After a pause to catch our breath, and a debate about detouring via Edale Cross about half a mile away, the cry went up 'Onward!' The path now swung north then east up onto the Edge.

From here on, the views were spectacular, with many other walkers coming and going. We passed by Noe Stool, Pym Chair and the Wool Packs, all fantastical rock formations. Eventually after passing the Crowden Tower we settled down for lunch among some sheltering rocks with stupendous views out over the Hope Valley.

The terrain changed radically afterwards, as we moved off the Edge towards Grindsbrook Knoll, across what should be very boggy terrain when wet. Fortunately this part of the path was flagged, but, as one of the party remarked, 'I wouldn't want the contractor who did this to do my patio'. We were then faced with the last challenge of the day: the short, steep ascent of the Knoll itself. Well worth the climb!

Then it was all downhill. And down, and down. Tough on tiring legs and sore toes, but always with the end in sight.

A short rest at the bottom on soft grass, then the final push into Edale, where we all had a welcome drink (some beer, some tea) at the Rambler Inn (once, bizarrely called the 'Church Inn'), and so back to the cars, for the long drive home.

We had walked almost all the way on the Edge at or about 2,000 feet, in glorious sunshine, with magnificent views at every turn. Overall the distance was 7.7 miles and we took 6 hours over it, walking for just over 4.5 hours.

Medium walks – Leader Carole Harriman

The Medium Walk group do walks of up to 6 miles. Anyone interested please contact Carole.

8th August Ticknall to Melbourne and back.

Six of us set off on a 6 mile walk starting from Chapel Street, Ticknall, going up and past Robin Wood, round towards Melbourne and back to Ticknall.

En route we passed by St Brides just off the main A514 road, which is now a very impressive conversion of 6 houses on the site of a previous monastery named after St Bridget. Apparently there is some evidence in some of the houses of the site's previous life dating back to the 13th century. Towards the end of the walk we had some good views of Staunton Harold reservoir.

Weather wise we started off with a brisk, chill wind but it soon warmed up and despite threatening clouds at times the threatened rain took one look at our intrepid group and decided to go elsewhere after a few spots. It was good to get home and not have to clean our boots! Margaret was heard to say that the soles of her boots were cleaner after the walk than they had been when she set off!

Short walks Group – Leader John Howlett 01530 461774

The short walk group organises walks using well defined paths and routes without stiles. The maximum length is 3 miles. All are welcome.

The group met at Staunton Harold. It was pouring with rain so they went straight for an extended coffee break

Your Committee

Following the AGM on 26th July 2016, the members below were (re)elected to the Committee and at the next Committee meeting on 9th August Tony Smith was appointed Treasurer to replace Neil Roberts, Isobel Salt replaces Ann Stapley as Speaker Seeker and Sheila Dean replaces Ann Thompson as Welfare Officer. Newly elected Colin Ellis has taken on the duties of Minutes Secretary. Neil and the two Anns have all decided to step down after many years of service to the committee.

John Howlett	Chairman	chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk
James Bloor	Groups Coordinator	interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Dorothy Chapman	Membership Secretary	members@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Sheila Dean	Welfare	welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Anne Donegan	Business Secretary	secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Colin Ellis	Minutes Secretary	minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Isobel Salt	Speaker seeker	speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Tony Smith	Treasurer	treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk
Mike Stow	Communications	webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk